

President instructed Security Chiefs not to attend PM Ranil's security meetings - Ruwan

DILSHAN THARAKA

Former President Maithripala Sirisena had instructed officials, including Intelligence Chiefs, not to attend any security meetings chaired by then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe following the Easter Sunday attacks, former Defence State Minister Ruwan Wijewardene said.

He was yesterday testifying before the Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar over the case filed against former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando on charges of failing to prevent the Easter Sunday attacks despite receiving enough information to prevent attack. Testifying further Wijewardene

said that following the series of Easter Sunday attacks, then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had telephoned more than three times to ask officials at the Defence Ministry to convene a Security Council meeting at Temple Trees and even they were not heeded. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



TNA has no right to demand Federal solution - TULF

Stop confusing the Tamils, says Anandasangaree

Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) Secretary General V. Anandasangaree yesterday said that the Tamil National Alliance has no right to talk about a federal solution as it opposed it in 2005. "It is a big joke to see the TNA

demanding a Federal Solution having opposed it at the Presidential Election of 2005," he said. Anandasangaree in a statement said that the foreign countries should not be used to pressurise the Sri Lankan Government. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



The 43rd annual Observer SLT-Mobitel School Cricket Awards Ceremony concluded on a grand scale at the BMICH last night with Navod Paranavithana of Mahinda College, Galle and Nethmi Senaratne of Wadduwa Central being crowned as the Best School Boy and Girl Cricketer respectively. Here they are receiving their awards from Chief Guest, 1996 Cricket World Cup winning Sri Lanka Captain Arjuna Ranatunga. ANCL Chairman W. Dayaratne PC, Editor-in-Chief of Sunday Observer Dinesh Weerawansa, CEO of SLT Mobitel Kithi Perera looks on among others. **Pictures by Sulochana Gamage**

NANOTECH INSTITUTE TO PRODUCE NEW FERTILIZER VARIETY

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Institute of Nanotechnology in Sri Lanka has taken measures to introduce a new variety of fertilizer containing phosphate potassium and nitrogen to increase the value of locally produced phosphate fertilizers.

It was revealed at a discussion held at the Agriculture Ministry yesterday (13) under the patronage of Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage that preliminary practical tests in this regard are being carried out at the Bathalagoda Paddy Research Institute.

Agriculture Director-General Dr. Ajantha de Silva, Prof. Nilwala Kottagoda, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Nanotechnology Naresh Handagama and Chairman of the Phosphate Fertilizer Production Company Sujewa Indrajith Karunasinghe were present at the discussion.

The Minister pointed out that the phosphate deposit is a valuable natural resource in the country and the country should make maximum use of it.

The amount of fertilizer currently being produced



SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF NANOTECHNOLOGY (PVT) LTD.

in connection with this phosphate deposit should be increased to 50 Metric Tonnes. Prof. Nirmala Kottagoda said out that the cultivation of maize using the new fertilizer composition by increasing the value of phosphate fertilizers has been successful and said that tests are being carried out on vegetable and other crops using this new type of fertilizer.

She pointed out that it would take about four months to complete the research on the new type of fertilizer that increases the value of phosphate fertilizers and if it is successful, it will be possible to produce high-quality fertilizer in our country with all the components required for organic farming in the country.

Major tourism promotion drive in 2022

IRANGIKA RANGE

The Tourism Ministry plans to declare 2022 as the "Visit Sri Lanka" Narabamu Sri Lanka year to woo more visitors despite the COVID-19 challenge.

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said a five year global communication drive has been planned for the tourism sector targeting a revenue of US\$ 1 billion and the Cabinet has already approved the project. A special

Secretariat will be set up to implement and supervise this programme and coordinate all relevant institutions contributing for this effort.

Under this programme, over a period of five years, **▶ TO PAGE 02**

'Immediate solutions needed to solve LP Gas related explosions'

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera yesterday said that people are living in fear of gas related explosions.

He said that the relevant authorities should provide immediate solutions to the domestic LP Gas related explosions reported from many parts of the country.

"There are a lot of people living in flats. It is impossible to imagine what would happen if several gas related explosions were to occur in one apartment complex at the same time. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Litro Gas to inform Court today on composition of domestic gas cylinder

NELKA MEDAGEDERA

The Court of Appeal yesterday granted permission to Litro Gas to inform Court today on the composition of a domestic gas cylinder and the possibility of displaying the relevant details.

Such permission was granted when the Writ Application filed seeking legal action against gas companies and

responsible individuals who imported and distributed unsafe domestic gas to the country was taken up at the Court of Appeal. The application seeks legal action be taken under Criminal Law.

President's Counsel Harsha Amarasekera said that steps have been already taken to recall the unopened gas cylinders which have been sold to consumers. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

National programme for Dengue control

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The government has decided to implement a consolidated national programme with the participation of all through the Ministries to prevent any pandemic situations since Dengue has developed up to a red alert level, the Government Information Department said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Latest Litro Gas consignment not upto standard - Rights Group

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

It has been revealed that the gas imported by Litro Gas does not contain sufficient quantity of the chemical ethyl mercaptan, which emits the gas odour.

The Consumer Affairs Authority stated that a decision would be taken on whether or not the consignment of gas currently onboard a ship anchored in Colombo, would be unloaded here.

The ship carrying the consignment of gas arrived in the country recently and samples were subjected to testing.



Accordingly, it was found that the percentage of propane and butane were in accordance with required standards but the ethyl mercaptan composition was not up to required standards. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Chinese fertiliser company to be paid US\$ 6.7 mn on AG's advice

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Attorney General has advised settling the trade crisis that arose due to the implementation of the agreement between Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Company and the Ceylon Fertilizer Company regarding the importation of organic fertilizer from China's Qingdao Seawin Biotech to be settled on trade terms agreeable to both parties, Agriculture Ministry sources said.

Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers focused on two Cabinet Memorandums submitted by the Justice Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry on Monday (13) and authorized the relevant authorities to act in accordance with the instructions of the Attorney General. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Yugadnavi deal signatories questionable - JVP

AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna former Parliamentarian Sunil Handunnetti alleged that when the Yugadnavi power plant agreement was signed, the same person had signed as a witness on behalf of both parties.

Handunnetti stated so speaking at a media conference yesterday (14). Handunnetti further stated that the agreement was signed **▶ TO PAGE 02**



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Railways working to meet union demands - GMR

IRANGIKA RANGE

The Railways General Manager (GMR) Dhammika Jayasundara said yesterday the railway trade unions must not inconvenience the public over issues that should be discussed with the government.

If they do so, the Railways Department will join hands with the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) and look for alternatives.

If the trade unions decide to continue with their trade union actions putting the public in a difficult situation especially during the festival season and the current COVID situation, the department will look for alternatives with the SLTB. Even though the Railway Station Master's Union was called for a discussion yesterday, it has been refused. "All these problems should be discussed and resolved. Don't take this out on the public that



doesn't have anything to do with it. It is really sad if railway workers are supporting these unions led by some parties at a time of crisis like this," he added.

He said that the Railway Department and the Government are jointly working on the trade union demands and will take steps to resolve them expeditiously.

President instructed Security Chiefs... From page 01

He further stated that the Prime Minister had telephoned the Ministry of Defense on the fourth occasion and visited by himself.

The case was taken up before the Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar Bench comprising Colombo High Court Judges Namal Balalle, Adithya Patabendi and Mohammad Irshadeen.

After his appointment as State Defence Minister in 2015, he participated in intelligence review meetings and Security Council meetings and he had not been invited to any Security Council meetings or intelligence review meetings after the 52 days government in 2018, he said.

Wijewardene, who testified as to whether the relevant officials were not consulted in this regard, he stated that he had inquired from the Defence Secretary in this regard.

Wijewardene said that the Defence Secretary had informed him that former President Maithripala Sirisena had instructed the Defence Secretary not to summon himself or the Prime Minister to meetings.

Member of the Judge Panel, Colombo High Court Judge Aditya Patabendige questioned the witness as to why he was not invited to the meetings if there was a good relationship between witness Wijewardene and former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando.

Wijewardene said that the Defence Secretary was also embarrassed and that although he had informed the President about this on several occasions, the President had refused to summon him and the Prime Minister. He also said that he had not received any intelligence after the 52 day government overthrow.

High Court Judge Aditya Patabendi then asked the witness whether he was aware that any person other than the Prime Minister or him had attended the intelligence review meetings and the Security Council meetings. Responding to query he said that he was aware of it and that he and the Prime Minister had not been invited to those meetings on the instructions of the President.

Further questioning the witness, Judge Aditya Patabendi asked whether the Prime Minister had not held intelligence review meetings after Ranil Wickremesinghe's became Prime Minister with the 52-day overthrow of the government or whether the Defence Secretary had not invited them.

Responding to this, Wijewardene stated that these meetings were convened in the manner required by President Maithripala Sirisena whenever necessary. He further stated that in most cases meetings were not convened and the President con-

tacted the respective officials separately.

Meanwhile, Fr. Sameera Rodrigo of St. Sebastian Church in Katuwapitiya, Negombo testified before the court that even Colombo Archbishop of Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith had never been informed by any security forces before the Easter attacks.

Thereafter, the Tourism Development Authority former Director General Upali Ratnayake also appeared before the court to testify over the case yesterday. Witness Ratnayake told the court that all the tourism hotels were registered with the Tourism Development Authority and that no security notice had been issued before the attack.

Deputy Solicitor General Sudharshana de Silva appeared on behalf of the Attorney General and President's Counsel Mohan Weerakoon appeared for the accused. The case will be taken up again today for further trial. The Attorney General had filed indictment against him comprising 855 charges including charges of failing to prevent Easter Sunday attacks despite receiving enough information to prevent attack and alleging that 275 people had died and nearly 500 had been injured as a result of failing to prevent the attacks on charges of murder and attempted murder under sections 296 and 300 of the Penal Code.

Korean Ambassador visits CP Governor

Korean Ambassador to Sri Lanka Santhush Woonjin Jeong and Central Province (CP) Governor Lalith U. Gamage reaffirmed their commitment to continued cooperation in areas such as tourism, education, economic and cultural collaboration in advancing interests on areas of mutual benefit to both countries.

This was revealed when the Korean Ambassador paid a courtesy call on the Central Province Governor at the Governor's office on December 9. They engaged in a fruitful discussion on opportunities for cooperation between Korea and Sri Lanka.



Korean Ambassador to Sri Lanka Santhush Woonjin Jeong called on Central Province Governor Lalith U. Gamage at the Governor's office on December 9.

During the discussion Ambassador Santhush emphasised that the Central Province is rich of abundant history and beautiful landscapes. "I hope more and more Korean national tourists visit these wonderful places. As the Korean Ambassador, my priority is

amidst the pandemic. Korean residents and Korean businessmen in Sri Lanka are playing an important role to bridge our two countries and peoples. The safety and health of Korean residents is of paramount importance to me

and the Korean Embassy." Ambassador Santhush further requested that "I hope their safety and well-being continue to be well taken care of. It will indeed further elevate our bilateral ties."

Lalith Gamage extended a warm welcome for Ambassador Santhush to the Central Province and mentioned that the Central Province is looking forward to engage with the Korean Embassy to promote educational interests such as ICT projects and vocational training initiatives. Echoing the Ambassador's wishes, he also emphasised the importance of people-to-people exchanges and intensifying tourism especially to the Central Province.

First Secretary of the Korean Embassy Ms. Miyeon LIM and the Research Officer Jeonhun Byeon accompanied the Ambassador during the meeting.

'Govt has Two Thirds majority, Budget victory clear'

ASELA KURULUWANSHA

Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage said 12 members of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya voted in favour of the Budget when the Opposition bragged that the government will be overthrown.

He said that the government which had 151 Seats in Parliament has now increased it to 157 and it is clear that the Opposition is weakening day by day. He was speaking to the media in Gannoruwa, Kandy.

Aluthgamage said that the Budget

debate had been going on for 26 days and that the statements made by the Opposition that the government could not win a single head in the end and that the government would be overthrown were not to be taken into account.

'Immediate solutions needed... From page 01

The lives of the people will be at risk," he said.

The Minister said that gas companies should pay compensation to all those affected by the gas related explosions and recall the faulty gas cylinders. "The public is now complaining that gas companies will only willing to take back the unsealed LP Gas cylinders. But it is only when the seal is broken that the gas leaks out. Therefore, the relevant companies should take action to take back the faulty gas cylinders," Amaraweera said.

The Minister was speaking at a ceremony held at Netolpitiya Weli Ara, Tangalle to donate equipment to Dhamma School children to mark the 30th anniversary of his political career. "The claims made by some that people living in urban areas should use wood stoves are not practical. The relevant companies should take the responsibility of everyone compensate people affected by the gas problem," Minister Amaraweera said.

pay US\$ 6.7 million to the Chinese company.

The Chinese Fertilizer company has also been requested to take the disputed stock of fertilizer back to China and replace it with a fresh stock that meets Sri Lanka's requirements.

Latest Litro Gas consignment... From page 01

Speaking to the *Daily News*, the Chairman of the National Movement for Consumer Rights Protection (NMCRP) Ranjith Withanage said that the authorities had assured that the new consignment of gas would meet the required standards.

"We as consumers are not prepared to accept this consignment of gas which is not up to required standard. Even the issue of exploding cylinders has not been resolved yet.

The authorities said that the earlier cylinders with the blue seal could be exchanged for the ones with the red seal, assuring that those with the red seal were of proper composition and standard. However, even these cylinders with the red seal are also exploding and in some instances the red seal was found over the blue seal. Hence, we feel that the authorities are fooling us and we are definitely not happy about this situation."

Litro Gas to inform Court today... From page 01

He said an assurance cannot be given for certain suggestions made in court and advice will be sought from the gas companies with the regard to

the practical implementation of those suggestions and requested time for this purpose until Wednesday.

DEATH NOTICE



Gunasekara - Degiri Kosala Prasantha De Zozya
(Retired Wing Commander SLAF), distinguished old boy of Richmond College Galle, beloved husband of Roshini Dias Gunasekara, loving Thaththi of Sahan Gunasekara (Digibrush), loving youngest son of late Degiri Michal De Zozya Gunasekara and Sriya Gunasekara (Galle), loving brother of Namali, Mahesh, Shamali & Primali and loving brother-in-law of Rohitha, Kumudumali, Anura and Choliya, expired. Cortege leaves Mahinda Florists, Mount Lavinia at 4.00 pm on the 15th (Wednesday) of December for Cremation (5.00pm) at Mount Lavinia Cemetery.

Yugadanavi deal signatories... From page 01

on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka by the Finance Ministry Secretary and signed by the Ceylon Electricity Board Chairman as a witness on behalf of the Sri Lankan side. Handunnetti alleged that the latter had also signed as a witness on behalf of a company named NFE Sri Lanka Power Holding LLC.

When the Finance Ministry Secretary signed on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, the government witness signs on behalf of the American Company. Is that even possible in an agreement? This is like the one who signed as a witness for the groom, signs as the witness of the bride also," Handunnetti said.

Handunnetti said that the second witness on behalf of

NFE Sri Lanka Power Holding LLC was a Sri Lankan female.

The said female had worked for the Tourist Board and was listed in the agreement as a project coordinator, he also explained. Handunnetti added that although the said female was working on projects for the Tourist Board, it was not yet known if she was the project coordinator for NFE Sri Lanka Power Holding LLC.

"Looking at the signing of an agreement that will determine the future of energy supply of the country, it is understandable why this agreement was not disclosed to Parliament, the Cabinet and the country," Handunnetti added.

Chinese fertiliser... From page 01

The Sri Lankan Government has sought the advice of the Attorney General (AG) to pay a Chinese company for a disputed fertilizer stock.

Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage said that the Government has decided to

Chinese fertiliser... From page 01

pay US\$ 6.7 million to the Chinese company.

The Chinese Fertilizer company has also been requested to take the disputed stock of fertilizer back to China and replace it with a fresh stock that meets Sri Lanka's requirements.

OBITUARY NOTICE



Mendis Alexander George Anton
passed away peacefully in Melbourne, Australia

Former Chairman, Education Services Commission of the Public Services Commission, Deputy Director General of Education, Member of University Grants Commission, Director - Institute of Workers Education / University of Colombo, Member of Sri Lanka Sports Council, Honourable Director of Sri Lanka Tourist Board.

Dearly Beloved husband of Swinitha (nee Nanayakkara) Loving father of Priyantha, Sajith, Indira, Champake & Thusitha. Father-in-law of Sandeepika (Sandhu), Rohan, Kaumudi (Munchi) and Katherine. Cherished grandfather of Rivi, Meth Miara, Shanaya, Shevin, Danika, Callum & Taneisha.

14th Dec, Tuesday 7.00 p.m. - Viewing at Le Pine-388, Springvale Road, Glen Waverly.

Funeral will take place at 3.30 p.m. 15th Dec Wed, at Boyd Chapel Springvale Botanical Cemetery

Followed by funeral repast at Grand on Princess, 2251 Princess Highway, Mulgrave

Major tourism promotion drive... From page 01

a tourism promotional campaign unit for Social Media and Other Forms of Online and Digital Marketing' will be set up, while a 'Campaign Creation, Research Development and Management Unit' will also be set up. Mean-

while, 25 local agencies for public relations (PR), content development, social media, and web boosting, for related activities over a period of five years will be set up while eight agencies for destination development will be set up.

TNA has no right to demand... From page 01

Such moves will anger local radical politicians and the majority community also."

"Such moves will anger local radical politicians and the majority community also. Not only that, such moves will seriously affect the good relationship," he said.

He said the Tamil Media should stop the practice of conveying decisions taken by a few as unanimous decisions, leaving some concerned parties out. "The best idea today is to negotiate with the Sri Lankan Government for an Indian Model as a solution. With the support of 22 members of Parliament and with the full backing of the LTTE, the TNA could not do anything for our people," he said.

"Sri Lanka is a sovereign state. No country will dare to interfere above a certain level and the other countries too will have their limitations. Being well aware of the situation, no one should try to fool the people," he said.

Every party concerned had made it very clear that "Federalism" will never be accepted as a solution for our prob-

lem. Knowing this well, the leaders should stop cheating the people that they will find Federalism as a solution. At the Presidential Election campaign, Ranil Wickremesinghe offered "Federalism" as a solution to our problem which the TNA opposed. Mahinda Rajapaksa campaigned for a Unitary Government. Still for all 49% of the Sinhala People voted for a Federal Solution.

It is a big joke to see the TNA demanding the Federal Solution having opposed it at the Presidential Election of 2005. The TULF had been agitating for an Indian Model as a solution to the ethnic problem. I do not think that India will go above this limit as a solution. A lot of Sinhalese and Political Leaders supported this proposal years back.

The best idea today is to negotiate with the Sri Lankan Government for an Indian Model as a solution. With the support of 22 members of Parliament and with the full backing of the LTTE the TNA could not do anything for our people.

National programme for... From page 01

Dengue has become the foremost public health issue by now within Sri Lanka while a reported count of 25,910 patients and 19 deaths have been reported by November 2021.

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal tabled by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to nominate one offic-

er in each establishment for permanent maintenance of prevention and control activities for Dengue, review at the district coordination committees and divisional coordination committees and take necessary actions, entrusting the responsibility of coordination of provincial, district, divisional

and grassroots level Dengue prevention to provincial Governors, updating the prevailing laws applicable to prevention of Dengue and entrusting the sole responsibility of coordinating all the activities pertaining to Dengue prevention to National Dengue Prevention Unit.

Webinar to promote trade, investments between Sri Lanka and Kuwait

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) and the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB), organized a webinar on 6 December, 2021 with the objective of enhancing trade and investment between the two countries.

Beginning the meeting, Musab Al-Nisf of the KCCI, who moderated the event, briefed the participants on the general business environment in Kuwait and explained the process of entering the Kuwait market.

Addressing the participants, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Kuwait Mohammed Jauhar highlighted the importance of trade relations between the two countries, noting that the relations predate the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. He urged the Kuwaiti business community to help to train Sri Lankans for employment in unskilled and semi-skilled categories, while commending the Sri Lankan workforce in Kuwait for being efficient and trustworthy employees. The Ambassador also took the opportunity to promote Sri Lanka's touristic attractions, which are ranked among the top travel destinations worldwide, and invited the participants to visit Sri Lanka.

NCCSL President Buddika Nandipala expressed hope that the webinar would enhance relations between the business communities of both countries, following the signing of the MOU between the two chambers in January, 2020.

SLEDB Chairman and Chief Executive Suresh De Mel briefed the gathering on products and services available for export. The SLEDB has been working with the Embassy to promote Sri Lanka's exports to Kuwait and helped host the webinar. Executive Director of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka Prasanjith Wijayatilake presented, in detail, investment opportunities in Sri Lanka as well as the benefits Sri Lanka provides to potential investors.

Obituaries

MENDIS - ALEXANDER GEORGE ANTON passed away peacefully in Melbourne, Australia. Former Chairman, Education Services Commission of the Public Services Commission, Deputy Director General of Education, Member of University Grants Commission, Director - Institute of Workers Education / University of Colombo, Member of Sri Lanka Sports Council, Honourable Director, Sri Lanka Tourist Board. Dearly beloved husband of Swinitha (nee Nanayakkara), loving father of Priyantha, Sajith, Indira, Champake & Thusitha, father-in-law of Sandeepika (Sandhu), Rohan, Kaumudi (Munchi) and Katherine, cherished, grandfather of Rivi, Meth Miara, Shanaya, Shevin, Danika, Callum & Taneisha. 14th Dec. Tuesday 7 p.m. - Viewing at Le Pine-388, Springvale Road, Glen Waverly. Funeral will take place at 3.30 p.m. 15th Dec. Wed, at Boyd Chapel Springvale Botanical Cemetery followed by funeral repast at Grand on Princess, 2251 Princess Highway, Mulgrave. 081391

WICKRAMASINGHE - TISSA BANDARA (Retired - Ceylon Electricity Board) - Beloved husband of late Mallika Goonasinghe, brother of Seedeivi, Neeliya, late Soma and Gamini, passed away on 11th December, 2021. 081366

US\$ 15 mn from India for development of Sacred Areas

Minister Chamal Rajapaksa said that a Cabinet paper will be tabled at the forthcoming Cabinet meeting requesting the assistance of the members of the Armed Forces for the construction and reconstruction work to be carried out at the Polonnaruwa 16 Sacred Areas (*Solosmathana*) based on the request of Bhikus living in those places.

The Minister said that awareness will be raised among the Tri-forces and that necessary assistance from them would be provided as soon as possible.

A discussion was held at Temple Trees on December 9 under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on expediting the development work of the 16 Sacred Areas in Polonnaruwa.

The development work of the Polonnaruwa 16 Sacred Areas, which was started by then President Mahinda Rajapaksa, had come to a halt halfway through during the period of the 'good governance' government. The present Government has again taken steps to develop the Sacred Areas under the supervision of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

Prof. Kapila Gunawardena, Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs agreed to take the necessary steps expeditiously to illuminate the 16 Sacred Areas and to pay the electricity bill from the Central Cultural Fund.

Secretary, Ministry of Highways R.W.K. Pemasiri agreed to the development of roads by carpeting them

inside the Sacred Areas so that local and foreign tourists and pilgrims can walk easily.

Polonnaruwa District Secretary W.A. Dharmasiri agreed to use a portion of the proceeds received by the Fund through sand mining in Manampitiya, which comes under his purview, for the development of Sacred Areas.

It was also agreed that a portion of the US\$ 15 million being provided by India for the development of the Sacred Areas for the next five years would be used for the development of the 16 Sacred Areas.

State Minister Roshan Ranasinghe stated further that despite the election of a President from the Polonnaruwa District, no action had been taken during the period of the 'good

governance' government and that large crowds come to view the *Solosmathana* on Poya days and that security, sanitation and transport facilities for them should be arranged soon.

Anunayake of the Asgiriya Chapter of the Siyam Maha Nikaya of the Shyamopali lineage, Chief Incumbent of the historic Gedige of Kandy, Monk in charge of the *Solosmathana* Venerable Wendaruwe Sri Upali Nayaka Thera, under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation Chamal Rajapaksa, State Minister of Cultural Affairs Vidura Wickramanayaka, State Minister of Mahaweli Siripala

Gamlath, Amarakeerthi Atukorale, Mayor of the Polonnaruwa Municipal Council Chanaka Sidath Ranasinghe, Secretary to the Prime Minister Gamini Senarath, Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs, Secretary to the Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils W.M.M.B. Weerasekera, Polonnaruwa District Secretary, Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs, Director of the National Physical Planning Department, Director of the Road Development Authority, Director of the Department of Civil Defence, officers from the Tri-forces, Chairman of the Ceylon Electricity Board and state officials participated in the meeting.

Nine destinations in SL chosen for sustainable tourism



IRANGIKA RANGE

Steps has been taken to immediately develop the nine chosen tourism destinations in nine provinces in Sri Lanka as the best sustainable tourism destinations, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said. The Tourism Ministry has initiated this programme with the technical and financial assistance of UNDP in Sri Lanka.

Under this programme, nine tourists destinations such as Sigiriya, Pilikuthuwa, Wanathawilluwa Gangewadiya village, Ellewala waterfall, Waulpane limestone cave, Delft island, Madunagala Hot Springs, Panama village and Mihinthaleya will be developed as best sustainable tourism destinations.

Priority will be given to environmental conservation, starting from prevention of single-use plastics, waste management, crowd control and involvement of local communities who would reap these benefits in the long run, as tourism is an interdependent ecosystem.

The Tourism Minister said that sustainability is a key driver to preserve and conserve the island's outstanding natural and cultural heritage and to safeguard the destination for its people and visitors. Sustainable tourism is now observed globally and Sri Lanka has initiated this programme realizing its value.

Minister Ranatunga said that demands from tourists for eco-friendly tourism has increased. Therefore the Government has given priority for eco-friendly strategies to be followed to attract more tourists. Attention will also be paid for eco-friendly tourism projects when approvals are given for new investments in the tourism industry, the Minister said.



Ceylon Electricity Board employees staged a protest opposite the CEB head office in Fort yesterday, making 13 demands. Picture by Asraff A. Samad

Blood donation on Poya DN Diary

A blood donation campaign will be held on December 18 (Poya Day) from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm at Gangula Siri Parama Visuddarama Viharaya, Hirana Road, Panadura.

The event has been organized for the 26th time by the Youth Welfare and Sports Society at Indrajothi Mawatha, Thanthirimulla, to mark the 60th birthday of Viharadhipathi Ven.

Thanthirimulle Sarana Nayake Thera. The attendees are requested to bring their National Identity Cards and follow the health guidelines.

Govt. working hard to attract foreign investment

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The Government has launched a new programme to attract foreign investment to the country, said State Minister Shehan Semasinghe.

He said that the Government was working closely with other countries in international affairs related to

financial discipline. State Minister Semasinghe expressed these views to the media in Anuradhapura.

"Worldwide investments have dropped to the level of around 35 percent at present. However, despite these obstacles, our Government is taking all possible measures to bring

in foreign investments to the country. But, despite our efforts, there are attempts being made to disrupt these efforts by various parties based on political or other agendas. We see that certain groups are sending messages to international quarters perhaps for political reasons, or



to safeguard the under-world and criminal activities and for various other reasons," he said.

Over 85 Covid deaths among children

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Eighty-nine COVID-related deaths have been reported among children under the age of 18, Family Health Bureau Director Dr. Chitramali de Silva said.

Speaking at a media conference on Monday (13) at the Health Promotion Bureau, Dr. de Silva said

that parents and guardians should take steps to direct their children to get vaccinated against COVID.

She said that there was a risk of COVID spreading at schools and it is important to make children aware of the need to strictly adhere to COVID preventive health guidelines.

She stressed the impor-

tance of preventing the transmission of COVID from school to home and from home to school.

Meanwhile, the health authorities stressed the importance of starting the vaccination programme of children aged 12 to 15 without any delay since the WHO has already granted approval for this.

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Sialkot lynching

Pakistan Govt plans Parliamentary debate



RAVI LADDUWAHETTY

The Government of Pakistan has decided to summon the Senate and National Assembly to discuss the lynching of Sri Lanka national Priyantha Kumara that occurred in Sialkot earlier this month, the *Express Tribune* reported yesterday.

Pakistani Prime Minister's Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan noted that on the advice of Premier Imran Khan, a debate will be held on the killing of Priyantha Kumara in both Houses of Parliament.

The Senate session has been called on December 20 and the National Assembly sitting on December 22. Awan also held consultations with Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on the matter.

Forty-eight-year-old Priyantha who was employed as a manager at a factory, was brutally murdered by a mob earlier this month.

Sri Lanka High Commissioner in Pakistan Mohan Wijewickrama maintained that the Sialkot incident would not affect the relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



An almsgiving to 100 Buddhist monks to mark the 78th birthday of the Chief Incumbent of Hunupitiya Gangaramaya Ven. Galaboda Gnanissara Thera was held at the temple premises yesterday. Here, President of the Dayaka Sabha of the temple and Wijeya Newspapers Limited Chairman Ranjith Wijewardene is offering Pirikara to the Maha Sangha. Ven. Kirinde Assaji Thera of Hunupitiya Gangaramaya was also present. Picture by Kelum Liyanage

Two CP Health clerks suspended over Rs.50 mn fraud

ASELA KURULUWANSHA

The Health Ministry has suspended two clerks in the Accounts Division of the Central Provincial Health Services Office, over allegations of committing a fraud of over Rs. 50 million.

Subsequent to filing a complaint with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) regarding the fraud, the officers of the unit have commenced a special investigation yesterday (14). Central Province Governor, Lalith U. Gamage said that an investigation carried out by the Internal Audit Division of the Provincial Health Ministry revealed information regarding the relevant fraud.

The Governor also said that he had instructed the Central Province Chief Secretary to take necessary steps to prevent the

two women involved in the incident from going abroad. During investigations carried out up to now, it has been revealed that the suspects had been engaged in this financial fraud for around five years.

Investigations have revealed further that they have been creating fake accounts in the name of persons not employed in the health sector and crediting money to those accounts for some time.

The Governor says that this type of fraud could not have been carried out for a long time if the expenditure of the Ministries belonging to the Provincial Council had been properly audited.

The Accounts Division of the Central Province Director of Health Services was sealed.

Journalists discuss human rights and media freedom

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN

Batticaloa Spl. Corr.

Under the theme 'Human Rights and Media Freedom' a meeting to discuss the problems facing journalists while accessing web media and other social media, jointly organized by Eastern Province Journalists' Forum (EPJF) and Professional Web Journalists' Association (PWJA), took place at the Batticaloa Library

auditorium on Sunday (12).

The meeting was presided over by President of the Eastern Province Journalists' Forum L. Thevathiran where one item of the meeting was a silent protest by the participants at Gandhi Park by lighting candles and carrying banners on the importance of safeguarding human rights and press freedom.

Batticaloa Open University Lecturer Radha Gnanaretanam delivered a talk on human rights and the privileges of the people, senior journalist M.I. Farook spoke on human rights and the Muslim community and civil activist Sotheeswery Yogathas expressed her views on women's rights.

Convener of the Professional Web Journalists' Association Freddy



The silent protest at Gandhi Park.

Gamage spoke on examining problems faced by journalists in the field of web media and social media and suggested remedies and outlined the plan of action for the future.



People obtaining services from post offices in many parts of the country faced inconvenience due to the token strike launched by the postal trade unions yesterday. Here, the Badulla main post office closed due to the trade union action. Picture by C. Gamage, Soranathota Group Corr.

Quarantined after arrest

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE

Galle Central Spl. Corr.

A suspect who was arrested by Opatha Police in connection with the alleged sexual abuse of a 12-year-old girl has been confirmed to be infected with the Covid virus.

The suspect, a father of two, is a shop owner residing in Thalangalla, Opatha, in

Hiniduma. He was arrested for allegedly sexually abusing a girl who came to the shop. Subsequent Rapid Antigen Testing confirmed that the suspect was infected with the virus. As a result, the Opatha Police OIC, a constable and the police driver who went to arrest the suspect have been directed to be quarantined.

Disease affecting coconut crops brought under control

P.P.G. SUGATHADASA

Thihagoda Group Corr.

The disease affecting coconut cultivations in the Matara district has been brought under control, Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB) Matara Regional Manager Leelananda Gabbadage said.

Nearly 300,000 fruit bearing coconut trees in the Matara district were cut down due to the spread of the disease in the district, officials attached to Matara District office of the Coconut Cultiva-



tion Board said. Each owner of these trees has been compensated at the rate of Rs. 3,000 per tree, officials stated. Cutting down of diseased trees and banning the transport of all raw materials relating to coconut products from and through the affected

areas has made a positive impact in controlling the spread of the disease, they said.

Officials also instructed cultivators and landowners as to the urgent need of informing the officials responsible if they notice any symptoms of the disease in their cultivations. Every endeavour possible is currently being made by the Coconut Cultivation Board to prevent the spread of this disease, Gabbadage added.

Racket re-packing stale sugar bared in Dambulla

KANCHANA ARIYADASA

A racket involving packeting of sugar unfit for human consumption back to the market was bared in Dambulla on Sunday.

Dambulla Mayor Jaliya Opatha said that a consignment of sugar imported from India to Sri Lanka which was unfit for human consumption was found in a private warehouse behind the Dambulla Economic Centre, being packed back into packages which stated that the sugar was imported from Dubai.

The Municipal Council team inspecting a private warehouse behind the Dambulla Economic Centre said that this procedure had been going on since several days before behind closed doors. The Mayor took action to lodge a complaint with the Dambulla Police regarding the owner of the operation and the stock of sugar.

Dambulla Mayor Jaliya Opatha said that these swindlers were engaged in a very despicable process of selling these stocks of sugar to consumers all over the

country during the upcoming Christmas and festive seasons.

The Mayor said that these stocks of sugar, which had been hidden during the sugar shortage in the country, had been soiled by rats and other animals and all their packaging had decayed, become damp and discoloured and some of the sugar had become unfit for human consumption. He said further when he and a group went to the warehouse, several workers were putting the sugar imported from India on to the floor and dividing up the sugar without following any protective method and changing the expiry dates and repacking the sugar into packages that stated that they had been imported from Dubai.

The businessman who was engaged in this process said that they were sorting out only the sugar that was usable and was disposing the remaining sugar unsuitable for human consumption. However, while inspecting the warehouse, it was found that



Dambulla Mayor and Police at the warehouse. Pictures by Kanchana Ariyadasa.

a number of food items which were also spoilt and stored in the same warehouse such as laundry soap powder, coriander and rice, were discovered too, Mayor Jaliya Opatha said.

Apparently, this same businessman had been warned on several previous occasions regarding storing consumer goods unfit for human consumption and selling them. Even though legal action had been taken against this individual, he continues to engage in this process, Opatha said.

He said that facts will be presented by the police to the Dambulla Magistrate's Court regarding preparing this stock of sugar to be sold to the public and that legal action will be taken.

SL, Saudi pledge to strengthen Parliamentary ties

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN

Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia have pledged to strengthen Parliamentary relations between the two nations following a meeting held in Riyadh between the Sri Lankan Ambassador in Riyadh Pakeer Mohideen Amza and Speaker of the Shoura Council Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Asheikh held on Monday (13).

Speaking to the *Daily News* from Riyadh, Amza said it was a fruitful discussion held with the Speaker of the Shoura Council and it has paved the way for new areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Amza conveyed the greetings of the Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament.

During the meeting, a num-

ber of issues of common interest were discussed. Amza said that Saudi Arabia is a friendly country which has stood with Sri Lanka in good and bad times. The Saudi Fund for Development has given more than US\$ one billion for various infrastructure projects in the island, he added.

Dr. Al-Asheikh expressed his wishes of success to the new Lankan Ambassador in strengthening the relations that unite Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka.

He stressed the Shoura Council's keenness and interest in developing joint bilateral work and coordination at the level of Parliamentary relations with Sri Lanka, in order to achieve constructive cooperation.



Sri Lankan Ambassador in Riyadh Pakeer Mohideen Amza with Speaker of the Shoura Council Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Asheikh.

In 2019, Dr. Al-Asheikh led a delegation of the Shoura Council to Sri Lanka on an official visit on an invitation by the Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament Karu Jayasuriya. In 2001, Shoura Speaker Dr. Saleh Bin Humeid visited Colombo on a goodwill mission which was reciprocated with a visit by former Sri Lankan Speaker Mohamed Haniffa Mohammed.

Galle 'Wari Saubhagya' projects nearing completion

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE

Galle Central Spl. Corr.

Most of the projects carried out by the Galle office of the Agrarian Development Department under the 'Wari Saubhagya' (Irrigation Prosperity) programme are in the final stages, it was disclosed at the recent Galle District Coordinating Committee meeting.

The main objective of the 'Wari Saubhagya' programme launched in line with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' policy framework, is to renovate existing reservoirs and anicuts in the district through scientific methods to retain more water.

Under the 'Wari Saubhagya' pro-

gramme, 138 irrigation projects are expected to be implemented in the Galle district. The Department of Agrarian Development has prepared 28 project proposals for the district.

Of the projects that were implemented by the Agrarian Development Department, work on 11 has been completed. All other projects are nearing completion, including four projects with over 80 percent progress and two projects with 50 percent to 70 percent progress.

These projects are being carried out for 350 beneficiaries at a cost of Rs. 17.7 million.

Accordingly four projects in Gonapinuwala, three in Ambalango-

da, two in Hikkaduwa and Neluwa, two in Balapitiya and one in Karadeniya Divisional Secretariat divisions have been initiated.



Balapitiya Gini Gal Manana Anicut, Kadawala Kanda Anicut, Thawalama Ata Govipala Anicut, Thalagahoda Nagoda Ninda Mulla Anicut, Neluwa Athuregedara Yaya Anicut, Ambalangoda Dorala Anicut, Gonapinuwala Paluwila Anicut and Gahalakoladeniya Yaya Ela have been renovated under the project.

The DCC meeting was held online under the patronage of Co-Chairpersons Southern Province Governor Willie Gamage and Galle District M.P. Sampath Athukorala with the participation of Minister Ramesh Pathirana and Galle District Secretary Shantha Weerasinghe.

Liquor shops to be closed on Christmas Day

S.M. WIJAYARATNE

Kurunegala Corr.

Excise Commissioner General M.J. Gunasiri has instructed all liquor shops countrywide that their shops should be closed for business on Christmas Day (25).

Restaurants at tourist hotels too are not permitted to sell liquor to outsiders on that day although tourists who are staying as resi-

dential guests are allowed to be served limited quantities of liquor on request.

The Excise Department has informed all tourist hotels of this. Over 1,500 officers would be deployed countrywide to ensure the liquor rule is observed that day. Violators would be arrested on the spot by investigators of the Department.



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NEW PAEDIATRIC HIGH DEPENDENCY UNIT FOR NIID

The NIID staff has been working hard day and night since the COVID-19 outbreak occurred in Sri Lanka. They take care of all patients without any difference.

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

The new High Dependency Unit of the children's ward at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) was opened last week. According to NIID Director Dr. Hasitha Attanayake, there are eight ICU beds, 11 wards, 65 doctors, 10 consultants and 200 nurses at the NIID. Now, the hospital can deliver better service to people with the added new modern facilities due to the COVID-19 outbreak last year.

The NIID which was called in the past as the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) has a long history of over 200 years and had 10 wards. Around 450 health staff attached to the NIID and doctors, consultants, nursing officers, nursing sisters/masters and different health staff in 31 other categories worked in the NIID during the peak of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka.

The NIID staff has been working hard day and night since the COVID-19 outbreak occurred in Sri Lanka. They take care of all patients without any difference.

According to Dr. Attanayake, all health staff, especially the minor staff and similar grades, had worked hard even without extra payments to save the lives of COVID-19 patients. Their dedicated service is highly admirable. There is no negative impact whatsoever on the public living around the NIID. The hospital had a bed capacity of around 220 in 2017, which was sometimes insufficient compared to the total number of patients admitted. It's mainly based on infectious disease control over the country.

It is a high service level hospital that focuses on infection control, HIV and other



The High Dependency Unit of the NIID has eight ICU beds and 11 wards now.

infectious diseases. A specialised unit was established for dengue management in 2010. It has become the best Institute for Dengue Management in the Colombo District. It was mainly focusing on dengue treatment but their main target has become treating COVID-19 positive patients since the first confirmed case was reported in Sri

Lanka on January 27, a 44-year-old Chinese woman from the Hubei Province in China. She was admitted to the National Institute of Infection Diseases.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic period project included the addition of 16 fully furnished bedrooms that provide 32 beds and adequate restroom facilities.



The oil lamp being lit at the opening ceremony.



The first child patient being admitted. (Pictures by Sulochana Gamage)



A memento being shared to mark the occasion.

SLAF Paratroopers dominate the skies

DISHAN JOSEPH

The concept of airborne soldiers being inserted into theatres of battle can be seen throughout history. This aerial advantage made a paradigm shift in many wars. During the Second World War, allied forces were able to jump with trained dogs. They were used for mine-detecting, guard and patrol duties.

In September 1944 almost 20,000 allied soldiers were dropped into the Netherlands by parachute. This mission codenamed Operation Market Garden was the largest deployment of airborne troops in military history and was done to outflank German forces in the Siegfried Line. Allied parachutes were also used to drop 3,340 tonnes of ammunition.

A parachute needs to be light (to carry), foldable (for packing) and flexible (for steering), but also strong and tear-resistant (for safety). It also has to be carefully folded - or packed - to ensure that it will open reliably. If a parachute is not packed properly it can result in a malfunction where the main parachute - or canopy - fails to deploy correctly or fully. At its most basic meaning, military parachuting is about delivering soldiers and supplies into action. It involves jumping out of a plane, waiting for the canopy to open automatically from a 'static line' attached to the aircraft, and then hoping the wind is blowing in the right direction. More experienced parachutists, such as in the Special Forces also use steerable chutes that they deploy themselves at whatever altitude is required. Their square parachutes are more manoeuvrable than the standard round static-line chutes and are used for precision landings.

The Special Forces also use High Altitude High Opening (HAHO) parachuting. This involves expert parachutists deploying their steerable chutes at a high altitude. They can then glide long distances to their target and get



Air Marshal **Sudarshana Pathirana**
Air Force Commander

to areas of enemy territory that it would be too dangerous to fly a plane over. Like HALO jumpers, HAHO parachutists have to breathe bottled oxygen during their descent.

We journeyed to Ampara where the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) operates its Parachute Training School (PTS). In the initial stages of military parachuting, SLAF Officers and Airmen were sent for parachute courses to the USA, India and Pakistan. The Sri Lanka Army Commando Regiment had also trained some Air Force personnel. The Parachute Training School was formed on July 15, 2002 and was established at the SLAF Base Katunayake by January 2002. Its primary role was to conduct basic and advanced parachute training courses. The parachute wing is part of the SLAF Regiment and comes under the purview of Director Ground Operations Air Vice Marshal Janaka Amerasinghe.

The first parachute display was done



Wing Commander **S. Ritigala**
Commanding Officer of the PTS

to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Air Force at the SLAF Base Ratmalana. By 2006, the PTS was able to offer a few training vacancies for the other Tri-Service personnel. In May 2006, the PTS was proud to have produced the first 10 paratroopers of the Police Special Task Force (STF). In offering equal opportunity to all Air Force personnel, the SLAF absorbed seven airwomen for their basic parachute course in 2008. By May 2013, the Parachute Training School was enhanced and relocated to the SLAF Station Ampara. The PTS is nestled amidst a serene landscape where wild buffaloes and deer roam about in tranquillity. The runway at this station is suitable for the Y-8, AN-32 and C-130 aircraft which have been used to airlift the paratroopers.

The SLAF Station Ampara is commanded by Air Commodore Waruna Gunawardena. I met up with the Commanding Officer (PTS) Wing Commander Suredha Ritigala and Chief Instructor Squadron Leader Dinesh Kiriwandeniya. At present, the school has 25 qualified instructors.

Wing Commander Ritigala who has 1,100 jumps to his credit explained: "This school has all the training facilities on par with any foreign military parachute training school. We begin by giving aspiring recruits the Basic Parachute Course which is conducted for 30 days. After gaining the skills, confidence and experience, they can progress to do the Military Freefall Course (40 days duration). As they make progress Air Force personnel can qualify



Officers and Instructors of the PTS



Air Commodore **W. Gunawardena**
Commanding Officer SLAF Station - Ampara

as a Parachute Rigger (a person who folds the parachute) which is also conducted for 40 days.

Additional advanced training courses are the Jump Master (40 days duration) and the Advanced Rigger (a person qualified to fold the emergency parachute). Prior to enlisting for these courses, all aspiring candidates are strictly evaluated. Once airborne there is no room for error. We also have officers who are qualified as Pathfinders (for stealth insertion missions) and Drop Zone Safety Officers".

The officers and other ranks appearing for the selection interviews are filtered with a rigorous PT test, to check their endurance. During the basic course, they go through three stages - ground, tower and live jumps. In order to wear the parachute badge, they must complete five jumps (daytime and night). These initial training jumps are done at an altitude of 1,300 feet. During their advanced course, parachutists jump from an aircraft flying at 10,000 feet. We walked to the training area. There were platforms and ladders at different heights.

The main training tower stands at exactly 34 feet. This is the height where humans feel high phobia. So in order to parachute one must overcome the fear of heights. A flight sergeant and his assistant were ready with some airmen. The topmost part of this tower is built and painted to replicate the bay of a C-130 Hercules aircraft. From this platform airmen wearing helmets and a harness are sent down on an iron cable to mimic the style of a static line para-



A trainee in the harness

chute jump. When the Jump Master says "go" they jump out. Becoming a paratrooper is not for the faint-hearted.

From here we visited the rooms where parachutes are folded with great attention. Folding a parachute is a very important job. The Rigger must carefully check the suspension lines, cords, clips and hooks. There is no tolerance for any mistakes as they can cause a fatal accident. There are two kinds of parachutes used. One is the Basic Parabolic round parachute and the other is the square design Ram Air parachute.

Parachutes are checked for any holes or tears, and if any are found they are repaired. The Tandem parachute is for advanced airborne missions. In this concept, a SLAF instructor-grade para jumper can safely carry another man to the desired location. This important skill can be used in responding to a natural disaster. When roads are flooded, a doctor can be safely deposited on high ground to treat those who are seriously in need of medical attention. Likewise in an industrial accident situation or emergency, an engineer can be safely positioned to do an urgent repair. SLAF pilots and parachute specialists also have the capacity to air-drop cargo when responding to disaster relief operations. Each of these cargo packs weighs 150 kilograms. Foreign air forces use parachute troops to respond to forest fires when fire brigade crews on land can't proceed any

further. During combat insertions, SLAF paratroopers can be inserted behind enemy lines. On these tasks, they carry their weapons and jump out of the planes or helicopters. Visibility can be hindered by thick clouds, and therefore they can navigate by using GPS. Once they jump from the sky, they descend at 320 kilometres per hour. All airmen and airwomen are subject to a psychometric evaluation at training stages. They have to make quick decisions within seconds, and watch out for airborne team members. Para jumpers wear an altimeter (displays altitude) when they jump. There is another safety device called AAD which can automatically activate and open a parachute, in case a jumper has become unconscious for any reason. This is especially vital during the basic training period of recruits.

After garnering experience, SLAF personnel can qualify as skydivers. In order to apply for this course, one must have done 15 jumps. The skydiver course lasts 40 days. They learn to jump from 13,000 feet. In order to qualify as a skydiver, they must complete 25 training jumps. Skydivers engage in a sport called Accuracy Landing. A jumper must descend safely and land precisely on a 16-centimetre touchpad which requires immense focus. SLAF skydivers take part at the annual Independence Day parades and thrill us with their stack formation and diamond formation, proudly carrying the National Flag and Tri-Forces flags. SLAF teams have participated in international military parachute games held in India, Algeria, Switzerland, Indonesia, Germany, Qatar and Russia where 700 foreign jumpers take part from around the world.

Sri Lanka will be an ideal venue for such a future international event. The incumbent Air Force Commander Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana has guided and supported the growth of the Parachute Training School. The global trend is adventure sports tourism and Sri Lanka is seen by many foreigners as a beautiful country for parachute jumps. The Parachute Training School of the SLAF has produced hundreds of robust paratroopers.



How a static line parachute opens

China Charity Federation donates gifts to needy Sri Lankan Dhamma school students

Distribution of gift packs donated by China Charity Federation to needy Dhamma school students of Sri Lanka, through Sri Lanka China Buddhist Friendship Association was commenced by the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Qi Zhenhong, with the participation of the Chief Incumbent of Sri Gauthama Viharaya at Narahenpita, Ven Omalpe Sumanarathana Thera, at a simple ceremony held on Sunday, December 12, 2021.

China Charity Foundation made available 2,500 gift packs consisting of a crayon set, Tiger balm, school bag, drawing books and face masks to assist the children to overcome mental trauma faced due to COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka China Buddhist

Friendship Association invited children to join an art competition to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of establishment of Diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and China, which falls on February 7, 2022.

Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Qi Zhenhong commenced the distribution at Sri Gauthama Viharaya in the presence of Ven. Omalpe Sumanarathana Thera and Ajith Dharamwardena, Snr. Vice President of SLCBFA.

On the same day gift packs were distributed by Sri Lanka China Buddhist Friendship Association to children at Sri Vijayanandanaramaya, Rathmaladeniya, Pannipitiya organized by Ven. Dr. Pidaliganawela Panchaseeha Thera, the chief incumbent of the temple.



The Chinese Ambassador donates a gift pack to a student of the Daham Pasela at Sri Gauthama Viharaya.

An Appreciation - Dr. Lakshman Weerasekera

I have known Lucky for almost sixty years, since we joined medical school in 1963. We have been very close friends ever since and kept in close contact over the years, although I moved to Canada and he remained in Sri Lanka.

He was always full of life and had a great sense of humour. He had a positive attitude at all times and his perpetual smile was a tonic to all those who had the good fortune to come in contact with him.

During our five years in medical school, he was on stage every year at the Block Concert, dressed up as a big buxom woman in cloth and jacket partaking in the adult comedy that was pro-



Dr. Lakshman Weerasekera

duced by our group. It was indeed a treat to see him playing the part to very well.

He was a very caring and competent doctor always doing his utmost to help every one who sought his expertise and advice. In addition to his general practice, he was also an Aviation Medical Examiner. Apart from that he made a significant contribution to the medico-legal field and he was a former President to the Medico Legal Society of Sri Lanka, which is quite a distinction for a general practitioner.

His greatest achievement was organizing hundreds of medical camps providing voluntary medical services to thousands of underprivileged people, who had no access to

medical care. I saw for myself, the enormous effort that he put into making those camps a success, when I helped in providing Ophthalmological care at the camp that was held in the Dondra District on one of my trips to Sri Lanka. This was about five years ago and it was his 500th camp and he had organized many more since then!

His demise is a great loss to all of us on and he will be sadly missed not only by his close-knit family and friends but also by the hundreds of people whom he had helped during his time. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr. Joe Wijayanayagam, Canada

Coconut cultivation promoted in diverse ways

NIMAL WIJESINGHE

- Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

It is learnt that discussions have commenced with the authorities governing coconut cultivation to double the production of nuts from three billion nuts to six billion nuts per year. This plan has been processed by an international level management consultancy company upon a request received by the Presidential Secretariat.

Under this programme an average unit of cultivation is around five acres and the project undertaken to develop 50,000 hectares in the first phase aiming at adding 750 million nuts to the existing coconut production in the country.

It is reported that the project is considering developing a total extent of about 187,000 hectares ideally suitable for producing a minimum of 100 nuts per palm per annum. Country's neglected paddy lands of

about 50,000 hectares and another 87,000 hectares from beach front of the North are under consideration to be included in the final phase. This particular world-renowned management consultancy company has got branch offices in 140 countries.

Considering the importance of accurate monitoring, the team of 30 professionals from different professional systems are going to use satellite and drone technologies. A one-stop mobile app is to be developed so that all services required by the farmer or any of the stakeholders will be able to get the services executed without wasting time.

In the meantime, the Nestle Lanka has launched a Coconut plan in partnership with the Coconut Cultivation Board of Sri Lanka. The fifth phase of the Coconut promotion plan began in Aranthala-wa, Maha Oya recently, where 1,000 farmers and out growers were presented with 5,000 hybrid coconut plant-

lets and organic fertilizer. According to the Chairperson of the Coconut Cultivation Board of Sri Lanka, Madavi Herath in past few years the supply of coconut was affected by drought and various crop diseases. She pointed out the particular public-private partnership would immensely help rural families to grow more resilient coconut varieties in non-traditional coconut growing divisions. It was revealed that around 4,000 farmers are being facilitated by Nestle-Coconut Cultivation Board Coconut Promotion venture.

It is reported that in 2020 amidst Covid-19 pandemic situation, Nestle Lanka has continued to purchase coconut to the tune of over 90 million fresh coconuts at a cost of Rs. 4.5 billion. The company has contributed Rs. 3.8 billion in export revenue to Sri Lanka's economy being one of the largest Coconut Milk Powder exporter in the world.

Operators to salvage sunken MV X-Press Pearl

The operators of the vessel MV X-Press Pearl that sank off the coast of Sri Lanka said that the wreck of the container ship that has caused environmental carnage will be removed. The Singapore-based operators have contracted a salvage company to remove the sunken ship and the remains of its cargo.

The vessel caught fire on May 20, 2021 and burned for almost two weeks and finally while being towed to deeper waters, the vessel sank on June 2, 2021. The vessel was carrying dangerous cargo, which included nitric acid, low-density polyethylene, cosmetics, and other chemicals. There were a total of 81 containers containing hazardous chemicals, which included 25 tonnes of nitric acid. After

the accident, hundreds of tonnes of plastic and chemicals leaked into the sea and caused what Sri Lanka calls its worst marine disaster. There were dead dolphins, turtles, and whales washing up on the beaches of the island nation post-accident.

Sri Lanka demanded US\$40 million from the ship's operators to cover the initial cost incurred in handling the disaster. The Singapore-based operators have said that Sri Lanka authorities have also submitted a second claim. Sri Lanka said that assessing the ecological cost of the accident will take time, however, the country has launched a criminal probe against the ship's Captain, Chief Officer, Chief Engineer, and local agent. - Agencies



Defence Attaché of Royal Thai Embassy calls on Navy Commander

The Defence and Naval Attaché of Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi and accredited to Sri Lanka, Captain Jakarin Khowrat, RTN called on Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugettenne at the Navy Headquarters yesterday (December 14, 2021).

The discussions between Commander of the Navy and Defence and Naval Attaché of Royal Thai Embassy mainly focused on several matters of bilateral importance. The cordial discussion between them drew to a close with an exchange of mementos, as a gesture of goodwill.



The Police Narcotics Unit at the Bandaranaike International Airport on Thursday recovered a stock of contraband cigarettes worth over Rs. 630,000, concealed in chocolate boxes brought from Dubai.

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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.

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Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Welcome relief

The assurance given by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa that steps would be taken soon to bring down the Cost of Living through certain measures must be a great relief to the long suffering public who are today hemmed in by multiple problems of which the high CoL is just one. Speaking to a vernacular publication, the Premier said he would be discussing with the Cabinet the means to be adopted to bring down the prices of essential items including those of vegetables which have shot through the roof compounded by acute shortages of vegetable consignments arriving at the main economic centres.

The Premier said prompt steps would be taken to ensure fair and affordable prices for vegetables and other consumer items. He said the Coronavirus has dealt a crippling blow to economies all over the world resulting in high prices of goods not only in Sri Lanka but also elsewhere as well, although some speak of this pretending not to know the true situation.

PM Rajapaksa who had always been sensitive to the needs and travails of the people with a finger on the pulse of the common man can be relied upon to stick to his word and offer the necessary relief vis- a-vis the skyrocketing prices of consumer goods that is making life unbearable to the majority. Not just the poor, but even the middle class segments are feeling the gravity of the problem with salaries being slashed due to the repercussions to the economy by the Coronavirus. Media reports say that more than 150,000 persons employed by small and medium scale industries are today out of jobs, a majority of them from the tourism sector. The impact of the Cost of Living on these segments is not difficult to understand. The recent spate of raids on jewellery shops and the rise in the incidents of theft and robberies may or may not be linked to action driven by desperation of not necessarily professional criminals, as a means of survival. Hence, the issue now has developed into a social problem, that, if allowed to go unattended could well lead to social disorder.

The people are assailed on multiple fronts such as gas related explosions and the scarcity of essentials such as milk powder. Even consumer items that were the preserve of the rich and affluent are today in short supply that would dampen the spirit of the festive season for some who had been taking these consumer items for granted ever since the imports kept flooding into the country with the opening of the economy four decades ago. The sudden import ban imposed on certain items, necessitated by the dollar crisis, is also going to make the Government unpopular due to the entrenched lives the people have got accustomed to where certain goods and consumer items had become an integral part of their daily existence.

How Premier Rajapaksa is going to execute his plan to reduce the prices of essential items is still in the realm of the unknown given that so far all attempts to control prices have been unsuccessful. It is a basic economic theory that prices of goods are governed by supply and demand. If goods are in short supply the prices invariably shoot up. But we have also to contend with the practice of hoarding by unscrupulous traders and black marketeers resulting in the artificial increase in the price of goods. If the Government could make the Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) play a more pro-active role than it is doing at present the prices of certain goods and consumer items could at least be brought down to a certain degree offering some breathing space to the public.

The CAA certainly should get its act together and earn its keep by the public purpose. It came in for heavy flak from the public recently over the fiasco involving raids on paddy warehouses carried out amidst much fanfare only for the project to flounder midstream, with the millers having the last laugh. Why have a State organ tasked with protecting consumer interests, if that organ is rendered impotent while at the same time guzzling public funds for the payment of salaries of the staff and other maintenance costs? Is it time the PM got cracking and get the CAA to show results. After all it is headed by a retired military officer with proven mettle. Today, the prices of consumer goods are being raised *willy-nilly*. The prices in one shop of a certain consumer item is different to that charged in another shop. Worst, prices are jacked up overnight according to the whims and fancies of shopkeepers and it is when the public go to make their purchases that they become aware of the new prices. It is the responsibility of the CAA to ensure such a state of affairs does not exist and bring to book all errant traders. Alas, no redress is being offered to the public on this score with the CAA remaining none the wiser.

While taking measures to bring down the prices of essential items, the Premier must also try to arrest the present chronic scarcity of certain items essential to the daily lives of the people. In the past, the popular saying was that it was the kitchen that makes or breaks Governments. Let today's rulers take to heart the wisdom of this saying.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The economy is the start and end of everything. - David Cameron



The First Session of the Ninth Parliament has ended.

President calls fresh Parliament Session



The rumour mill was agog as the Nation woke up to unexpected news of the Parliament's prorogation by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last Monday. As the political circles were abuzz over this surprising move, there came another announcement that the President left for Singapore on an unscheduled visit.

No details of the purpose or the duration of the visit were given officially as it was a private visit, but there were some speculations that he went for a medical check-up. In the absence of the President, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting on Monday evening.

The President, in an Extraordinary Gazette proclaiming the prorogation of Parliament, has set January 18 as the date of commencement of the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament. After the conclusion of the Budget, Parliament had previously decided to meet again on January 11, but the President has suspended the sittings by another week.

With the Parliament's prorogation, all current business before the House have been suspended and its pending business will have to be re-submitted at the beginning of the next Session. Many of its Committees, including the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) and the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA), stand dissolved.

The Parliament Select Committee on Electoral Reforms is unaffected by the temporary recess of Parliament, and the Speaker also continues to hold his post. The term of the First Session of the Ninth Parliament, which began on August 20, 2020, had been limited to less than 16 months.

The reason behind the President's decision to prorogue Parliament is impenetrable at this point. When questioned by a journalist, Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris replied that it is the prerogative of the President. The President is likely to deliver the Government's Policy Statement at the inauguration of the new Session as per the tradition.

Parliament records show that Parliament had been prorogued about fifty times to date since 1947. The previous Parliament had been prorogued three times before its dissolution on March 2, 2020, whereas the Seventh Parliament, which was summoned



Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa delivering his maiden Budget Speech in Parliament.

in 2010, had only one Session till its dissolution in 2015.

Foreign reserves

The Government showcased its two-thirds majority in Parliament during the final vote of 'Budget 2022', which was done and dusted two days prior to the Parliament's prorogation. The Budget was passed with a thumping majority of 93 votes, obtaining 157 votes in favour and 64 votes against with only three absentees. Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena certified the Appropriation Bill on the same day of its passage.

This year's Budget came in the midst of a severe economic pressure due to dwindling foreign reserves. The Opposition Members raised concerns that the country would not be able to afford the import of even the essential food items, medicine, LP gas and fuel next year, if this situation was not addressed immediately.

Winding up the month-long Budget debate on Friday, Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa did not mince his words that the country is facing an acute shortfall of foreign currency. Despite that, he infused the House with confidence that the country would not default on debt repayments.

"We will pay every dollar that is due and we give that assurance with greatest responsibility," he told the House while noting that USD 500 million is due next month and another USD 1,000 million is due next July for debt servicing.

The Foreign Exchange Reserves of the country have



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa delivering the Policy Statement in Parliament in August 2020.



Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena endorsing the Appropriation Bill 2022.

dipped to USD 1.587 billion as of November, and according to economists, the total usable foreign currency available is not enough even to cover the cost of imports for a month. This is an alarming position given that traditional rules of thumb that have been used to guide reserve adequacy suggest that countries should hold reserves covering the equivalent of three months' worth of imports.

The Finance Minister said that the Government is looking at improving export income, tourism income, and foreign remittances from migrant workers to deal with the present situation, while curtailing the imports as necessary. Reminding the phrase, 'a penny saved is a penny earned', the Minister said the country needs to reduce the fuel import bill by lessening the dependency on fuel for power generation and fuel consumption for vehicles.

"Then we do not have to go begging for debt relief from lenders. Help us stand on our own feet by building our own foreign reserves," said the Minister, also frowning upon



JVP Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake showing the Yugadanavi-NFE Agreement.

the idea of seeking an Extended Fund Facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to address balance of payments problems.

LNG Agreement

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake stole the thunder during the final day of the Budget debate by brandishing a copy of the purported Agreement between the Government and the US-based New

Fortress Energy (NFE) for the divestiture of 40 percent shares of the Yugadanavi Power Plant, which has courted controversy over the past few months.

Many in the Legislature, even including Ministers, had not been privy to the document till the Opposition MP tabled it in Parliament. Once tabled in the House, it becomes a public document accessible to any interested party. MP Dissanayake pointed out that the Government was hesitant to present this Agreement in Parliament, despite many requests from the Opposition law-makers.

Several Ministers, who faced off the deal, including Minister Vasudeva Nanayakara, had also previously requested for a copy of the same. The content of the Agreement was, however, given succinctly in the Cabinet paper submitted by Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa in September as he sought the approval of the Cabinet to proceed with it.

The NFE's USD 250 million investment into the 310MW Yugadanavi Power Plant in Kelawarapitiya involves developing a new offshore Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal and LNG supply rights for five years.

Taking the floor as the House debated the Expenditure Heads of the Finance Ministry, the JVP Leader, who is representing the recently formed National People's Power (NPP) in Parliament, argued that the relevant Agreement had not been signed with the NFE, but with a company named NFE Sri Lanka Power Holdings LLC, registered in an address in the US. This entity, however, appears to be a subsidiary created by the parent company as a Special Purpose Vehicle, which is a common practice nowadays.

MP Dissanayake also breathed fire against a Confidentiality Clause in the Agreement, which prevents either party from disclosing information in it for two years without the consent of the other party. Citing Clause 13.1 of the document, the MP asked why the Government agreed to that condition, adding that it is undemocratic to withhold such information from the people, especially Parliament.

The LNG Agreement with the NFE can become an Achilles' heel for the Government if it does not act above-board. It lacks concurrence even among the Members of the Government, and further attempts to push this deal through furtively will do little good to the Government, or the country for that matter. A healthy dialogue within the Government as well as with other stakeholders will help ease the prevailing tensions on the matter.

With the latest political and economic developments enveloping the country, the Government seems to be at a crossroads, and its next few steps will be decisive to determine its future trajectory.



Chairman Mao



Chinese President Xi Jinping



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Dwight Eisenhower



Donald Trump

RAJPAL ABEYNAYAKE

Does President Gotabaya Rajapaksa want to keep full civilian control over the military, meaning, does he give primacy to civilian control over the affairs of State? His oft quoted words — that he wants to learn about the Chinese political system and statecraft from President Xi Jinping — if it's any indication, shows he wants the 'gun to be wielded by the civilian command.'

That's what Chairman Mao wanted, that the Communist party should always wield the gun.

Now, irrespective of the fact that the People's Liberation Army seized power under the communists led by Chairman Mao in 1949, the Communist Party is utterly, predominantly civilian. The bottom line then is that in China, there is absolutely no deviation from Chairman Mao's dictum that 'political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.'

If that's the case there can be no complaints that President Rajapaksa wants to learn statecraft from the Chinese "and wants to militarize". That can't be, as the last thing the Chinese want to do is to militarize.

They have been so successful in that endeavour that the military doesn't lift a finger without Communist Party approval. When former Prime Minister Wen Jiabao wanted the military to move in for rescue efforts after Wenchuan's earthquake in 2008, the military high command refused until the go ahead was given by the CMC (Central Military Commission) of the Communist Party the next day.

Does that mean the military is weak in China? It would be hilarious to so much as

PUTTING 'MILITARIZATION' IN PERSPECTIVE

to suggest that. The military is so strong that the country is often identified with 'military adventurism' by opinion makers working against Chinese interests.

UNTENABLE

But a strong military doesn't mean China is a militarized state. Go there. You'd see civilians run the show. It's true from the politburo down to the last Local Government authority.

Of course from time to time there have been leadership tussles in China that pitted leaders who had military backing against those who didn't. It's not as if China has been immune to these types of leadership issues in which military backing played some type of role. But, it was never a pivotal role. The proof of it is that those who had military backing always seemed to lose the power struggles to the civilian leaders who didn't. There is the example of militarist Yang Baibing for instance, who lost the power struggle to Jiang Zemin.

Sri Lanka has not had even this measure

of military involvement in the leadership stakes, and the charge that there is militarization on the cards because the president said something about China is untenable.

Large and powerful militaries of course can never be equated to military led administrations, except perhaps in Pakistan. India has a massive military — the fourth largest in the world — but the Armed Forces are as far out from running the government as it can get. So it is with the United States.

There is no history of significant ex-military men in power as civilians, deliberately militarizing a country. Dwight Eisenhower didn't do it as the President of the United States.

There may have been exceptions in some countries, but even when the military seized power in coups, those military leaders who usurped power wanted to make sure civilians ran the institutions. Park Chung Hee of South Korea encouraged the massive civilian led Chaebols or family owned companies which were behind the Korean miracle. Samsung is not cast in the military model!

DEPLOYMENT

Sometimes civilian leaders are seen to "defer to the military." This does not mean they are attempting to militarize a civilian administration. It's quite the contrary. They don't want their largely civilian administrations to take responsibility for policy implementation that's destined to fail, or is unpopular — so they appoint military men in order that the blame may be deflected on them rather conveniently. Bill Clinton appointed Barry McCaffrey as his drug czar for instance, and the popular opinion is that he did so to "avoid responsibility" because his anti-narcotics policy involved certain military led efforts in supplying countries in Latin America for instance,

and these were controversial moves. By deploying a military man Clinton hoped he could 'blame it on McCaffrey' if things went badly wrong in implementing a drugs policy that he didn't seem too fond of implementing anyway.

Of course ex-military men in power do not want to deflect blame on the military in this manner and that's for obvious reasons. They want the military to shine in the public eye and not to be ridiculed, and certainly President Gotabaya Rajapaksa doesn't want any deployment of military or ex-military personnel to show up in a bad light.

His reliance on the military for some jobs seen as predominantly civilian tasks is more in the nature of a reliance on an inner-circle than a reliance on military clout per se, in deference to the military.

For instance, Ranil Wickremesinghe had his Royal College circle which was well known. He relied on old schoolmates to hold important ambassador positions and CEO positions such as those in SriLankan airlines, etc. and the Indian Prime Minister relies heavily on the so-called "Gujarati cadre" in his administration. Premier Modi had Rita Teotia as Commerce Secretary, and Tapan Ray as Corporate Affairs Secretary. Modi's Prime Minister's office was packed with Gujarat cadre officials. Arvind Kumar was joint secretary, Rajiv Topno was Modi's private secretary, and Sanjay Bhavsar and Hiren Joshi were officers on special duty.

This was in addition to a host of those that were called 'Gudjerati-Modified' officials holding other plum posts, such as Finance Secretary, Cabinet Secretary etc. at various times. However, if these people were military personnel instead of being Gudjerati, or from the so called Gudgerati cadre, Premier Modi would have been accused of militarizing the country, if the reader gets the drift.

INSURRECTION

Leaders appoint those who are close to them and in their circles, and some do so more than others. The policy can be criticized for various reasons such as spawning a clubbish culture etc., but if military leaders happen to be in the inner-circle, could that be called militarization? That would be a stretch by any reasonable measure.

Of course when there is a political culture of military rule, it's a different story and there are the cases of Myanmar, Thailand, Pakistan etc. where the military influence is the key factor at the best of times. Sri Lanka never had that political culture, and very probably never will.

However the military oftentimes plays a role disproportionate to its numbers probably in any country. It happened during Trump's rule when he appointed those such as James Mattis, John Kelley, Micheal Flynn etc. as security advisors with enormous powers. However, they are the very folk who advised him against using the Insurrection Act and enlisting the military to combat Black Lives Matter protests.

So, even though the 'military' has various connotations in various countries, there is no military that exists in isolation, and even military rulers per se such as in Myanmar have to coexist with dominant civilian numbers. Myanmar is an unfortunate case where the military is getting the better of the exchange with civilians these days, but in most other Sri Lanka type countries where there is no history of military governments, there are times when the military is seen to be busier doing civilian tasks than other times, but these instances are very episodic as in most other countries, as the Trump example showed.

There is a deference to military figures in some instances, but that doesn't mean the country becomes militarized — at best there is seen to be a certain erosion, if it can be called that, of civilian power in certain sectors temporarily. These periodic variations in military input are seen to be temporary occurrences of no damning consequences.

Interestingly in China for instance, new civilian leaders often espouse a military doctrine of their own when they come to power, and this is even if they have absolutely no prior military connection whatsoever. This civilian influence over the military by way of doctrinaire input is however never resented by the army and referred to as 'needless civilianization of the military'. In China as in the US, they understand civilians always run the show, though the army shows up from time to time.



A Chinese military parade.

Non-traditional security in the Bay of Bengal

Natural and man-made disasters continue to plague the Indo-Pacific region; therefore, greater attention should be paid to address these problem areas.

NILANTHI SAMARANAYAKE

With the escalation of great power competition, much attention has been given to the rise of traditional security, or State-based, concerns. The challenges in this sphere still largely reside in the "what-if" space. As in, what if China were to do X? Or what does US-China competition mean for country Y? These are clearly important questions to ask. Yet, when discussing non-traditional security, or issues that go beyond purely State-based conceptions of security, stakeholders are dealing with challenges that are not a question of "what if," but mostly "when".

In the Indo-Pacific region, cyclones and other natural disasters are a seasonal reality that Climate Change will only make more frequent and severe. As the monsoon season strikes the Bay of Bengal, causing displacement and fatalities, it is an important time to reflect on what is working well in the region in terms of addressing non-traditional security challenges from environmental change—but also on what ongoing issues remain in the region.

Bangladesh is a country that is

especially prone to severe natural disasters, including infamous cyclones that have required an international military response. Yet, the country has devoted much attention to improving its disaster resilience by establishing Coastal Crisis Management Centres (CCMCs) and hundreds of cyclone shelters. Bangladesh's partnership with the United States (US) in establishing this capability was an important force multiplier. In addition to improving its own resilience, Bangladesh has increased its disaster response capability and become a provider of relief to smaller South Asian countries. In 2016, for example, the Bangladesh Navy delivered relief to Sri Lanka after widespread flooding and landslides. Bangladesh also delivered relief to the Maldives during its 2014 water crisis.

Disaster relief operations

Sometimes, natural disasters are so severe that they require the provision of disaster relief by international military forces. There are usually a clear set of steps and conditions under which leaders will



MV Express Pearl fire

permit foreign Armed Forces to operate in their country even under such circumstances. After receiving a formal request from the host nation, the (foreign) Armed Forces are expected to quickly get in, and then leave just as quickly after achieving their relief mission(s). Both India and the US have conducted successful disaster relief operations in the Bay of Bengal such as after the 1991 'Super Cyclone' and the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami. Yet, some host nations have displayed discomfort with such offers of relief. Two cases in the Bay of Bengal demonstrate that when disaster relief is offered, it is not necessarily accepted.

After Cyclone Sidr struck Bangladesh in 2007, India's disaster relief appears to have been restricted to the Port of Chittagong and the International Airport in Dhaka. India's Minister of External Affairs at the time, Pranab Mukherjee, told journalists that his country offered to deploy helicopters to conduct rescue operations in affected areas, but Bangladesh had declined. While Bangladesh was willing to accept relief in the Naval domain and via fixed-wing aircraft, relief from India via rotary-wing aircraft (helicopters) in remote areas was not accepted.

Another example involves relief efforts after Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar in 2008. The military

jointly did not permit the provision of Naval relief by the US, even though the USS Essex Expeditionary Strike Group sat in waters near Myanmar for nearly 22 days. Yet, during this same period, the leadership in Myanmar trusted India and Thailand to dispatch their medical teams to help affected citizens. While US Air Force relief was permitted, US Naval relief was not, demonstrating that how relief is offered is an important consideration by a host nation.

Immediate and long-term impacts

These examples highlight the imperative of understanding host nation sensitivities in the aftermath of natural disasters. Yet, natural disasters are only one non-traditional security threat to the environment. Beyond the role that Carbon emissions play in Climate Change, stakeholders should pay greater attention to preventing other anthropogenic crises in the Bay of Bengal that have both immediate and long-term impacts.

At the western edge of the Indian Ocean, Mauritius declared a "state of environmental emergency" in July 2020 after a ship ran aground and spilled oil. Not long afterward, the Bay of Bengal experienced a similar disaster; in September 2020, an oil tanker (MV New Dia-



MV New Diamond fire

mond) caught fire off the East coast of Sri Lanka and leaked diesel fuel over an area of 25 miles. Even worse, in May 2021, a container ship (MV Express Pearl) caught fire and subsequently sank, emptying its contents into the sea and ashore. At present, 400 pieces of debris are estimated to sit on the seabed off Sri Lanka's Western coast. Also in 2021, debris from a Chinese rocket fell into the Indian Ocean near Maldives.

The environmental impacts of such human-induced incidents are difficult to fully comprehend at this point. Beyond the environmental effects, Sri Lanka and Maldives depend economically on tourism, which provides a much-needed source of foreign-exchange reserves. Fish stocks are similarly vital for the livelihoods of local populations.

The prevalence and importance of non-traditional security challenges in the Bay of Bengal are already well understood, and much progress has been made in building

resilience. Still, in the case of providing disaster relief, major powers such as the US and India will need to continue being aware of the potential sensitivities of host nations in the aftermath of natural disasters. Furthermore, immediate human factors such as shipping accidents pose significant but overlooked threats to environmental security. Being proactive in mitigating the potential for human miscalculation, combined with increased disaster resilience, will help ameliorate the existing non-traditional security risks in the Bay of Bengal in the coming years.

(Nilanthi Samaranyake is Director of the Strategy and Policy Analysis Programme at the CNA, a non-profit research organisation in Washington, DC, USA. She studies non-traditional security issues including disaster relief and resilience. The views expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CAN) - Observer Research Foundation



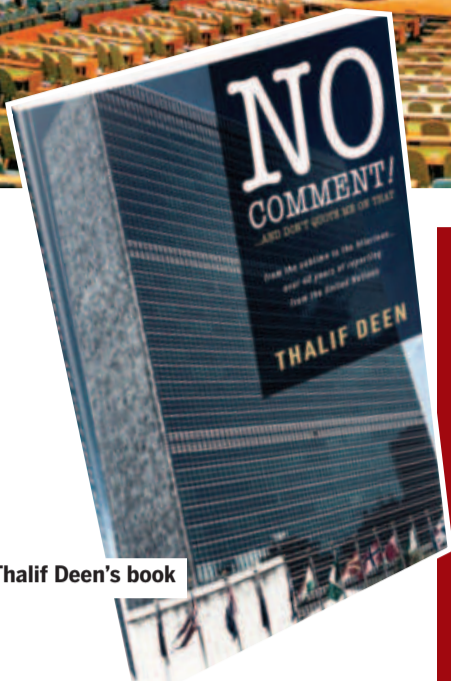
Boxing Day Tsunami, 2004



UN General Assembly Hall



UN Security Council



Thalif Deen's book

When the Glass House by the East River Exploded in Laughter

RODNEY REYNOLDS

Created in 1945 following the devastation caused by World War II, the United Nations was mandated with the task of maintaining international peace and security as one of its primary political missions.

But the seriousness of its far-reaching mandate has been tempered by occasional moments of levity which have rocked the “glass house by the east river” with laughter — as recounted in a newly-released book on the United Nations titled “No Comment — and Don’t Quote Me on That”.

Over the years, the UN has remained a rich source of anecdotes originating in the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the UN’s watering hole, the delegate’s lounge.

One of the memorable anecdotes, recounted in the book, is a confrontation that took place in the General Assembly Hall in October 1960 during the height of the Cold War, when Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev removed his shoe and kept banging on his desk on a point of order.

As the shoe-banging continued, British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, whose speech was being rudely interrupted, turned to the President of the General Assembly and remarked: “Mr. President, I am waiting for a translation”, as the entire Assembly erupted in laughter.

The two working languages of the United Nations have been primarily English and French, although there are four other official languages recognised by the world body: Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and Russian—with translations available in all six languages to delegates on their earphones.

A former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt was fluent in three of the six languages: English, Arabic and French. Asked at a briefing with reporters about his fluency in languages, he jokingly said his primary language was Arabic “because when I fight with my wife, I fight in Arabic.”

A former US ambassador to the United Nations once provided an amusingly light-hearted definition of diplomacy: 97 percent alcohol, two percent protocol and one percent Geritol, a multi-vitamin drink probably meant to energise negotiations.

But diplomacy at the UN is much more than socialising— even as receptions and cocktail parties take place every day — until the COVID-19 pandemic brought the world body to a virtual standstill temporarily suspending the routinely heavy drinking, mostly duty-free liquor (and according to some diplomats, “the best things in life are mostly duty-free.”)

When the annual election of the President of General Assembly resulted in an unprecedented 73:73 tie in the 1970s, the outgoing President decided to break the deadlock with the flip of a coin, as agreed to by the two candidates. But according to a joke circulating in the delegate’s lounge, the tossed coin apparently had two heads and no tail. Rigged elections at the UN?

When the right-wing, hardline conservative John Bolton was US Ambassador to the UN (2005–2006), he notoriously remarked: “There’s no such thing as the United Nations. If the UN secretariat building in New York lost 10 stories, it wouldn’t make a bit of difference.” The punch line, however, came from a New York Times columnist who said Bolton would do better as an urban planner than a US diplomat.

Meanwhile, when Ambassadors and other lower-ranking diplomats arrive in New York, most of them experience “culture shock” being forced to adjust to New York City living— including food, language and apartment living.

In the 1970s, the New York Daily News recounted a story, widely circulated in the UN delegate’s lounge, of a newly-arrived diplomat from a conflict-ridden country who was posted to New York— considered a safe-haven— following death threats against him by a rebel group in his home country. A few weeks after his arrival, he found a note slipped under his Manhattan apartment door with an ominous message: “The exterminator will be here tomorrow.”

Panicked at the thought the rebel group had extended its reach, he was about to rush to the nearest Police precinct when he accosted the clerk at the reception desk in the lobby,



Thalif Deen, Senior Editor and Director, UN Bureau, Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency, served twice with the Sri Lanka delegation to the UN General Assembly sessions and is a Fulbright scholar with a Master’s Degree (MSc) in Journalism from the Columbia University.

who told him: “Sir, the exterminator will be here not to kill diplomats, but to exterminate roaches, bed bugs and mice.” That was one of the first diplomatic lessons in Manhattan apartment living.

Meanwhile, Thalif Deen, author of the book, “No Comment — and Don’t Quote Me on That”, who was recently interviewed by Thanos Dimadis, Executive Director of The Association of Foreign Press Correspondents in the USA (AFPC-USA), recounts some of the even more unforgettable moments both inside and outside the UN.

Excerpts from the interview follow:

Q: You are a veteran journalist who has covered UN affairs for decades. Could you share a few of the lessons you have learned over the years as a UN correspondent? And when it comes to following and covering UN news, what has been the most difficult part of your job?

A: The United Nations has long been described as “the Glass House by the East River.” But regrettably, the Glass House is more opaque than transparent—particularly for news reporters.

The political reporting at the UN is largely focused on military conflicts, civil wars, genocide, human rights, peacekeeping, nuclear disarmament and war crimes—mostly underlying its primary mandate, namely, maintaining international peace and security.

But at the Inter Press Service (IPS), our coverage was primarily on the UN’s socio-economic agenda, long neglected by the mainstream media and international wire services. We aimed to fill that gap.

Perhaps the most difficult part of the job

was that journalists, rarely if ever, were able to get any on-the-record comments or reactions from ambassadors, diplomats and senior UN officials because most of them follow the advice given to Brits during wartime censorship in the UK: “Be like Dad, Keep Mum”.

As the former UK PM Winston Churchill once remarked: “Diplomacy is the art of telling people ‘to go to hell’ in such a way they ask for directions.” But as a general rule, most ambassadors and diplomats avoided all comments, particularly on politically sensitive issues, with the standard non-excuse: “Sorry, we have to get clearance from our capital”. But that “clearance” never came.

Still, it was hard to beat a response from a tight-lipped Asian diplomat who once told me: “No Comment” — “And Don’t Quote Me on That.”

And most senior UN officials, on the other hand, never had even the basic courtesy or etiquette to respond to phone calls or email messages—or even an acknowledgement. The lines of communications were mostly dead.

When I complained to the media-savvy Shashi Tharoor, a former Under-Secretary-General for Public Information and a one-time journalist and prolific author, he was explicit in his response when he said that every UN official — “from an Under-Secretary-General to a window-washer”—has the right to express an opinion in his or her area of expertise. But that rarely or ever happened.

A Brazilian diplomat once gave me an exclusive inside story, but warned it was “not for attribution and strictly off the record”. But being familiar with the New York City’s cultural scene, he added: “Off, Off, Off the record. Like Off, Off Broadway.”

Still, there have been rare instances of UN officials, mostly former UN officials, who have no qualms about providing on-the-record comments. As I was doing a wrap-up of the historic, two-week-long Earth Summit in Rio in June 1992, I approached Dr. Gamani Corea, a former Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and a member of the Sri Lanka delegation, for a final comment on the disappointing results of the much-ballyhooed conference.

“We negotiated the size of the zero,” he said, with a tinge of sarcasm, as he held out his fingers to indicate zero. But that comment would come only from an ex-UN official.

Q: What were some of the historic moments during your journalistic career at the UN?

A: When the politically-charismatic Ernesto Che Guevara, once second-in-command to Cuban leader Fidel Castro, was at the United Nations to address the General Assembly sessions back in 1964, the UN headquarters came under attack — literally. The speech by the Argentine-born Marxist revolutionary was momentarily drowned by the sound of an explosion.

The anti-Castro forces in the United States, backed by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), had mounted an insidious campaign to stop Che Guevara from speaking. A 3.5-inch bazooka was fired at the 39-storey Secretariat building by the East River while a vociferous CIA-inspired anti-Castro, anti-Che Guevara demonstration was taking place outside the UN building on New York’s First Avenue and 42nd street.

But the rocket launcher — which was apparently not as sophisticated as today’s shoulder-fired missiles and Rocket-Propelled Grenades (RPGs) — missed its target, rattled windows, and fell into the river about 200 yards from the building. One newspaper report described it as “one of the wildest episodes since the United Nations moved into its East River Headquarters in 1952.”

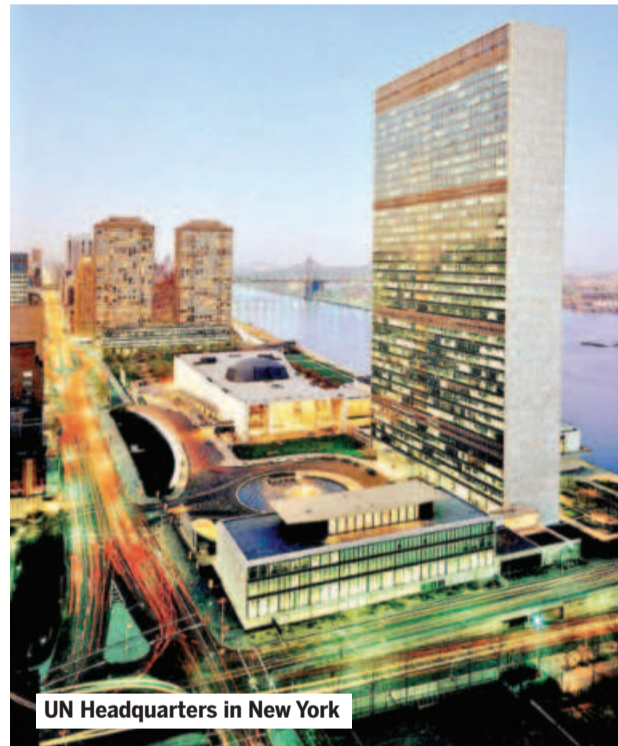
After his Assembly speech, Che Guevara was asked about the attack aimed at him. “The explosion has given the whole thing more flavour,” he joked, as he chomped on his Cuban cigar.



PLO Leader Yasser Arafat



Che Guevara



UN Headquarters in New York

editor sent me to find out whether you are really Qaddafi, Khaddafi, Gadafi, Qathafi or Kadhafi?”

Q: As a UN correspondent, how has changed your view of the UN and its role on a global scale?

A: The UN’s biggest shortcoming is its failure to resolve some of the longstanding political issues, including Palestine, and more recently the military conflicts and civil wars in Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Ethiopia and Myanmar, amongst others.

In most of these conflicts, the five veto-wielding permanent members (P-5) of the Security Council, namely the US, UK, France, China and Russia, are sharply divided and protect their allies— and their million-dollar arms markets because the P-5 are the primary arms suppliers to the warring parties in several of these conflicts.

Meanwhile, a new Cold War — this time, between the US and China — is threatening to paralyse the UN’s most powerful body, even as military conflicts and civil wars are sweeping across the world. The growing criticism against the Security Council is directed largely at its collective failures to resolve ongoing conflicts and political crises in several hot spots.

The sharp divisions between China and Russia, on one side, and the Western powers on the other, are expected to continue, triggering the question: Has the Security Council outlived its usefulness or has it lost its political credibility: a question which also changed my views on the UN and its political effectiveness?

The five big powers are increasingly throwing their protective arms around their allies, despite growing charges of war crimes, genocide and human rights violations against some of these warring nations.

At the same time, the Security Council has come under heavy fire for the misuse of its veto powers, held by the Big Five, while discussions on the reform of the Council have dragged on for over 20 years.

The bottom line is that the P-5 want to hold onto the monopoly of the veto power. A proposal for the expansion of the permanent members, from five to maybe ten, comes with a catch: if new Permanent Members are appointed, they should have no veto powers.

The countries knocking at the Security Council door for permanent memberships include India, Brazil, Japan and Germany. But the opposition to these candidacies has come from Italy, Argentina, Mexico, Pakistan and South Korea. So, the reform of the Security Council remains deadlocked.

Meanwhile, the UN’s successes are largely in the field of humanitarian assistance, plus in development funding and environmental protection. During September through November 2021, the UN and its NGO (non-governmental organisation) partners provided 7.2 million people in war-ravaged Afghanistan with food assistance; reached more than 880,000 people with primary and secondary healthcare consultations; assisted almost 199,000 drought-affected people through water trucking; and treated more than 178,000 children under five for acute malnutrition, according to the latest figures.



Thalif Deen at work: A cartoon

Private Sector reluctant to import chemical fertilizer - State Minister Duminda

AMILA PRABATH WANASINGHE, Anuradhapura Additional Corr.



State Minister Duminda Disanayake said that companies are reluctant to import chemical fertilizer because they fear that they will not be able to sell them since selling prices of them have gone up five times more than the normal rate.

The State Minister was participating in a discussion with representatives of the Ulanakulama Farmers' Association in Thirappane, Anuradhapura recently at the Ulanakulama Fumeral Society Hall.

The representatives said that a certain quantity of urea was available for cultivating corn in Thirappane after the Minister's intervention. "However, farmers with our organisation have not yet

received fertilizer. Initially, we paid to the Maradankadawala Agrarian Services Office in this regard and 38 farmers have paid about Rs. 138,000 for fertilizer. We will provide you with that document," they said.

They also said that the money has been paid to fertilizer compa-

nies. But we have not yet received any fertilizer. "Reportedly, 24 kilos of fertilizer will be given per acre. For 24 kilos of fertilizer per acre, Rs. 6,500 has been paid. However, even up to now, we have not received any fertilizer. We request that these stocks of fertilizer be provided to us," they also said.

State Minister Duminda Disanayake said that a private company has the fertilizer stocks. "These stocks were brought as a relief by the Government. The company said that they can release only 100 metric tonnes daily since they have to change the packing of these stocks. The Company said that the packing with 'Government Relief' printed on it has to be removed," he said.

The State Minister also said

that however, the Fertilizer Secretary agreed to take the responsibility to keep the wording. "We regret that relevant officials have not yet been able to take over fertilizer stocks with the private sector and distribute them properly. If we do not receive them at this time, there is no use of them anymore. I told both Ministers about this last week. I spoke to Secretaries and to the Fertilizer Secretariat," he said.

"The Private Sector has been allowed to import enough fertilizer. But no company is importing them. That is the biggest problem," he said.

However, State Minister Duminda Disanayake promised the farmers that he will obtain urea fertilizer for corn and Nano Nitrogen for paddy very soon.



Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Sri Lanka He. Qi Zhenhong paid a courtesy call on Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardane for bilateral discussions at the Parliament Complex on December (8).

Yugadanavi Agreement violated people's rights - SJB leader

ANANDA KANNANGARA

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa yesterday said that vesting of 40 per cent shares of the Kerawalapitiya Yugadanavi Power Station to the American New Fortress Energy Company by signing an agreement late night even without the consent of key Cabinet Ministers is a serious issue and added that the power station will be taken back under a Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Government.

The SJB leader was responding to media personnel after a Cabinet meeting last week. He said that this issue clearly shows that the Government has violated the rights of the people.

SJB leader Premadasa also said that it was the first time in Parliament history that an important agreement signed by a Government with a foreign investor late at night even without the consent of the key Ministers. He also said that the country's assets belong to the people and not to politicians or any other persons and therefore, the people have the right to know about details of the agreement.

"The Yugadanavi Power Station is the country's largest and according to the Agreement, Sri Lanka gets its sole ownership back in 2035," he said. The Ceylon Electricity

Board Engineers' Association (CEBEA) said that according to the agreement, the supply of LNG gas will also be carried out by the foreign company. This situation clearly shows that country's security is at risk," the SJB leader said.

"This agreement also betrayed the country such as the Hedging agreement did and we are surprised seeing the silence of the majority of the Cabinet over this issue," he said. SJB leader Premadasa said that the SJB condemns the decision to give the shares to an American based company in this way and the people are also showing their displeasure over this act.

P627 crew celebrate Navy's 71st anniversary in Seattle

The crew of the ship P 627 joined the 71st anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lanka Navy on December 9. Sri Lanka Navy acquired the ship from the United States Coast Guard in October this year.

The Navy officially took the delivery of the EX-United States Coast Guard Cutter, USCGC Douglas Munro on October 26 under the pennant number P 627. The ship crew is undergoing training and engaged in acquisition formalities, maintenance, scheduled repairs and installations of the ship at the US Coast Guard Base, Seattle.

In accordance with the policy directives of Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, the event was held giving pride and place to Naval



A group of Naval personnel in Seattle celebrating the 71st anniversary of the Sri Lanka Navy.

traditions, religious rituals and Corporate Social Responsibility programmes. The ship's crew led by the Commanding

Officer (Desig) P 627, Captain Lanka Dissanayake, organised these events. An almsgiving and Pirikara Offering for

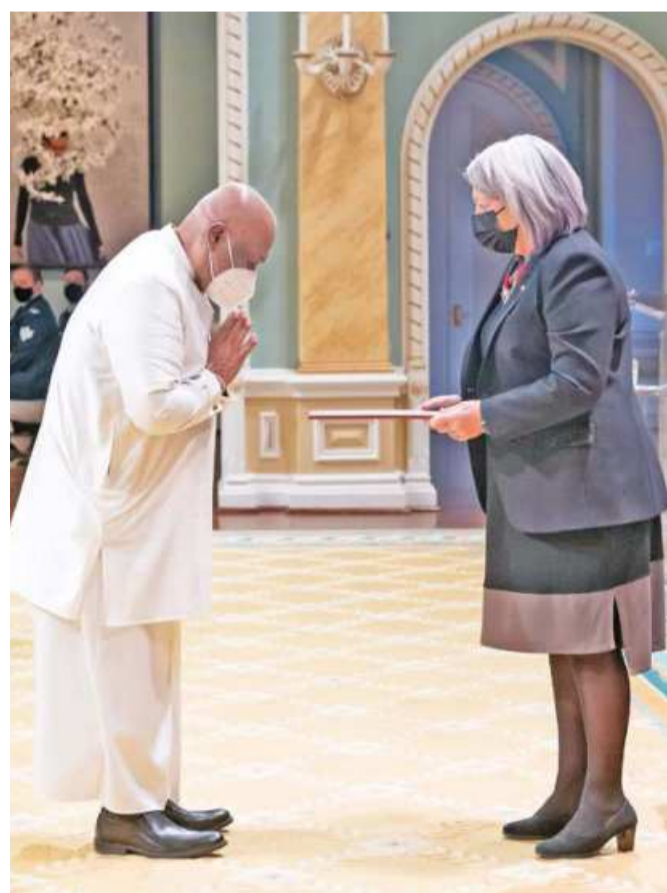
the Maha Sangha at the Sarana International Buddhist Centre in Seattle was carried out on December 6. During this

occasion prayers were invoked specially on fallen Naval War Heroes and those who were disabled in action. Blessings were called on Navy Commander, Naval personnel and their family members. On the Navy Day - December 9, lunch was served to an institution run by the Catholic Community Services in Seattle.

The traditional meal partaking of 'Badakana' was also held with the attendance of USCG personnel including the Commanding Officer of the USCG Base, Seattle - Captain Ibrahim Khalil along with the officers and sailors of P 627.

After acquisition formalities, maintenance and repairs, P 627 will return to the home port mid-2022.

SL Envoy to Canada presents Credentials



Sri Lanka's envoy to Canada Harsha Kumara Navaratne presenting the Credentials to Governor General Mary May Simon of Canada.

Sri Lanka's envoy to Canada Harsha Kumara Navaratne presented Credentials as Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Governor General Mary May Simon of Canada at a ceremony at the Rideau Hall in Ottawa on December 7.

Senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada and Diplomats attended the ceremony held to mark the presentation of credentials by four envoys representing Sri Lanka, Spain, Israel and the US.

Chief of Protocol of Canada Stewart Wheeler introduced each of the four envoys before the presentation of Credentials.

The Governor General highlighted the bilateral relations shared between each of the four countries and Canada. Speaking of Sri Lanka, the Governor General referred to the strong people to people ties and the large Sri Lankan origin diaspora in Canada, joint economic collaboration and development programmes between the two countries.

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner briefed the Canada's Governor General on recent developments in Sri Lanka. High Commissioner Navaratne said that his priorities

in Canada will include renewing reconciliation efforts, improving and increasing trade and investment ties between Sri Lanka and Canada and encouraging Canadian tourism and investments in Sri Lanka.

Prior to his appointment as Sri Lanka's envoy to Canada, High Commissioner Navaratne was the Chairperson of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists headquartered in Bangkok. It supports a network of socially engaged Buddhist practitioners and organisations in over 40 countries and now leads two initiatives in South and South-East Asia bringing interreligious organizations to work together. As a follow up of these initiatives, the Buddhist-Muslim dialogue was set up in Malaysia and Indonesia.

He was also a Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the Founder and Chairperson of the Sevalanka Foundation, Sri Lanka, a community-based organization that provides rural services related to sustainable agriculture, fisheries, tourism, enterprise development, microfinance, environmental conservation, psychosocial support, and peace and reconciliation.

GITF attracts many tourists to Sri Lanka

The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Guangzhou, together with the Guangdong Scenery International Travel Agency, participated in the annual Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF) from December 4 to 6.

Visitors to the Sri Lanka's booth requested information on tourist sites, travel procedures and the COVID-19 situation in the country to visit after travel restrictions are lifted in China.

The Travel Fair is one of the most important B2B and B2C travel fairs in Southern China, focusing on inbound and outbound travel, showcasing and promoting tourism products and services. Sri

Lanka had been participating in the Fair for several years, through the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) in coordination with the Consulate, which facilitated delegations from the Sri Lankan Travel and Tourism Trade.

In previous years, Sri Lanka won several awards as the 'Most Attractive' and 'Most Popular' destination at the Fair, and even participated as the 'guest country' in 2019, with ministerial representation.

This year's exposition hosted 123 local and international exhibitors related to the travel industry, while over 10,000 visitors attended the Fair.



A couple selecting cards in the Sri Lankan Stall at the Fair.

SUPER BALL
 Draw Number: 1592 | Colour: Purple
 Draw Date: 13.12.2021 | Date: Monday
Winning English Letter and Numbers
 B 16 20 26 63
Total Value of Prizes
 Rs. 4,162,740/-

ශ්‍රී ලංකා
 Shanida
 Draw Number: 3753
 Date: 13.12.2021 | Colour: Dark Blue
Total Value of Prizes
 Rs. 3,889,000/-
Winning Numbers
 07 36 41 62
 English Letter: N

ADA KOTIPATHI
 Monday
 Date: 13.12.2021 | Draw No.: 1418 | Colour: Red
Total Value of Prizes
 Rs. 5,458,980/-
Winning Numbers
 26 56 70 75
 English Letter: Z

ලග්නා වාසනාව
 Lagna Wasanawa
 Date: 13-12-2021 | Draw Number: 3304 | Colour: Yellow
Super Jackpot
 Rs. 3,355,906/-
Winning Numbers
 02 32 34 43
Taurus

කයෝද
 Jayoda
 Date: 13-12-2021 | Draw Number: 1793 | Colour: Yellow
Super Jackpot
 Rs. 28,740,092/-
Winning Numbers
 10 33 47 59
 English Letter: U
Total Value of Prizes
 Rs. 2,478,580/-
Next Super Jackpot
 Rs. 28,867,628/-

ADA KOTIPATHI
 Wednesday
 Draw No.: 1420 | Colour: Pink
 Date: 15.12.2021
Today's Jackpot
 Rs. 61,142,536/-

COVID-19: 199 mn cases, 3.4 mn deaths logged globally in 12 months

Omicron accounts for 11% of Ireland's cases

California reinstates statewide mask mandate

UK confirms first Omicron death; first case in China

SWITZERLAND, IRELAND, US, UK: In the span of one year, about 199 million people have contracted COVID-19 globally, with more than 3.4 million succumbing, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The coronavirus pandemic has not subsided even as vaccines have become widely available and the infectious disease protocols more ingrained in everyday life.

Omicron, a new variant of SARS-Cov-2, said to be even more infectious than Delta, the key driver behind the second and third waves of the pandemic, has recently escalated concern among countries and experts. Omicron is inherently capable of undergoing frequent mutations that need extensive studies yet.

According to the updates provided weekly by the WHO there were more than 70 million COVID-19 cases and almost 1.6 million deaths reported globally, on December 13, 2020.

A year later, the coronavirus tracker of the international public health body on December 14, 2021, shows that 269 million COVID-19 cases and five million related deaths have so far been reported.

"Globally, as of December 13,



A mother puts a face mask of her daughter at Lafayette Elementary School in Clairemont as California State reinstates its statewide mask mandate.

2021, there have been 269,468,311 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 5,304,248 deaths, reported to WHO," the UN agency noted on its dashboard.

The five countries reporting the highest number of cases globally that week were the United States, Brazil, Turkey, India, and Russia, with the rising infections being partly attributed to the selective

reopening of economies and the approaching holiday season.

Meanwhile, The Omicron variant likely accounts for 11% of new COVID-19 cases in Ireland, its health chiefs said on Monday, predicting a very rapid increase in the proportion of Omicron infections in the coming days amid probable widespread community transmission.

Just over 90% of Ireland's eligible 3.9 million people over the age of 12 have been fully vaccinated - one of the highest rates of protection in Europe - and it has administered a further 1.2 million booster doses.

Meanwhile, California is bringing back a statewide indoor mask mandate. California's Governor announced the new mandate will start Wednesday and last until January 15. The order comes as the per capita rate of new coronavirus cases in California has jumped 47% in the past two weeks.

Meanwhile, Britain on Monday confirmed what is thought to be the first confirmed death after infection with the Omicron variant, as the country launched an ambitious Covid booster shot programme to stop the virus spiralling out of control. Meanwhile, the first case of the Omicron variant infection in China was detected in the northern city of Tianjin on Monday night, health authorities said.

Long lines formed at vaccination centres in Britain as people heeded the Government's call for all adults to get booster shots to protect against the Omicron variant of the coronavirus. - INDIAN EXPRESS, THE ECONOMIC TIMES, HINDUSTAN EXPRESS

Xi, Putin to hold virtual summit today

CHINA: Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin will hold a virtual summit this week to discuss bilateral relations and international issues, amid tensions between Moscow and the West over the massing of tens of thousands of Russian troops near its border with Ukraine.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin mentioned no specific topics and said details would be released after Wednesday's video meeting.

"The two heads of state will give a full review of China-Russia relations and cooperation in various fields this year," Wang said at a daily briefing on Monday.

Wang added the leaders will also "make top-level designs for the development of bilateral relations next year."

US President Joe Biden warned Putin during a call last week that Russia would face painful sanctions that will do resounding economic harm if it again invaded Ukraine.

"Putin responded that Russian

troops are on their own territory, and they don't threaten anyone," according to his foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov.

In recent years, China and Russia have increasingly aligned their foreign policies to counter US domination of the international economic and political order.

Both have faced sanctions over their internal policies, China over abuses against minorities, especially Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, and for its crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong.

Beijing and Washington also remain at odds over trade, technology and China's military intimidation of Taiwan, which it claims as its own territory. Wang added that the bilateral meeting of the US rivals was expected to further enhance the high-level mutual trust between the two sides. Putin has sought guarantees that an expansion of the NATO military alliance would never include Ukraine, a demand rejected by the US and its NATO allies.

- THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS



Russian President Vladimir Putin talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping during an earlier meeting held virtually.



End of Korean War agreed to in principle - Moon

SOUTH KOREA: South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Monday that China, North Korea and the United States have agreed in principle to the declaration putting an end to the Korean War.

"Australia has also supported the end of war declaration proposal by the Korean government and the relevant parties to this declaration. It would be the United States, China and Republic of Korea and North Korea. And I believe, in principle, everybody agrees to the declaration," Moon said during a press conference with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison after bilateral talks in Canberra.

Moon also said that the declaration should establish a peace regime in the Korean Peninsula and put an end to the "quite unstable" armistice, stressing that it was important to initiate talks between North and South Korea and between the US and North Korea. The



South Korean President Moon Jae-in

Korean War de facto ended in 1953 after the US and Democratic People's Republic of Korea ratified an armistice without signing a peace treaty.

The war began with an incursion across the 38th parallel, the boundary between North and South Korea, by 75,000 troops from the Communist North in June 1950. American troops supporting

the South joined the war in the following months and the North Koreans, supported by China and the USSR, were pushed back.

A bloody stalemate ensued and an armistice was signed between the US and North Korea in July 1953. Five million troops and civilians lost their lives in the conflict. - THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Omicron poses "very high" global risk but data on severity limited - WHO

SWITZERLAND: The Omicron coronavirus variant, reported in more than 60 countries, poses a "very high" global risk, with some evidence that it evades vaccine protection but clinical data on its severity remain limited, said the World Health Organization (WHO).

Considerable uncertainties surround Omicron, first detected last month in South Africa and Hong Kong, whose mutations may lead to higher transmissibility and more cases of COVID-19 disease, the WHO said in a technical brief issued on Sunday.

"The overall risk related to the new variant of concern Omicron remains very high for a number of reasons," it said, reiterating its first assessment of November 29. "And second, preliminary evidence suggests potential humoral immune escape against infection and high transmission rates, which could lead to further surges with severe consequences," the WHO said, referring to the virus' potential ability to evade

immunity provided by antibodies.

The WHO cited some preliminary evidence that the number of people getting reinfected with the virus has increased in South Africa. While preliminary findings from South Africa suggest that Omicron may be less severe than the Delta variant - currently dominant worldwide - and all cases reported in the Europe region have been mild or asymptomatic, it remains unclear to what extent Omicron may be inherently less virulent, it said.

"More data are needed to understand the severity profile," it said. "Even if the severity is potentially lower than for the Delta variant, it is expected that hospitalisations will increase as a result of increasing transmission. More hospitalizations can put a burden on health systems and lead to more deaths." Further information was expected in coming weeks, it added, noting the time lag between infections and outcomes. - THE JAKARTA POST



World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus attending a WHO Executive Board meeting in Geneva.

Elon Musk named Time's 2021 'PERSON OF THE YEAR'

US: Tesla Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk was named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" for 2021, a year that saw his electric car company become the most valuable carmaker in the world and his rocket company soar to the edge of space with an all-civilian crew.

Musk is also the founder and CEO of SpaceX, and leads brain-chip startup Neuralink and infrastructure firm The Boring Company. Tesla's market value soared to more than \$1 trillion this year, making it more valuable than Ford Motor and General Motors combined.

Tesla produces hundreds of thousands of cars every year and has managed to avert supply chain issues better than many of its rivals, while pushing many young consumers to switch to electric cars and legacy automakers to shift focus to EV vehicles. From hosting Saturday Night Live to dropping tweets on cryptocurrencies and meme stocks that have triggered massive movements in their value, Musk has dominated the headlines and amassed over 66 million followers on Twitter.

Some of his tweets have also attracted regulatory scrutiny in the past.

According to the magazine, "The Person of the Year" signifies some-



Elon Musk

body "who affected the news or our lives the most, for better, or worse."

Time magazine named the teenage pop singer Olivia Rodrigo as its "Entertainer of the Year", American gymnast Simone Biles "Athlete of the Year" and vaccine scientists were named "Heroes of the Year".

Last year, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris were jointly given the "Person of the Year" title. Time began this tradition in 1927. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos have also received the title in the past. - THE INDIAN EXPRESS



India faces threat of Omicron spread, says expert

INDIA: The Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus will spread rapidly in India, according to a forecast by Juliet Pulliam, director of the South African DSI-NSF Centre for Excellence in Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis.

Pulliam told The Economic Times in an interview that it would be wise to prepare for a worst-case scenario in terms of hospital planning.

The virus is infecting people who had a prior infection at a much higher rate than previous variants we have seen. Preliminary reports suggest that it is also causing an increase in vaccine

breakthrough infections. "Given what has been seen in South Africa is now being seen in other parts of the world, I expect the variant will spread very rapidly in India," she said.

To a question on booster or additional doses, she replied, "This variant spreads incredibly quickly, and I don't think that waiting to take important decisions makes sense." There appears to be an increased risk of breakthrough infections with this variant; however, it is too early to tell whether those infections are likely to lead to severe disease, she noted. - THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thailand moots salt tax to promote healthier living

THAILAND: A salt tax, which was slated to have come into impact in Thailand this 12 months however was deferred, may very well be carried out subsequent 12 months with a lead time of 1 or two years for industries to adapt.

This was disclosed by the president of the Nephrology Society of Thailand, Dr Surasak Kantachuesiri, who additionally chairs the Thai Low Salt Community marketing campaign.

A Thai particular person consumes a median of

three,636mg of sodium each day - about 1.5 teaspoons of salt - nearly twice the World Well being Organisation's (WHO) really useful 2,000mg.

"It is in our tradition to eat salty meals, fermented meats and fish sauce," stated Dr Surasak.

Some 10 per cent of the inhabitants, over seven million folks, endure from power renal failure, a attainable results of excessive sodium consumption. Different illnesses linked to extreme salt consumption embody hyperten-

sion, coronary heart illness and diabetes, that are additionally widespread within the kingdom.

Numerous international locations all over the world equivalent to Hungary, Portugal and Fiji have carried out levies on processed or packaged meals with excessive salt content material, whereas others have adopted sodium discount methods, equivalent to necessary vitamin labelling, client training and business laws to encourage product reformulation. - THE STRAITS TIMES



A woman arranges fried snacks on her street food cart in the Pratunam district of Bangkok.

**CHIEF SECRETARIAT - WESTERN PROVINCE
INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR PROVIDING
TRANSPORT SERVICES TO THE OFFICE STAFF
OF THE WESTERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**

Bids are invited from permanent residents in the Western Province for selection of eligible Service Providers for the Supply of Transport Services for the Staff working in the Western Provincial Office Complex at Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla, for the year 2022.

A set of Bid Documents could be obtained from 15.12.2021 up to 22.12.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from the Procurement Section on the 4th Floor, by submitting the receipt obtained for payment of the non-refundable fee of Rs. 2500.00 for each application and a refundable deposit of Rs. 10,000.00 to the Finance Section on the 6th Floor of the Chief Secretariat at No. 204, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Koswatta, Battaramulla. Bid documents could be inspected during this period of time from the Chief Secretariat (Admin) Section or from the Chief Secretariat Website : adm.chiefsec.wp.gov.lk

Sealed Bids should be submitted in two copies and appropriately marked as original copy and duplicate copy on the top left-hand corner of these envelopes and these covers should thereafter be enclosed in a single envelope 10"x4" in size and sent by registered post addressed to Chairman, Procurement Committee, Chief Secretariat, Fourth Floor (04), "Western Provincial Council Building", No. 204, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla to receive before 1.00 p.m. on 23.12.2021 or should be hand-delivered to the Tender Box kept in the Accountant's (Admin.), Official Room. The words "Invitation for Bids for transport of the Western Provincial Council Staff" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing Bids.

Procurement Committee retains the right of the final decision regarding awarding of the Bid.

N.B. : Only documents issued by the Chief Secretariat should be used for submitting these Bids. Applications submitted contrary to this procedure will be rejected.

Further details regarding this matter could be obtained from the Accountant (Admin.) on Tel. No. 011-2093249.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Chief Secretariat,
Western Province,
No. 204, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha,
Battaramulla.**

15.12.2021

**CEYLON FERTILIZER CO. LTD
Invitation To Bid**

Ministry of Agriculture

(State Ministry of Promoting the Production & Regulating the Supply of Organic Fertilizer and Paddy & Grains, Organic Foods, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promoting, Seed Production and Advanced Technology Agriculture)

**BIDDING FOR THE SUPPLY OF TRANSPORT SERVICES
IN RESPECT OF FERTILIZER (SOLID OR LIQUID) TOGETHER
WITH RELATED CLEARING AGENCY SERVICES AND
LABOUR SERVICES – YEAR 2022/23**

BID NO : 2022/23/CFC/CT/01

The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee (DPC), on behalf of the Ceylon Fertilizer Co.Ltd., (CFCL) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of transport services in respect of fertilizer (Solid or Liquid) from Port of Colombo to CFCL Warehouse(s), at Lakpohora Swarna Jayanthi Mawatha, Hunupitiya, Wattala and within 10 Km radius distance from Hunupitiya, Wattala together with related clearing agency services **required by the Ceylon Fertilizer Co. Ltd., for a period of one year.**

- Bidding documents consisting of the Invitation To Bid (ITB), Instruction to Bidders (ITB), Form of Bid (FOB) and all annexure could be obtained from the Acting Manager (Procurement & Imports) of the Ceylon Fertilizer Co. Ltd., on payment in cash of a non-refundable Bidding fee of **Rs. 27,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Seven Thousand Only)**. Bidding documents will be issued on any working day, **between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30p.m. from, 15th December 2021 up to 03rd January 2022.**
- The envelope containing the sealed Bid should be addressed to the **Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee (DPC), Procurement Division, Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited, Lakpohora Swarna Jayanthi Mawatha, Hunupitiya, Wattala** and deposited in the Bid Box kept for this purpose in the Procurement Division, at the above address or sent by Registered Post to reach the address before the closing date and time specified below.
- Bids will be closed at **2.30 p.m. on 04th January 2022** and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening. Bid Security Guarantee for **Rs.1,800,000.00 (Rupees One Million and Eight Hundred Thousand only)** should be submitted along with the Bid.
- For further information/details please contact the Acting Manager (Procurement & Imports), Ceylon Fertilizer Co. Ltd., Lakpohora Swarna Jayanthi Mawatha, Hunupitiya, Wattala. (Telephone No: 2947765/ Mobile: 077-2069981, Fax: 2930423).
- The pre-bid meeting will be held at **2.30 p.m on 27th December 2021** at the Procurement Division of Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited, Lakpohora Swarna Jayanthi Mawatha, Hunupitiya, Wattala. All the bidders are requested to participate at the pre-bid meetings.



**Chairman,
Departmental Procurement Committee,
Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited,
Procurement Division,
Lakpohora Swarna Jayanthi Mawatha,
Hunupitiya, Wattala.**



Date : 15th December 2021

DATE 13.12.2021 MONDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER : 4615 Prizes won in this draw **Rs. 8,631,320.00**
The super prize of next draw **Rs.30,139,136.00**

WINNING LETTER **Y** WINNING NUMBERS **3 9 5 2 4 7**

Govisetha DRAW NUMBER : 2910 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs.5,527,980.00**

WINNING LETTER **Z** WINNING NUMBERS **30 59 71 75** THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs.79,348,257.36**

Mega POWER 10 DRAW NUMBER **963** TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs.3,233,260.00**
NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE **Rs. 159,854,935.60**
NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE **Rs. 10,000,000.00**
NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

WINNING LETTER **Q** WINNING NUMBERS **10 17 20 64 78**

Dhana Nidhanaya DRAW NUMBER : 645 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 2,969,460.00**

WINNING LETTER **Z** WINNING NUMBERS **21 54 69 82** THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 87,837,006.00**

JATHIKA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER : 1181 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 3,212,960.00**

WINNING ZODIAC **SCORPIO** WINNING NUMBERS **0 6 4 9 8 7** THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs.10,900,780.40**
Now Jathika Sampatha brings you luck not only on Wednes days and Saturdays but also on Mondays and Thursdays.

13.12.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD **611,085**
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS **Rs.23,574,980.00**
Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 **Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 27**

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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இந்திய வணிகத்துறை அமைச்சு
National Lotteries Board
Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324
Fax: 011-4669416

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

**Repeat Your
ad For Better
Offers**

The Public Honour Offered to the Distinguished Union Leaders for their Noble Service extended through the Proud Mission of Unions in Sri Lanka

Pride of Labour – Public Honour



The trade union movement seeks to achieve humanitarian aspirations as well as technical goals such as the preserving the dignity of profession, rights, rest, independence and progress.

It is the trade union leaders who are active full-time in securing and protecting the rights of thousands of working people. They spend their time and labour on behalf of their fellow workers.

His Excellency the President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa



Most leaders of working people dedicate their entire life to win the true occupational rights of the working population. Such leaders, and also state officials who work closely with the workers' community and identify their aspirations and needs, should be subjected to proper appreciation. It is of course an incentive towards workers' welfare.

Hon. Prime Minister – Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa



I would like to very respectfully state here that these union leaders who are awarded and honoured today sacrificed their whole life for the advancement of the working community, which I know personally.

Hence as the Minister of Labour, I am lucky to get an opportunity to join this awarding ceremony to honour those union leaders.

Hon. Minister of Labour – Mr. Nimal Siripala De Silva



I strongly believe that many trade union leaders in our country work scarfing their young life for the sake of altruism without seeking any self-benefit, which must be appreciated by the labour community.

The objective of this event of appreciating such selfless trade union leaders is, to generate selfless union leaders similar to them.

Hon. Minister of Finance - Mr. Basil Rajapaksa

The Honours Awarding Ceremony

for the union leaders who are engaged in a significant mission for the sake of thousands of labour people will be held on

15th December 2021 at 10.30 am

at the Temple Trees headed by the

Hon. Prime Minister

of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa

on the invitation of

Hon. Minister of Labour

Mr. Nimal Siripala De Silva.



Leslie Shelton Devendra
Sri Lanka Independent Employees' Union



Dayarathna Munidasa Fernando
All Island United Moter Labourers' Union



Suppiah Subramaniam Ramanathan
Joint Estates Union



Hewa Amarantunge Piyadasa
All Ceylon Trade and Industrial Labourers' Union



Rengasamy Palanimuthu
Lanka Estate Labourers' Congress



Padmasiri Amarasinghe
Lanka Estate Employees' Union



Rengaihu Marudamuthu Krishnasamy
Agriculture & Estate Employees' Union



Arumugam Muthulingam
United Estates Labourers' Union



Thuwan Mansoor Rahim Rasseedin
Lanka Labourers' Congress



Anton Marcus
Industrial, Transport and General Labourers' Union



Julian Assange's partner Stella Moris stands with their children Gabriel and Max outside Belmarsh Prison in London.

Brother fears Assange may not survive US prosecution

US: Julian Assange's brother said he feared the Wikileaks publisher would not survive the United States' attempts to prosecute him after his fiancée revealed he had suffered a mini-stroke.

Gabriel Shipton was among about 30 people, including Pink Floyd's Roger Waters and actress Susan Sarandon, to rally in support of Assange outside the British consulate in New York.

The protest came a day after Assange's fiancée Stella Moris said Assange had suffered a mini-stroke in late October, on the first day of a US Government appeal against a ruling blocking his removal.

The demonstrators were protesting against a decision on Friday by British appeals judges to overturn

the ruling after accepting US government assurances Assange would receive appropriate treatment and not be held in punishing isolation in custody.

"Very worried about it," Shipton told said. "This hanging over Julian's head just increases the pressure on him now."

"So we live in fear that he won't make it through this or that he will die basically, during this process," he added. The United States wants to put Assange on trial for WikiLeaks' 2010 publication of thousands of top-secret military documents about the US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Assange's lawyers have previously raised concerns about the effects of his lengthy incarceration on his

physical and mental health in a bid to halt the extradition.

Assange spent seven years in Ecuador's London embassy until 2019, after jumping bail in connection with sexual assault allegations in Sweden.

He was then jailed for 50 weeks for breaching bail in that case, which was later dropped, but detained ever since on the grounds he was a flight risk.

Sarandon told Assange supporters that "no matter what you think of Julian Assange," his case was about "journalism that just isn't about entertainment."

"(It) has to do with having an informed public because once this goes, we're really dead," she said.

- THE MALAY MAIL

7.4-magnitude earthquake strikes Indonesia

INDONESIA: A powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck eastern Indonesia on Tuesday triggering a tsunami warning and sending residents fleeing from their homes but causing only minor damage and injuring one person, authorities said.

The tsunami warning was lifted about two hours after the quake struck at 0320 GMT in the Flores Sea, about 112 km (70 miles) northwest of the town of Larantuka, in the eastern part of Flores island.

"Everyone ran out into the street," Agustinus Florianus, a resident of Maumere town on Flores, told Reuters. Maumere was badly damaged by a quake of a similar magnitude in 1992.

Tsunami warnings were issued for the areas of Maluku, East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara and Southeast and South Sulawesi.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake, had a magnitude of 7.3. It struck at the shallow depth of 12 km.

"It felt like a wave, up and down," Zacharias Gentana Keranz, a resident of Larantuka told Reuters.

The disaster mitigation agency said one person was injured in Manggarai, on Flores, and a school building and several homes were damaged on Selayar island, in South Sulawesi.

The quake, from an active fault in the Flores Sea, was followed by at least 15 aftershocks with the biggest registering magnitude 5.6, the meteorological agency said.

But the quake caused no significant increase in sea levels.

Indonesian earthquakes have triggered many deadly tsunamis, most notably in 2004 when a 9.1 magnitude quake off Sumatra island in the north produced tsunami waves that killed more than 230,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and nine other countries.

The U.S.-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center had earlier warned that based on preliminary earthquake parameters, hazardous tsunami waves were possible for coasts located within 1,000 km (621.37 miles) of the earthquake's epicentre. - THE TELEGRAPH INDIA

Hillary Clinton publicly reads her 2016 victory speech for the first time

US: Hillary Clinton has for the first time publicly read the victory speech she would have given had she won the presidential election against former US President Donald Trump in 2016.

The former US Secretary of State and first lady read chunks of the speech as part of a MasterClass she is giving on the power of resilience, the streaming platform said in a press release on Thursday.

"In this lesson, I am going to face one of my most public defeats head-on by sharing with you the speech I had hoped to deliver if I had won the 2016 election," said Clinton in a voiceover in the video on the NBC Today talkshow website. The video shows Clinton opening a document and reading excerpts of her speech, where she touches on the importance of unity.

"My fellow Americans,



(File Photo): Former US First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks onstage at Cinema Cafe during the 2020 Sundance Film Festival at the Filmmaker Lodge on January 26, 2020 in Park City, Utah.

today you have sent a message to the whole world ... We will not be defined only by our differences, we will not be an us versus them country. The American dream is big enough for everyone," she says.

The speech then points

and girls who didn't understand why a woman has never been president before," it reads.

"This is a victory for all Americans, men and women, boys and girls, because as our country has proven once again, when there are no ceilings, the sky's the limit." Clinton gets tearful when she speaks about her deceased mother's tough childhood and what she would have said to her about the victory if she could go back in time. Dorothy Howell Rodham died at the age of 92 in 2011.

"I dream of going up to her ... and saying 'look at me, listen to me, you will survive, you will have a good family of your own and three children and as hard as it might be to imagine, your daughter will grow up and become the President of the United States.'" - THE JAKARTA POST

No spooky sights yet at 'haunted' residence, says Japanese PM



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

JAPAN: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Monday he's sleeping soundly after becoming the first premier in nine years to inhabit the official residence, which is reputedly haunted by ghosts.

The prime piece of real estate in central Tokyo stood empty during the terms of Kishida's most recent predecessors, Yoshihide Suga and Shinzo Abe.

The residence was the site of a 1936 attempted coup, in which several senior officials including a finance minister were assassinated by young military officers.

For years, the ghosts of some of those who were involved in the incident were reported to have haunted its hallways, but Kishida said Monday he was feeling fresh after the first nights in his new digs.

"I slept soundly yesterday," he told reporters, who asked whether he had spotted any of the residence's famed spooks. "I haven't seen any, yet." - THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS



A still image from a social media video shows children hiding under a desk during an earthquake in Maumere, Indonesia.

Russia blocks UN Move to treat climate as security threat

UN: Russia on Monday blocked a United Nations Security Council draft resolution, under negotiation for many months, that for the first time would have defined climate change as a threat to peace.

The resolution, which enjoyed wide-ranging support, would have significantly expanded the criteria used by the most powerful UN agency to justify intervening in armed conflicts around the world.

Russia's derailment of the measure underscored the challenges faced by the United Nations in uniting the global community to combat climate change, which Secretary-General António Guterres and others have called an existential threat.

"We are against creating a new area for the council's work which establishes a generic, automatic connection between climate change and international security, turning a scientific and socio-economic issue into a politicized question," Russian Amba-



Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia

sador to the U.N. Vassily Nebenzia said just before casting his veto.

Twelve Security Council members voted to adopt the resolution Monday, while China abstained and India voted no.

Despite progress made to counter greenhouse gas emissions with an agreement reached at the U.N.-

sponsored climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, last month, that accord fell far short of what many scientists say will be required to curb rising temperatures and disastrous changes in weather patterns from a warming planet. Among other weaknesses, the agreement left unclear how the most vulnerable

nations will be able to afford the enormous investments needed to adapt.

The possible role of climate change in armed conflicts has long been a subject of discussion at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Droughts and desertification aggravated by climate change in Mali, Niger and other parts of Africa, for example, are thought to be integral to the competition for water, food, farmland and pasture land that can lead to violence and instability.

The Security Council draft resolution, co-sponsored by Ireland and Niger, the council's current president, was a version of what was initially proposed in 2020 by Germany but never put to a vote.

UN diplomats said at least 113 of the global body's 193 members had supported the resolution, putting Russia in the position of having blocked what would have been a relatively popular decision.

- THE INDIAN EXPRESS

38 Degrees Celsius logged in Siberia is Arctic's highest temperature ever

SWITZERLAND: The UN on Tuesday officially recognised the 38 degrees Celsius measured in Siberia last year as a new record high for the Arctic, sounding "alarm bells" over climate change.

The sweltering heat - equivalent to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit - was seen on June 20, 2020 in the Russian town of Verkhoyansk, marking the highest temperature ever recorded above the Arctic Circle, the World Meteorological Organization said.

This is the first time the WMO has added record heat in the Arctic to its archive of extreme weather reports, and it comes amid an unprecedented wave of record temperature spikes globally, the UN agency said.

"This new Arctic record is one of a series of observations reported to the WMO Archive of Weather and Climate Extremes that sound the alarm bells about our changing climate," its chief Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

Verkhoyansk lies about 115 kilometres (70 miles) north of the Arctic Circle and temperatures have been measured there since 1885.

The temperature, which the agency pointed out was "more befitting the Mediterranean than the Arctic", was measured at a meteorological station during an exceptionally prolonged Siberian heatwave.

The average temperatures across Arctic Siberia reached up to 10C above normal for much of the

summer last year, it said, adding that this had fuelled fires and massive sea-ice loss.

The heatwave also played a significant role in 2020 being designated one of the three warmest years on record globally.

Last year also saw a new record high of 18.3C for the Antarctic continent, Taalas said.

The WMO is still seeking to verify the 54.4C recorded in both 2020 and 2021 in the world's hottest place, Death Valley in California. - NDTV

GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

FUNDED BY THE INCOME OF EXPRESSWAY IN SRI LANKA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

INVITING FOR APPLICATION OF THERMOPLASTIC ROAD MARKING FROM PINNADUWA TO GODAGAMA OF SOUTHERN EXPRESSWAY

Contract No: RDA/EOM&M/PRC/2021/MNT/29

- The Chairman, EOM&M Division's Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids for above Contract under contract No of RDA/EOM&M/PRC/2021/MNT/29. Complete details are available in the bidding document. All bids must be accompanied by a **bid security of Rs. 100,000.00.**
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Section, Expressway Operation, Maintenance & Management Division, Road Development Authority, Kahatagahena, Walgama, Bandaragama (Telephone: 038-2289122, Fax: 038-2289560) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours free of charge.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language shall be obtained by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the **Director (EOM&M Division), Road Development Authority, Kahatagahena, Walgama, Bandaragama** from 15/12/2021 until 05/01/2022 during 09:00 hrs. to 14:30 hrs. upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,500.00 + 120 (VAT). As per the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987, the Agent and successful winners of the tender shall be registered in the Department of Registrar of Companies.
- Bids shall be delivered to the Director (EOM&M Division), Road Development Authority, Kahatagahena, Walgama, Bandaragama at or before 14:30 hrs. on 05/01/2022.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bid Validity period shall be until 06/04/2022.
- Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security. Bid Security shall be valid until 04/05/2022.

The Chairman
EOM&M Division's Procurement Committee
C/O Director (EOM&M Division),
Road Development Authority,
Kahatagahena, Walgama,
Bandaragama.

Super League Soccer Tournament

Blue Star win over Up Country Lions was the highlight



Action from Blue Star vs Up Country Lions match

ALTHAF NAWAZ

A spectacular 2-1 win by Blue Star over Up Country Lions was the pick of the matches at the end of fifth-week games at the inaugural 'Super League' soccer tournament played at Race Course grounds last week.

The lads from Kalutara who went into this game as the underdogs did well to outsmart the start-studded rival team from Nawalapitiya. Full credit should go to the Blue Star who played to a well-executed plan that ultimately paid dividend to curtail their rivals and notch up a sensational victory. Their backline players (defence) put up a belligerent performance to foil the rival moves which ended up as a major blow for the losers.

With the player's likes of Waseem Razeek in their ranks who turned out to be the highest goal scorer in the National too was well marked and was deprived of scoring freely. The winners went for a breather with a goal later increased their lead in the

second half while the losers goal came through a penalty. This win enabled Blue Star to climb up and to occupy second place in the points table after being slated fourth at the end of last week's matches. The Up Country Lions who were placed third has been pushed down to fifth place as a result of this loss.

The other significant change in the points table is that Colombo FC moved up to the third place with their 4-0 victory over Ratnam. It was a very dismal performance by the team Ratnam who narrowly escaped heavy defeat. Colombo FC lads slowly but steadily got into the rhythm to control the game throughout where the match can be defined as a 'one horse race.' This win would have made a drastic change to increase their morale up for the upcoming matches, which is very crucial for them to remain as one of the contenders for the title. Red Star, last week second-placed team plunged down to the fourth place after their 4-all draw against New

Super League 2021

Points Table as at 12 Dec. 2021

No	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts.
1	Sea Hawks FC	5	4	1	0	11	2	9	13
2	Blue Star SC	5	3	1	1	8	5	3	10
3	Colombo FC	5	3	1	1	12	5	7	10
4	Red Star FC	5	2	3	0	16	8	8	9
5	Up Country Lions FC	5	2	1	2	8	5	3	7
6	Defenders FC	5	1	3	1	4	5	-1	6
7	Renown SC	5	1	2	2	2	4	-2	5
8	New Youngs FC	5	1	1	3	7	18	-11	4
9	Ratnam SC	5	0	2	3	3	10	-7	2
10	Blue Eagles SC	5	0	1	4	1	10	-9	1

Young. Dominating play with a healthy 4-1 lead at the breather, Red Star made several basic errors and lost the grip on the game. Capitalizing on the occasion, New Young bounced back gallantly to save them from defeat but fell short of notching up their second win. They went down to eighth place after being one slot ahead last week. Meanwhile, Sea-Hawks

continued to head the points table after a 2-all draw against Defenders. Yet again they had a 2-0 lead until the short whistle as Defenders did well to bounce back to the game to force a draw.

Renown pulled off their first win (1-0) of the tournament against the Blue Eagles. This enabled them to climb up to the seventh position in the points table.

This week match schedule- **15th Dec.-** Defenders vs. Colombo FC at 3.30 p.m.

16th Dec.- New Young vs. Ratnam at 3.30 p.m. & Blue Star vs. Sea Hawks at 7.30 p.m.

17th Dec.- Red Star vs. Renown at 3.30 p.m. & Up Country Lions vs. Blue Eagles at 7.30 p.m.

(All matches will be played at Race Course grounds)

Refresher course for Wushu conducted at Polgolla



L.H.Nuwan Sanjeeewa, an old boy of St.Servatius College,Matara receiving certificate from Manel Dharmakeerthi,President of Wushu Federation.



Three female wushu Coaches in action from left Dilakshani Kandasamy of Vavuniya, Gihani Wathsala of Galle and Janaki Kumasa of Galgamuwa, Pictures by Upananda Jayasundera

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA
Kandy Sports Special correspondent)

A Refresher Course of the sport of Wushu was organized by the Wushu Federation of Sri Lanka held at the Polgolla Co-operative Training Centre recently. Sixty two Wushu Coaches all over the Island participated at this four day refresher course and three female wushu coaches and a Buddhist Priest also participated. The sport of 'Wushu' is one of the Historic sport disciplines in Sri Lanka. his Refresher Course was conducted with the instruc-

tions of Manel Dharmakeerthi, the present President of the 'Wushu' Federation of Sri Lanka and the General Secretary of the South Asian Wushu Association.

Manel Dharmakeerthi is Internationally qualified as an 'A' Grade Referee and Judge and some of the Officials of the Wushu Federation who participated were nishantha Pathiraja, & Kithsiri Subasinghe, the Vice Presidents of the Federation, Ajantha Bandara-Assistant Secretary and Senaka Samarathunge-District Secretary, Kandy who were present throughout the Course.

Former TT champion Rohan now a successful coach

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Former Sri Lankan Table Tennis captain and three times National champion Rohan Sirisena who began a new chapter as a coach already has given fine service to produce talented paddlers. Last year he decided to retire from the game at the age of 39 having played for 25 years and won many medals at local and international tournaments. His vast experience as a player gave him big boost to do his coaching role.

He was the number one ranked player in 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013 and dropped to rank four at the time of his retirement. But he always loved this sport. "Although I can still play well I know that I can't gain anything new so I decided to retire to give way to a younger player," said Sirisena who began playing in 1996.

Sirisena started playing table tennis at St. John's College Nugegoda under coach Sanjeeewa Mendis. Though there was a lack of facilities at St. John's, Rohan Sirisena ended up as the most accomplished player the school had produced. He then moved to Royal College from where he gained more recognition in the game.

Rohan captained the Sri Lanka Table Tennis team from 2009 to 2019 while he was able to maintain rank number one from 2007 to 2013. Former champions Thilina Piyadasa, Indika Prasad, Yohan Deshapriya, K.S.T Chalitha, Dinesh Deshapriya also were men's key players in that period and there was a tough battle among them.

Rohan Sirisena was only 14 years when he was among the best nine paddlers

in the country. He was under the guidance of former National champion Jothipala Samaraweera and Veediya Bandara who saw that he developed his skills further. The three times National champion also won men's runners up at five years. Apart from his men's single event he performed really well at the doubles event while winning nine times men's doubles as well as mixed doubles titles.

He also got a rare chance to captain the Sri Lanka team for the 3rd Lusofonia Games as well as 2018 Commonwealth Games. I was the National flag bearer on both occasions and it was a very proud moment and that was the first time Table Tennis player got this proud moment.

Getting International experience is always very vital to go forward and especially at the Asian level we have to play with world top class players.

I had opportunity to represent ten world TT championships. In addition two Asian Games, three Commonwealth Games, and two Asian Championship and eight Commonwealth championships tournaments also in my TT career and that gave a big boost to develop my skills said Rohan. I also won four gold medals and a silver medal while I was playing Asian Junior championships three times and Maldives Invitation championships eight times. I had good memories of these tournaments where I got chance to represent from 1996 to 2019 and it was not easy to represent National team for such a long period.

I had good memories of World Championship in Germany. We played at fifth division and fin-



Rohan Sirisena in action

ished with second while at World Championships in Japan we played at fourth division and ended with second place and our team achievements always very high to play these tournaments added Rohan Sirisena.

I had chance to play South Asian Games in 1999, 2006, 2010, and 2016 and won three silver and six bronze while I was among the best 32 players at Asian ranking and also among best 16 ranking at men's doubles at Asian level from 2006 to 2010.

We have to go beyond the South Asian level and today I always give my guidance to focus on this to the youngsters.

In 2020 only 16 doubles pair had chance to qualify for the Asian

Championships and I was among that list according to the ranking and but due to Global pandemic Asian championship couldn't conducted at that time.

In 2014 Commonwealth Games in Scotland Rohan was among the best 32 players and same year he was able to win bronze medal at the Lusofonia Games. All these are good memories as a player but now my task is to produce talented players under my guidance.

The former Ananda College and Royal College Assistant TT coach today gives his service to Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo and Malambe Horizon International School and he is very keen to offer his service to school players from the beginning.

Lanka Cavaliers in thrilling win

M.H.YAKEEM

Lanka Cavaliers edged out Legends of Richmond by seven runs in a 25 over game, which was played for the Deepal Ahangama Trophy at the NCC grounds on December 12.

Lanka Cavaliers led by Nalliah Devarajan, taking first lease made 124 runs in 23.4 overs with Wasanthlal Fernando coming as an opener took control of the bowling attack to play a superb innings of 22 not out and Nalliah Devarajan playing a Captain's knock, scored a magnificent 35 runs with Manoj

Perera and Sajeewa de Silva's contributions scoring double figures made up this total.

Thushan Jayawardena and Asitha de Silva were the pick of the bowlers capturing 3 and 2 wickets.

Legends of Richmond chasing this modest total were bundled out for 118 runs with Asoka Sirimanne and C.K.Hewamanna scoring 35 and 28 runs respectively and with the dismissals of these two batsmen and the other wickets falling at regular intervals, could not reach the target. Manoj Perera and Mahesh Wijey-

nayake with a splendid bowling performance of 4 scalps each sealed the game for the winners. Lanka Cavaliers 124 in 23.4 overs was Wasanthlal Fernando 22 not out, Nalliah Devarajan 32, Sajeewa de Silva 14, Manoj Perera 10, Thushan Jayawardena 3/6, Asitha de Silva 2/7, Prasanna Ramanayake 2/16, C.K.Hewamanna 2/22

Legends of Richmond 118 all out in 25 overs Asoka Sirimanne 35, C.K.Hewamanna 28, Thushan Jayawardena 10, Asitha de Silva 11, Manoj Perera 4/20, Mahesh Wijeyanayake 4/24



Skipper of the Lanka Cavaliers team Nalliah Devarajan, receiving the Trophy from Mr. and Mrs Ahangama. Also in the picture is C.P.P. Raj the President of Lanka Cavaliers.

Gamer.LK takes Esports to schools with an Inter-School Championship

Gamer.LK, the leader in Esports and Digital Entertainment experiences in Sri Lanka has announced the return of the Inter-School Esports Championship for 2021 powered by Samsung Sri Lanka. This year's Championship is the 5th edition of the event which has come to be known as the largest school-level sporting event in the country, with 150 schools from across the island taking part in the last edition.

The Championship this year has moved to a completely online setting due to the ongoing pandemic situation, allowing competitors to take part from the safety of their own home across 20 popular gaming titles. Esports athletes from any government or international school can represent their School and compete across a number of team games (Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare, Call of Duty Mobile, Dota 2, Free Fire, League of Leg-

ends, Mobile Legends, PUBG Mobile, Rainbow Six Siege and Valorant) and individual games (Assetto Corsa eRacing, Clash Royale, FIFA 21, Real Cricket and Rocket League). In addition, Call of Duty: Warzone, Fortnite and Halo Infinite will be held as exhibition, promotional titles. The Championship will also feature a Women's League (with Clash Royale, Dota 2, League of Legends, Mario Kart Tour and Valorant) in

order to recognise the best female student Esports athletes in Sri Lanka. The Championship began in 2016 with the intention of showcasing the positive aspect of structured and regulated Esports at a school-level. The event has continued with students from national schools such as as well as International schools. Gateway College has successfully held onto the Championship in all the previous editions held in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019

and are the defending champions. Esports, short for Electronic Sports, is the competitive play of video games - a fast growing sport across the world and an officially recognised sport in Sri Lanka by the Ministry of Sports. Esports athletes from Sri Lanka have represented their country at an international level and are looking to bring home a medal when they compete in Esports at the 19th Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou, China.

Esports has also been recognised as a key focus sport by the Ministry of Sports locally and a healthy exposure to Esports at a school-level plays a vital part in today's youth gaining the competitive edge as Sri Lanka looks towards international achievements in Esports.

Samsung Sri Lanka comes onboard as the title sponsor for the Inter-School Esports Championship this year. Samsung has been at the forefront

of developing products and services for gamers and promoting Esports in Sri Lanka over the years, as it was identified as the fastest growing sport in the country. As a result, Samsung in partnership with Gamer.LK have successfully initiated and completed many large scale gaming tournaments, amassing over 1,000 participants from around the country and a staggering 175,000 people watching the tournaments over live-streams.

Daily News Business

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NSB SHINES WITH SILVER PAGE 20

Achieves milestone of 500,000 RORO vehicle handling in 2021

HIP invests US\$ 300 mn in slope protection project

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was on a multifaceted inspection tour of the Hambantota International Port (HIP) to appraise the ongoing development projects at the port.

Johnson Liu, CEO of Hambantota International Port Group, said they witness the progress and success of the port, which was developed under guidance and visionary leadership of then President Rajapaksa. This port now serves as a beacon light for the economic development of the Southern Region of Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Qi Zhenhong, Ambassador of China to Sri Lanka and Ministers G L Pieris, Chamal Rajapaksa, Namal Rajapaksa. The PM's visit also coincided with the



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong, Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa, G. L. Peiris, Namal Rajapaksa and CEO of HIPG Johnson Liu at the event

port achieving the milestone of 500,000 RORO vehicles handled in 2021, for which he participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The visit included the lay-

ing of the foundation stone for the port's first bonded warehouse project, after which the Prime Minister was accompanied by the port team to inspect the construc-

tion sites of plants being set up by the Xinji Shenzhen Group and Ceylon Tyre Manufacturing Company. The PM also inspected the slope protection project initi-

ated by the port to stabilise the area for the tyre manufacturing facility, which is a US\$ 300 million investment. The project, being developed on 55.8 hectares of land which includes scope for an additional 16 acres for its second phase, has a commitment to export 30,000 container units annually, and is expected to create more than 3,000 job opportunities.

The US\$ 15 million plug and play park in park facility by the XinjiShenzhen Group, a high-tech facility to provide 'one stop' services to light industries, is being built on 3.07 hectares of land and will create approximately 500 jobs.

The Prime Minister and his delegation were given a brief introduction to the Master Plan for the HIP

Industrial Park by CEO Johnson Liu. Until now, 42 enterprises have signed agreements with HIPG to enter the Industrial Park, of which 10 projects have already commenced construction. 8 new projects are to be signed soon, while another 15 projects with key potential are in the pipeline.

The Logistics Warehouse facility which is being built by Hambantota Port and Logistics Services Pvt. Ltd., the warehousing arm of the Colombo Logistics Group to store bagged cargo, is being developed on a land area of approximately 1 hectare.

The new warehousing facility once completed will spur HIP's plans to develop fertilizer distribution both locally and for transshipment. **▶ TO PAGE 13**

Raja Edirisuriya takes over as Chairman of BOI

Leading Civil Engineer and former Ambassador Raja Edirisuriya has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Edirisuriya is scheduled to take up his appointment on December 15, 2021.



Currently the Executive Project Management Director for Colombo Port City Development Project, Edirisuriya has previously served as Chairman of the Urban Settlement Development Authority (USDA), Sri Lanka State Engineering Corporation (SEC) and Mihin Lanka Airlines.

Edirisuriya has also represented Sri Lanka as Ambassador to Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Surinam. During his tenure from 2013 to 2015, he promoted trade and tourism between Latin America and Sri Lanka and also helped facilitate United Nations Human Rights resolutions among Brazil, Chile, and Argentina to support the Sri Lankan government.

Having obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Rutgers University New Jersey, USA and his Master's in Public Administration at the University of La Verne, California, Edirisuriya held the position of Administrator and City Engineer for almost 16 years at the City Council of Chino, California.

Online portal madeinsrilanka.org dedicated to SMEs launched

The first government-guaranteed online portal madeinsrilanka.org dedicated to the needs of micro, small and medium enterprises, which contributes 52% to the country's GDP was launched last week.

Minister of Industries Wimal Weerawansa at the launch organised by the National Enterprise Development Authority said that it is functioning as an online trading portal where its objective is not to earn unnecessary profits but to provide an opportunity for consumers or businessmen to order local products of the best quality.

"Today a decision made two years ago by the then Chairman of the National Enterprise Development Authority, Anushka Gunasinghe, to build a platform for micro, small and medium scale producers to enable them to win over both local and international markets has become a reality. With the commitment of the current Chairman Sunil Jayaratne we have been able to launch this Internet Trade Portal madeinsrilanka.org."

Although we have allocated billions of rupees to provide Samurdhi payments, there is little financial support to transform someone into a producer or an industrialist. Despite decades of providing



Minister Wimal Weerawansa at the madeinsrilanka.org online trade portal launch

Samurdhi, that number has not diminished."

The youth who come out after the GCE (O-L) and GCE (A-L) examinations should be targeted, investing an amount equal to or less than the amount invested in Samurdhi, and contributions should be made to transform them into entrepreneurs or industrialists in any field."

While many countries are far ahead of us in this regard, unfortunately, we have become a country that lags far behind many of those countries in the world and now we all have a responsibility to make sure that this becomes, just a matter of the past. 'Though such portals manned by the private sector charge high fees, madeinsrilanka.org online trade portal allows the consumer or businessman to order only good quality government-guaranteed products that are not aimed at making unnecessary profits.

Due to C-19 we see geopolitical changes with some of the supply chain lines being severely broken. Countries such as the United States and Australia are rejecting Chinese products. So, industrialists from China today are moving out and we need to acquire the ability to attract them by doing JV's."

Also prices of foreign products have increased by several times and hence new space has been created for quality local products. The strongest responsibility we have today is to empower our manufacturers and the industrialists to capture these spaces."

The Minister disclosed that the Israeli Army Commander who met the current Ministry Secretary and former Commander of the Sri Lankan Army, Daya Ratnayake some time ago said that the biggest 'tech threat' to them is from Sri Lanka. **▶ TO PAGE 13**

Nod for 5G spectrum auction in 1Q -2022

INDUNIL HEWAGE

The much awaited and long overdue Sri Lanka's 5G spectrum auction is billed to be carried out in the first quarter of 2022.

According to Information and Communication Technology Authority (ICTA) Chairman Oshada Senanayake, the annual budget for 2022 has given approval to go for a 5G spectrum auction in the first quarter of 2022.

"Connectivity is not only about coverage and I think it's all about unlocking the spectrum and looking at new paradigms of what 5G bring on to the table. We cannot just focus on today's connectivity piece. Of course it is imperative due to COVID -19 pandemic and forced digitalization it has infused as a black swan. However we as a country are focused on the next step of 5G as well. In fact we've started our

trials as early as 2020 even before the pandemic. Today we are all set to go for a 5G spectrum auction.

Now that's going to bring key elements of ultra low latency as well as massive machine type connectivity which is an imperative to the paradigms again. Moreover, we discuss artificial intelligence, IOT enablement and machine learning. Therefore if we don't have these policies in place; we cannot basically pivot and I am glad to say we've got the focus and are creating tremendous traction in this regard." Senanayake told a virtual forum organised by Sri Lanka Institute of Directors, International Chamber of Commerce and key other partners held under the theme, 'Making Sri Lanka a Technology Hub.' Apart from that Senanayake said that the country is looking at further more aspects such as non geostationary orbit facilities.

Speaking further Senanayake said affordability is key in terms of inclusivity.

"We want to get the affordability piece right. I think sustained pragmatic tax reforms and policy that has been set on a long-term basis without any change has enabled us to achieve significant milestones as well." Moreover, based on the latest International Telecommunication Union Report, benchmarking globally all the countries in terms of affordability of internet, Sri Lanka has come to the 20th rank for the most affordable fixed broadband and 13th rank for mobile broadband affordability.

"In fact, for mobile voice, Sri Lanka has come to the 7th in the world; only six more countries are ahead of us. I think that is an important step for us to look at



affordability, because we're talking about a digital inclusive Sri Lanka." Noting that digital inclusive piece is all about affordability, accessibility and digital skills, Senanayake said, "We've got key pieces correct and also need to focus on digital literacy not only computer literacy but digital literacy. That's something we need to improve in order to create that digital economic piece from a local perspective.

Senanayake also stressed that Sri Lanka as a country needs to change its perspective from a technology first approach to citizen experience first approach. **▶ TO PAGE 13**

BOI attracts investors in EV manufacturing, assembly from Indonesia

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Jakarta organised a virtual meeting with the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and the members of the Indonesian Electric Vehicle Industry Association (Periklindo) to explore opportunities in the electric vehicle manufacturing sector including the possibility of assembly of electric vehicles in Sri Lanka. This virtual meeting

was held on December 7, 2021.

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Indonesia, Yasoja Gunasekera said that Sri Lanka is developing a strategic plan to promote the electric vehicle in line with renewable energy policy.

Director (Investment Promotion) Nilupul De Silva and Deputy Director (Investment Promotion) Sudath Jayasekara,

presented investment regulations and current market information and answered several questions raised by the members of Periklindo.

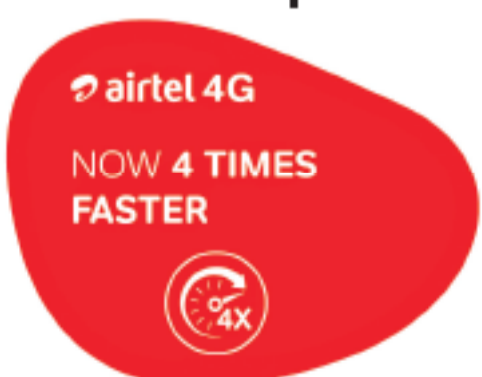
Participation in the meeting from the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Jakarta included Third Secretary (Commercial) Heshani Premathilaka, Government Relations Officer Genesa Lahoje and Public Diplomacy Executive A. Febri Falahuddin.

Central Province receives coverage boost Through Airtel's 4G expansion

During a 4G network enhancement throughout the island, Airtel Lanka announced the completion of the expansion in the Central Province, sufficiently covering both Kandy and Nuwara Eliya districts.

The additional 4G sites will enhance user experience offering internet speeds that are up to 4X faster with 50% better indoor coverage. Airtel's 4G infrastructure is also 5G-ready, capable of transitioning to the new network with ease.

The 4G expansion, that is currently underway island-wide, will give a quantum jump of Airtel's network experience to all Sri Lankans. Airtel's 4G network is built on a triple layer network, which gives it a solid combination of coverage and capacity



to deliver a superior experience from online learning to work-from-home to virtual schooling, every user from children to adults will be able to benefit from not having to face any more call drops, interruptions or coverage issues. Additionally, users can also benefit from Airtel's novel Freedom Packs, which not only gives access to Airtel's robust 4G network, but also value with savings up to 80 percent from their mobile spend.

Capital Alliance begins Trading on CSE

Shares of Capital Alliance Limited (CALT), will commence trading on the DiriSavi Board of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) today.

It will be classified under the "Financials" industry group and trade under the ticker "CALT".

The IPO was oversubscribed by 8.6 times on the opening day itself. Capital Alliance Limited received a total of over 9,800 applications requesting shares for over Rs. 3.5 billion. A total of 329,417,884 shares of Capital Alliance Limited will be listed on the CSE. The retail category was oversubscribed by 3.5 times in terms of the retail category allocation as 40% of the total shares on offer.

The IPO price of Rs. 10 comes at a 18.64% discount to the valuation price of Rs. 12.29 that was derived by the Independent Valuer Ernst & Young Transaction Services. Capital Alliance Limited offers an average dividend yield of 9.65%. CALT has sustained an 8-year historical average Return on Equity (ROE) of 31% and an average dividend pay-out of 35%.

The funds raised via the IPO will be utilized to strengthen the core capital of the Company, thereby allowing them to invest into specific financial instruments.

Co-operative Insurance opens IPO on Dec. 20

Leading Sri Lankan insurer Co-operative Insurance recently announced the date of their Initial Public Offering (IPO), which is set to take place on December 20, 2021.

The IPO will be managed by the Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka.

"This IPO is an important milestone for Co-operative Insurance, and is a firm testament to the continued dedication and passion of our staff and the firm loyalty of our clientele. Our steady, undeterred performance continued to demonstrate stability and resilience during a period that was characterized by numerous restrictions forced into play by the global pandemic" Co-operative Insur-



Susil Weerasekera, Chairman - Co-operative Insurance



Wasantha Ranasinghe, Managing Director - Co-operative Insurance

ance Chairman Susil Weerasekera said.

The past year, Co-operative Insurance's (general) market share has increased to 4.42%, in comparison to 4.27% as in 2019. (ircsl.gov.lk, 2020) Compared to the general insurance industry GWP growth, which was -2.24% during the past year, the company recorded GWP growth of 2%. The company reported a 05-year Average Annual GWP Growth Rate of 21% of GWP, while the general

insurance industry 05-year GWP Average Annual growth was at 8.95%.

"Our robust cost management initiatives, proactive drive to innovate, digital-first process re-engineering efforts, and most importantly the strength of our passionate and deeply dedicated team have helped propel Co-operative Insurance to an elite league of top insurance providers within the country," remarked Co-operative Insurance Managing Director Wasantha Ranasinghe.

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MARKET/NEWS

SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Market Statistics on 14.12.2021

Security	Volume	**V.W.A. Previous Close	Open	High	Low	**V.W.A. Yesterday's Close	Change (Rs.)
Main Board							
A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD.	60,844	38.20	38.20	38.20	35.00	35.60	(2.60)
ABANS	135	157.50	156.00	156.00	155.50	155.50	(2.00)
ACCESS ENG SL	1,546,422	31.40	31.40	32.30	31.00	31.70	0.30
ACL	3,512,346	96.20	96.00	108.75	96.00	105.50	9.30
ACL PLASTICS	19,214	619.75	620.00	665.00	606.50	644.75	25.00
ACME	256,627	18.00	18.90	22.50	18.20	19.70	1.70
AGALAWATTE	437,170	48.30	48.30	49.00	47.50	47.80	(0.50)
AHOT PROPERTIES	20,105	45.00	45.10	45.10	44.00	44.00	(1.00)
AITKEN SPENCE	59,824	79.00	79.00	80.00	79.00	80.00	1.00
ALLIANCE	486	89.60	90.00	90.00	88.00	90.00	0.40
AMANA BANK	659,733	4.60	4.60	4.70	4.40	4.50	(0.10)
ASIA ASSET	141,103	7.80	7.80	8.90	7.80	8.10	0.30
ASIA ASSET [AAF-P-0000]	3,006	9.00	10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	1.20
ASIA CAPITAL	13,530	7.00	7.00	7.10	7.00	7.10	0.10
ASIRI	58,405	32.90	32.90	33.00	32.50	33.00	0.10
ASIRI SURG	16,542	17.60	17.40	17.70	17.40	17.50	(0.10)
AUTODROME	128	99.90	100.00	100.00	94.10	99.10	(0.80)
BAIRAHA FARMS	153,546	309.75	318.00	320.00	314.00	315.75	6.00
BALANGODA	69,492	21.20	21.00	21.00	20.40	20.60	(0.60)
BUKIT DARAH	5,549	380.00	375.50	380.00	374.00	374.25	(5.75)
C M HOLDINGS	158,401	138.00	140.00	172.50	140.00	169.00	31.00
C T HOLDINGS XD	14,958	167.00	166.00	166.00	166.00	166.00	(1.00)
CARGILLS XD	9,534	210.00	210.50	214.75	205.25	209.75	(0.25)
CARGO BOAT	101	66.90	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00	2.10
CARSONS	146	285.25	286.00	286.00	282.25	285.25	0.00
CDB	3,433	165.00	165.00	165.00	160.25	165.00	0.00
CDB [CDB.X0000]	3,819	91.50	91.40	91.50	91.10	91.10	(0.40)
CENTRAL FINANCE XD	851,652	92.60	95.00	96.80	92.90	94.50	1.90
CENTRAL IND.	254,556	242.25	245.00	250.00	226.00	232.25	(10.00)
CEYLINCO INS.	254	2,026.00	2,094.75	2,095.00	1,890.25	2,091.75	65.75
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]	1,424	1,055.00	1,030.50	1,060.00	1,000.00	1,058.25	3.25
CEYLON GUARDIAN	63,981	110.00	112.00	118.00	112.00	116.00	6.00
CEYLON INV.	61,883	55.60	58.00	58.00	54.00	56.30	0.70
CEYLON TOBACCO	1,179	891.50	894.50	894.50	885.00	889.50	(2.00)
CHEMANEX	3,415	80.00	80.50	80.50	75.60	75.80	(4.20)
CHEVRON	356,770	107.75	108.00	110.75	107.50	109.50	1.75
CIC	957,035	65.30	65.50	65.50	63.00	64.90	(0.40)
CIC [CIC.X0000]	1,092,787	51.20	51.20	51.20	49.00	49.30	(1.90)
CITRUS LEISURE	99,328	8.50	8.50	8.80	8.30	8.50	0.00
COLD STORES	2,400	527.00	525.00	525.00	516.00	521.00	(6.00)
COLOMBO CITY	7	889.50	908.50	908.50	908.50	889.50	0.00
COLOMBO LAND	8,426	32.90	33.00	34.80	32.90	34.70	1.80
COMMERCIAL BANK	182,485	79.80	79.80	80.00	79.50	79.60	(0.20)
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	13,034	72.90	73.00	74.00	72.50	73.00	0.10
CONVENIENCE FOOD	12	1,231.25	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,231.25	0.00
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	47,806	14.50	14.50	14.80	14.50	14.70	0.20
DFCC BANK PLC	123,900	59.70	59.50	60.50	59.50	59.60	(0.10)
DIALOG	350,757	11.10	11.10	11.20	11.00	11.00	(0.10)
DIMO	1,199	600.50	600.00	623.00	600.00	605.00	4.50
DIPPED PRODUCTS	821,311	51.50	51.20	52.00	51.00	51.20	(0.30)
DOCKYARD	75,440	79.90	79.00	86.40	79.80	85.30	5.40
DOLPHIN HOTELS	35,926	35.30	34.00	35.00	34.00	35.00	(0.30)
DURDANS	2,711	140.25	142.00	149.75	142.00	143.50	3.25
DURDANS [CHL.X0000]	2,011	126.75	127.50	129.75	127.50	128.00	1.25
E B CREAMY	1,395,893	24.80	25.30	26.30	24.10	32.90	8.10
EAST WEST	399,710	10.30	10.20	10.50	10.10	10.10	(0.20)
EASTERN MERCHANT	936,991	9.70	9.50	9.90	8.50	8.60	(1.10)
EX-PACK XD	1,756,338	23.20	23.00	23.40	22.50	22.70	(0.50)
EXPOLANKA	5,043,925	350.25	352.00	382.00	352.00	377.00	26.75
FORT LAND	2,042,840	27.00	27.40	28.90	26.60	27.90	0.90
GESTETNER	410	79.90	80.10	80.10	78.10	79.10	(0.80)
GRAIN ELEVATORS	1,364,440	125.50	125.75	137.00	125.50	134.75	9.25
HAYCARB	207,979	71.60	71.40	75.00	71.40	73.60	2.00
HAYLEYS	2,854,118	115.25	116.00	119.00	116.00	118.00	2.75
HAYLEYS FABRIC	4,001,717	40.50	41.00	43.40	41.00	42.80	2.30
HAYLEYS FIBRE	301,920	65.00	66.00	73.00	65.50	71.60	6.60
HAYLEYS LEISURE	14,231	20.90	21.40	21.40	20.50	20.50	(0.40)
HDFC	8,693	30.40	31.20	32.50	31.30	32.00	1.60
HEMAS HOLDINGS	1,017,088	69.60	69.50	70.00	67.50	68.10	(1.50)
HNB	261,906	142.75	142.75	143.00	141.00	142.25	(0.50)
HNB ASSURANCE	4,674	45.50	45.50	46.00	45.00	45.00	(0.50)
HNB [HNB.X0000]	37,237	131.25	132.00	134.00	131.75	133.25	2.00
HORANA	28,958	26.50	26.80	27.40	25.10	25.90	(0.60)
HOTELS CORP.	6,633	17.00	17.00	17.00	16.00	16.00	(1.00)
HUNTERS	50	661.25	689.50	689.50	689.50	661.25	(0.00)
INDUSTRIAL ASPH.	93,167,396	0.60	0.70	0.70	0.40	0.50	(0.10)
JAT HOLDINGS XD	176,118	22.00	22.10	22.40	21.70	21.80	(0.20)
KJK	358,084	144.00	144.00	144.50	143.25	143.75	(0.25)
KANDY HOTELS	172	8.00	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	(0.20)
KEGALLE	10,060	135.00	137.00	145.00	136.00	136.25	1.25
KELANI CABLES	61,431	525.00	540.00	550.00	530.00	539.50	14.50
KELANI TYRES	120,164	84.10	84.80	85.80	83.20	84.80	0.70
KELANI VALLEY	216,071	77.70	77.80	78.50	73.10	75.70	(2.00)
KINGSBURY	289,976	8.50	8.70	8.70	8.40	8.50	0.00
KOTAGALA	1,370,160	7.90	7.80	8.00	7.80	7.90	0.00
L O L C HOLDINGS	273,665	1,187.00	1,200.00	1,210.00	1,150.75	1,163.50	(23.50)
LAKE HOUSE PRIN.	85	143.00	138.00	144.75	138.00	143.00	0.00
LANKA ALUMINIUM	1,821,233	28.80	29.30	31.10	29.30	29.90	1.10
LANKA ASHOK	7	709.00	692.00	708.75	692.00	709.00	0.00
LANKA HOSPITALS	15,483	54.10	54.50	55.90	54.00	54.00	(0.10)
LANKA IOC XD	6,172,188	37.60	38.00	48.00	38.00	45.60	8.00
LANKA TILES	362,120	109.50	112.00	115.00	110.00	112.75	3.25
LANKA WALLTILE	624,525	123.00	124.75	133.75	124.00	129.75	6.75
LANKEM DEV.	1,486,478	5.70	5.90	6.00	5.60	5.70	0.00
LAUGFS GAS	89,575	22.90	23.00	24.00	22.50	23.80	0.90
LAUGFS GAS [LGL.X0000]	43,455	15.10	15.10	17.00	15.00	16.80	0.90
LAXAPANA	746,372	16.10	16.70	17.60	15.50	17.00	0.90
LB FINANCE	83,993	64.70	64.00	64.80	63.50	64.10	(0.60)
LEE HEDGES	49,583	90.00	92.00	93.00	85.10	90.00	0.00
LION BREWERY	2	550.00	530.50	530.50	530.50	550.00	0.00
LMF	158,251	273.00	270.00	288.00	268.00	269.75	(3.25)
LVL ENERGY	55,103	10.50	10.50	10.70	10.50	10.70	0.20
MALWATTE	4,513	24.30	24.10	25.00	24.10	24.80	0.50
MALWATTE [MAL.X0000]	188	16.40	16.40	16.40	16.40	16.40	0.00
MELSTACORP	351,599	56.10	55.90	56.90	55.90	55.90	(0.20)
MERC. SHIPPING	716	99.80	113.50	113.50	110.75	110.75	(0.95)
MERCHANT BANK	106,303	6.10	6.20	6.20	6.00	6.00	(0.10)
MULLERS	1,516,624	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.60	1.70	(0.30)
MUNUNUKULA	4,310	359.25	346.00	360.00	346.00	356.75	(2.50)
NAT. DEV. BANK	101,453	70.50	71.00	72.00	70.60	70.80	0.30
NATIONS TRUST	43,387	55.40	56.00	56.00	55.00	55.10	(0.30)
NAWALOKA	356,916	9.80	9.60	9.90	9.60	9.70	(0.10)
NESTLE	393	1,223.25	1,245.00	1,245.00	1,221.00	1,237.50	14.25
OVERSEAS REALTY	529,587	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.30	18.30	(0.20)
PAN ASIA	727,516	16.00	16.00	16.00	15.60	15.70	(0.30)
PANASIAN POWER	316,898	5.50	5.60	5.60	5.40	5.50	0.00
PEOPLE'S INS	51,340	32.00	32.90	33.00	31.30	31.90	(0.10)
PEOPLES LEASING	825,113	10.80	10.80	10.90	10.70	10.70	(0.10)
PGP GLASS	309,295	18.20	18.30	18.70	18.20	18.40	0.20
PRINTCARE PLC	121,829	41.30	41.70	43.00	41.10	42.60	1.30
R I L PROPERTY	4,125,803	13.60	14.00	14.00	13.50	13.80	0.20
REGNIS	23,434	68.70	69.80	71.00	65.00	66.40	(2.30)
RENUKA AGRI	636,531	4.60	4.50	4.60	4.40	4.50	(0.10)
RENUKA CITY HOT.	10,083	294.75	294.50	315.00	294.50	300.50	5.75
RENUKA FOODS	31,305	18.70					

FEATURE

LANKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SHOWS GREAT ACCELERATION



Jan Kunigk is responsible for Marketing, Sales, Products and Solutions, Innovation, and External Affairs for the Cement entity and both business units, INSEE Concrete (Ready Mix) and Conwood by INSEE (innovate wood replacement products).

Prior to assuming duties at INSEE Cement Kunigk was Senior Vice President of publicly listed Holcim Indonesia where he transformed the company's culture from a product centric to a customer centric one. He was responsible for revenues exceeding USD 1 Bio with cement sales of 8 million tons.

Kunigk gained significant experience during his tenure at the Swiss Based Holcim Group where he held various senior management positions, such as Regional Head – Strategy and Business Development for South Asia/ASEAN region, Project leader and Senior Consultant for the Commercial Services Division, leading strategy, technical and commercial projects, and due diligences. He holds a master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Western Illinois University (USA) and a Diploma in European Business Studies from Bamberg University, Germany, concluding as Diplom Kaufmann. Jan is culturally diversified and has worked in many countries across Asia, Europe and the Americas.

INSEE Cement or Siam City Cement (Lanka) Limited, is a member of the Siam City Cement Public Company Limited (SCCC), a leading cement manufacturer in Southeast Asia, founded in 1969 in Thailand.

INSEE Cement is the first certified 'Green Cement' in Sri Lanka with the Green Labeling certification awarded by the Green Building Council and is the only fully integrated cement manufacturer in Sri Lanka and operates three key local facilities in Puttalam, Galle and Colombo.



“INSEE Cement in the midterm are planning to further expand capacity in Sri Lanka and would be focusing their investments towards digitalization to help advance the local construction industry as well,” said Executive Vice President, Sales, Marketing and Innovation at INSEE Cement, Jan Kunigk.

Commenting on the cement prices he said that it will depend on global benchmarks, market competition, production capacities and the ability by manufacturers. “With the C-19 we saw a global drop in cement sales and production and we now witness a rapid return of the cement market's demand and growth to pre-pandemic levels.”

Today Jan Kunigk speaks to **Daily News Business EXPAT CHIT CHAT.**



Q: How do you review your operations in Sri Lanka during the COVID pandemic?

A: Looking back at 2020, if the pandemic made one thing clear – it is that INSEE Cement was equipped to successfully adapt fast. Despite the significant impact COVID-19 had on the market, we were able to transform the way we did business in more ways than one. Our priority first and foremost was to ensure our employees, their families and their communities remained healthy and safe. Once our safety-first policy was implemented, we moved on to three actionable strategies that enabled us to succeed in 2020, which we carried forward to 2021:

Disrupt - We set a new precedent by disrupting the status quo, and adapting to new ways of doing things. We took the time to identify opportunities **Evolve** – We evolved our products and solutions while also advancing our employees skills and knowledge to meet the demands of unprecedented market conditions. **Challenge** – We challenged ourselves in a recovering market, operating at full capacity to meet growing demand. INSEE Cement was the first to get safely back on the roads and back to business during COVID-19, resulting in record breaking sales. We had great support from all government authorities to make this happen.

Q: What are your expansion plans for 2022-2023?

A: We are focusing our immediate to near future investments towards digitalization, to influence and advance the local construction industry with digital tools, technology and solutions. More investment in non-traditional marketing channels is bound to create more future-proof, engaging and tailored consumer experiences. While embracing digital transformation, we also remain true to our commitment to continuously innovate greener, sustainable construction solutions, which has been key to our success not only during the pandemic but also over the years. In the midterm we are planning to further expand capacity in Sri Lanka.

Q: How are the global market trends for Cement and prices?

A: While the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 saw a global drop in cement sales and production due to immediate health and safety measures across the world, we have witnessed a remarkably rapid return of the cement market's demand and growth to pre-pandemic levels. According to a recently published global cement market report, a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 5% is forecasted for the global cement market during 2021 – 2026.

Developing countries such as Sri Lanka are showing increased investments in infrastructure and urbanization projects, while globally the market trend remains on eco-friendly, sustainable construction practices. The cement prices will depend on global benchmarks, market competition, production capacities and the ability for manufacturers to meet this growing demand.

Q: How is it to work with Sri Lankan staff with the language barrier if there is any?

A: There is no language barrier when it comes to the

professional work environment and employee engagement practices that we have mastered over the years. INSEE Cement Sri Lanka, has for nearly 20 years been part of a multinational group. This gave us the luxury of a team that was already assimilated to multinational management and leadership. Our Sri Lankan team is highly skilled, extremely hard working and proactively engaged in addressing local industry challenges. It is this nation-mindedness that afforded us the loyalty of the Sri Lankan consumer, and to remain the no.1 player in the market. Our employees also have the opportunity to work and collaborate with our other companies. Overall, the English literature is high.

Q: How important is CSR to a company?

A: CSR is very important for companies that set a precedent, as industry leaders should. At INSEE, we believe in addressing our business needs alongside the needs of our operating communities and environments. We are the largest and leading cement manufacturer in Sri Lanka, and we invest in industry-transforming sustainable construction solutions alongside the sustainable development of our local communities to create shared values for all our stakeholders. Sustainability has become a defining part of our responsibility and corporate identity, and over the years we have worked diligently to incorporate sustainability into everything we do, and the way we operate.

The INSEE Sustainability Ambition 2030 is a comprehensive, long-term, group-wide strategy that helps us to achieve social, economic and environmental sustainability goals across five areas of focus: Climate & Energy, Biodiversity & Water, & Circular Economy, Community & Stakeholder Engagement, and Occupational Health & Safety standards. With clear targets, strategies and mapped timelines, we are hopeful that our actions and decisions reflect INSEE Cement's commitment to attentively and sustainably 'build the nation' and 'Build for Life'.

Q: How is the local infrastructure in general and what areas need improvement?

A: Sri Lanka's infrastructure development has shown a great amount of acceleration over the past few years. I'm also proud to note that many of Sri Lanka's iconic infrastructure development projects bare the INSEE name; the Kotmale Hydro Power Station, Mattala International Airport, Kallady Bridge, Hambantota Port, the Harbours at Dikowita and Valachchenai, and the Southern highway to name a few. There are many more projects in progress right now and I am excited to see how Sri Lanka is shaping up for the future. Great to see, a significant positive change is visible at many government authorities. Digital applications and processes were implemented in many areas making it easier and much faster.

Q: How do you review the work visa for foreigners and what improvements are needed in this segment?

A: I have been an expat in Sri Lanka for 4 years and have found the conditions favorable for my profession. Some challenges may have arisen during the outbreak of the pandemic, but I trust all work visas and procedures are now falling back in place as the country recovers.

Q: How do you see Sri Lankan culture?

A: There is a very rich, vibrant cultural diversity here in Sri Lanka, something that I have treasured, learnt from and enjoyed alongside my work here. It's a traditional cultural landscape steeped in religion, authenticity and deep-rooted history with colonial impact. From performing arts to architecture, from traditional celebrations to the cuisine, I have enjoyed every aspect of it. It is something unique to Sri Lanka and its people, and I appreciate the opportunity I have to immerse myself in this culture while working in Sri Lanka.

Q: What are places of interest for you in Sri Lanka for leisure?

A: I love beaches and water (of which you have plenty) but also upcountry

Q: What do you miss most by staying in Sri Lanka?

A: While I really love the tropical weather here in Sri Lanka, what I miss most about home is the snow. Winters were cold but cozy, with plenty of holiday spirit to go along with it.

NSB shines with Silver at CA Sri Lanka Annual Reports Awards

National Savings Bank (NSB) has bagged the Silver Award, jointly under the State Banks' category for its Annual Report 2020 themed "Playing our part: True to our word and dear to your heart" at the 56th CA Sri Lanka Annual Reports Awards ceremony held at the BMICH recently.

NSB has been continuously recognized and rewarded for its commitment towards the best practices in annual reporting among various corporations, small companies, government agencies, non-profit organizations and associations as well as agencies from different sectors and industries who had participated in the competitions.

The Bank's success is reflected in our Annual Report and it is heartening to note that our hardwork has been



The Chairperson of the National Savings Bank Keasila Jayawardena receives the award from Ranil T. Wijesinghe, Past President of CA Sri Lanka. K. Raveendran, Senior Deputy General Manager, National Savings Bank, Ajith Peiris, General Manager and CEO, National Savings Bank, Chamila Cooray and Member of the Governing Council CA Sri Lanka.

recognized through this Award. The award validates our commitment towards creating value for all our stakeholders, improved commu-

nication on our performance, strategy, prospects and corporate governance in a timely, reliable and transparent manner. We are dedicating our

success to all our stakeholders, including those of our customers and the State as the sole shareholder and our employees.

People's Bank bags Silver at CA Sri Lanka Annual Reports Awards

People's Bank won the Silver award, jointly under the State Banks Category for its Annual Report 2020 themed "Pride of the Nation" at the 56th CA Sri Lanka Annual Reports Awards.

The award was received by People's Bank Chairman Sujeeva Rajapakse at the award ceremony held recently at the BMICH. The ceremony was held under the patronage of Viraj Dayaratne, President's Counsel, and Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka, Manil Jayasinghe, President of CA Sri Lanka, Dumith Fernando, Chairman of the Colombo Stock Exchange, Sanjaya Bandara, Vice President



People's Bank Chairman Sujeeva Rajapakse receives the award.

of CA Sri Lanka, Chaaminda Kumarasiri, Chairman of the Annual Report Awards Committee; Chamila Cooray, Alternate Chair of the Annual Report Awards Committee, Rajeeva Bandaranaike,

Chief Executive Officer of the Colombo Stock Exchange and Dulani Fernando, Chief Executive Officer of CA Sri Lanka.

Over 70 companies, ranging from conglomerates, multinationals to

non-profit organizations, and SMEs, were honoured at the event for their excellence in financial reporting and for promoting transparency, accountability, good governance and social responsibility.

Dankotuwa Porcelain wins big at Presidential Export Awards

Dankotuwa Porcelain, renowned for its luxurious and elegant porcelain tableware, was adjudged and acclaimed by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board as the Best Exporter in the Porcelain and Ceramic Products category for the years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 consecutively.

Globally recognized for its luxurious and elegant porcelain tableware, one with remarkable whiteness that radiates a sense of pristine beauty, Dankotuwa Porcelain continues to win the hearts of millions in Sri Lanka and around the world.

"It is with great pleasure that I accept this award on behalf of the Management and team of Dankotuwa" stated Channa Gunawardana, Chief Executive Officer of Dankotuwa Porcelain.

"The Pandemic has been tough on all industries and working through this has been a daunting task. However, as an organization that identifies opportunities immaterial of the circumstances, Dankotuwa will continue expanding its presence by creating sustainable partnerships across the markets it chooses to operate. This award is a testimony of the commitment and perseverance of many

stakeholders; hence the award is dedicated to all staff and other key stakeholders" Gunawardana concluded.

A subsidiary of Ambeon Holdings, Dankotuwa Porcelain commenced its commercial operations in 1984. From exceptional craftsmanship, personalized designs and endless options, the company continues to create timeless and modern collection of porcelain-ware for customers across 50 countries producing fine quality porcelain and tableware for prestigious international brand names such as Debenhams, Portmerion, Onecida, House of Fraser, John Lewis, Jashan-

mal, Jumbo Retail, Joules, Crate and Barrel, Country Road, Laduree, Notneutral, XXX Lutz, Lenox, Porsgrund, Fischer, Ripley, Thun, Narumi, Berghoff, Yalco, Weissstaland Migross. As a result, Dankotuwa Porcelain has been instrumental in significantly expanding the profile of Sri Lankan porcelain tableware, taking it to new heights worldwide.

The Company has the unparalleled distinction of being the first tableware manufacturer in Sri Lanka to obtain the relevant ISO certification, thus maintaining high quality standards.



Channa Gunawardana, Chief Executive Officer of Dankotuwa Porcelain receives the awards for the Best Exporter in the Porcelain and Ceramic Products category for the years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 from Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardana.

Thai Sumedha wins World Int'l Awards



Sumeda Elpitiya, Chairman of Thai Sumeda Enterprises receives the award from the Chief Guest, Minister of Irrigation, Chamal Rajapaksa.

Thai Sumeda, a leading manufacturer, distributor and an exporter of incense sticks in Sri Lanka was awarded the 'Entrepreneur of the year 2020' Platinum Award, at the USA Business World International Awards 2020 (BWIO) held at the hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo, recently.

Thai Sumeda Chairman, Sumeda Elpitiya, received the award on behalf of the company. This is the second consecutive year that Thai Sumeda was recognized for this award presented by the organizers, BWIO, USA. The company has also been recognized globally and locally at several other occasions too.

Thai Sumeda has provided many job opportunities to unemployed locals and has been exporting their products worldwide and bringing foreign exchange to their motherland.

TCL20 Pro 5G secures CES 2022 Innovation Award

Consumer Electronic Show (CES) the most influential tech event in the world, is a proving ground for breakthrough technologies and global innovators. It's where the world's biggest brands do business and meet new partners and the sharpest innovators hit the stage.

TCL's next-generation smartphone flagship, the TCL 20 Pro 5G offering awe-inspiring visuals with true-to-life color, clarity and contrast across its powerful 6.67-inch AMOLED display has been selected as the CES 2022 Innovation Award Honoree.

TCL 20 Pro 5G comes with the upgrade NEXTVISION, advanced display optimization technology which is an exclusive experience showcasing sharper details and greater contrast boosting colour accuracy to enhance the user's real-life visual experience while offering elevated levels of eye protection to reduce eye strain and it boasts the TÜV Rheinland low blue light certification. It offers revolutionary speeds, faster streaming, quicker downloads, and enhanced AI features with its Qualcomm Snapdragon



processor. Both front and back-facing cameras leverage premium Sony IMX sensors, accompanied by Optical Image Stabilization technology and Backlight Selfie mode.

Equipped with a mega 256GB memory and 4500mAh battery, TCL 20 Pro 5G ensures consumer's that they won't have to charge up or delete anything from this smartphone any time soon. A dual matte and glossy finish provides a balanced design that's sleek in the hand. The matte and glossy finish with horizontally oriented features

mirrors the duality of the sea meeting the sky in Marine Blue and Moondust Gray, the dual-sided 3D glass and an embedded camera provide complete seamlessness you can feel for a premium in-hand experience that's as smooth as TCL 20 Pro 5G looks.

CES showcases companies including manufacturers, developers and suppliers of consumer technology

hardware, content, technology delivery systems and more. It also includes a conference program where the world's business leaders and pioneering thinkers address the industry's most relevant issues.

Singer recently launched the TCL 20 series in the Sri Lankan market and the recognition of the TCL 20 Pro 5G at the Consumer Electronic Show (CES) 2022, as the Innovator Award Honoree will enable them to build more trust within their consumers.

AIMG to host Marketers' Night today

The Association of International Marketing Graduates (AIMG) announced the launch of Marketers' Night 2021, to be held on December 15, 2021, at The Atrium, Cinnamon Grand Colombo, providing Marketers based within Sri Lanka a prime networking opportunity to connect with true veterans of the industry and connect with like-minded industry movers and shakers.

The event which aims to offer Marketers across the board a platform to network will celebrate the resilience and perseverance many professionals have embodied during the unprecedented times the world continues to face.

Speaking Chairman, AIMG Sujith Silva said; "I am pleased to announce that we are going ahead with Marketers' Night 2021. The evening is bound to be one for the mar-comm history books. We look forward to welcoming so many famous names in marketing as the event becomes a memorable night full of inspiring moments, seeds of innovation and budding partnerships yet to come. AIMG is known for its outstanding programmes and events that are organized with the specific intent of providing marketers with opportunities to grow and develop, leveraging the international expertise and knowledge we have at our disposal."

The Association of International Marketing Graduates (AIMG) was established in July 2020 by veterans of the marketing industry boasting over three decades of expertise and experience, with its main focus to create a dynamic and professional association with international marketing qualifications, connecting young and senior members to create a platform for knowledge sharing via workshops, programmes and various other activities. Its objective remains to aid Sri Lanka-based marketers to stay at the forefront of their professions and the market.

Liudas Kanapienis honored in Colombo

Lithuanian fintech expert and entrepreneur, Liudas Kanapienis, was recently awarded the US based Global Academy of Finance and Management (GAFM) Certification 'Master Fintech Professional' for his contributions towards the fintech sector in Lithuania, at the 'Lithuanian Fintech Meet-up' which was recently held at Hatch in Colombo.

Liudas is an entrepreneur with over 15 years' experience in digital banking, Fin-

tech, AML/KYC procedures, licensing and legal issues. In 2020, Liudas was nominated as Fintech Leader of the Year presented by Fintech Week Lithuania Awards 2020! He is one of the most active personalities in the Lithuanian fintech world.

'Lithuanian Fintech Meetup' was organised by the Fintech Association of Sri Lanka (FASL) in collaboration with Lithuanian Embassy in New Delhi and HatchX, Sri Lanka's pioneer fintech accelerator.



Liudas receives the certification from Julius Pranevicius, Lithuanian Ambassador (for India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan) in the presence of (L-R): Sharhan Muhseen (Senior Investment Banker), Rajkumar Kanagasingam (President, FASL), Laura Guobuzaitė (Head, Fintech Lithuania), Ananda Jayalath (Assistant Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka) and Tissa Jayaweera (Vice President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce).

Condominium Management Authority presents Annual Report to Sate Minister

Condominium Management Authority (CMA) Chairman Sarana Karunaratne, presented its first copy of the Annual Report 2020 to State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness Dr. Nalaka Godahewa and the Secretary to the Ministry Sirinimal Perera recently. The General Manager of CMA Dr. Indunil Liyanage also participated for this occasion.

According to "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" policy statement of the President, Government has a pledge to provide a house to each family in the country and in line with that CMA has planned several activities to regulate and monitor common amenities and common elements in condo-

miniums of Government and private sector.

In line with "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" policy statement of the President, CMA has taken steps to reduce its certificate issuing fees for Government sector condominiums which are over 5001 square feet to provide that benefit to its unit owners.

According to the act, CMA will play a significant role in the development of Port City. A plan has been developed by CMA for the Port City development activities under "One Stop Shop" concept introduced by UDA to expedite the approval process within a short period of time to meet foreign and local investor demands.

The year 2020 was an exceptional year where every citizen in this country and globally had to experience the

bitterness of Covid-19 pandemic and the construction industry in the country also faced a down turn and a standstill during this period. It was a very challenging year for CMA in terms of tough economic conditions due to Covid-19 pandemic and the country was locked down twice during 2020.

CMA achieved a Rs.203 million income which was 2.6% over 2019 and the operational expenses was brought down by 8% compared to 2019. Net profit (PAT) for 2020 was Rs.32.96 million which was 80% increase compared to 2019 achievement of Rs.18.19 million, during the period December 31, 2020.

CMA has achieved excellent financial results by superseding its budget as of October 31 2021, achieved revenue of Rs.304 million and a net profit

of 142.1 million and brought down the cost below the budget 2021. Also CMA donated Rs.10 million in 2020 to the Covid-19 fund as its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) towards the nation. A 5 year Corporate Plan, Action Plan, Budget, Procurement Plan, Delegated Authority and Audit Plan for 2021 were completed in December 2020 with the participation of the senior management team of CMA.

CMA provided its assistance to the Sri Lanka Tourist Board to draft their regulations for "service apartment" concept in the country.

CMA also is in the process of identifying the dilapidated Government and private sector condominiums for the redevelopment which are over 40 years of establishment.



Chairman CMA Sarana Karunaratna presents a copy of the Annual Reports 2020 to State Minister Dr. Nalaka Godahewa

People's Bank opens at DIE

People's Bank has stepped forward to support the Department of Immigration and Emigration (DIE) by establishing a new banking counter at 'Suhurupaya', Battaramulla recently.

This initiative was taken with the aim of supporting the Central Bank of Sri Lanka's ongoing efforts to boost the country's foreign reserves by offering migrant workers access to safe, official remittance channels from the time they obtain new passports or renew their passports in order to leave for jobs abroad.

Chief Guest of the opening ceremony Ajith Nivard Cabraal Governor of the Central Bank commented, "A lot of Sri Lankans go overseas for jobs and send their hard-earned money to Sri Lanka. Sometimes they face issues when remitting money. So we thought we should provide the opportunity for them to open an account as they obtain their passports at the passport office which they can operate with greater ease and trust when sending money to their



Governor at the opening

families from abroad. The Controller of Immigration and Emigration, his staff, the officials at the Central Bank and at other relevant banks worked in unison to establish their counters here just within a week. This shows that government institutions can collaborate with the private sector and quickly accomplish any task for the benefit of the country and its people. Our hard-

working migrant workforce will enjoy the convenience and reliability of this service. As a result of it, more foreign money will flow into the country and the nation will reap benefits from it."

Remittances from Sri Lankan Foreign workers have been a vital component of Sri Lanka's foreign currency earnings, boosting the economy as well as the

country's ability to withstand external sector resilience. Statistics reveal that Sri Lankan foreign workers' remittances have covered around 80% of the annual trade deficit over the past two decades. Strengthening foreign remittance inflows to the country brings significant socio-economic benefits including the steady supply of forex inflows to the formal banking system, which in turn helps in the smooth functioning of the country's Banking Industry.

Given the importance of Foreign Remittances to the country, in early November, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka established a new Department named 'Foreign Remittances Facilitation Department' to facilitate and streamline workers' remittances inflows to the country.

People's Bank Colombo Outer Regional Manager Lal Peiris, Battaramulla Branch Manager Lasantha Ranathunga, bank staff members and customers participated in the occasion.

BOC opens Smart Zone at Navy Camp Panama

(Text and Picture by: T.L.M.RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Correspondent)

Bank of Ceylon Smart Zone was opened at the Navy camp premises in Panama in the Ampara district for the convenience of the customers recently. The Bank of Ceylon Eastern Province Assistant General Manager W.M.A. Wanigasekara who was the chief guest on this occasion opened the Smart Zone.



Officials at the opening.

The ceremony was presided over by Bank of Ceylon Pottuvil Branch Manager S.P. Kiritharan. The Panama Navy Camp

Commanding Officer Captain Ethige Milan Randika Silva, Executive Officer Commander Susiri Nirosha and others were present at the opening.

Sampath IT, Affiniti Innovations partners for synergy drive

Sampath IT Solutions, a fully owned subsidiary of Sampath Bank PLC, providing IT products and services to corporates recently announced a strategic partnership with Affiniti Innovations for a synergy drive.

Affiniti Innovations is a new joint venture between David Pieris Holdings and Avonet Technologies.

Affiniti Innovations Chairman Heshana Kuruppu, said, "We are determined to promote the Affiniti suites of solutions in the global markets. It is great to see these time tested and home-grown products are now getting ready to compete in overseas markets. We have a dedicated team passionate



Thilina Kumarapathirana, Mangala Rodrigo and Heshana Kuruppu

of taking the Affinitisolutions to the next level. We strongly believe in synergy as a way to progress. This is the strategy we plan to adopt in regional markets and we have also selected a few reputed local IT service firms to expand our business locally."

Joining Sampath IT Solutions to promote

Affiniti Solutions is an important milestone in our journey towards excellence. The knowledge acquired and relationships they have built with their valued clients will be very useful in implementing our solutions, said ThilinaKumarapathirana, Director/CEO of Affiniti Innovations.

Affiniti Delinquency

Management System and Customer Relationship Management Solution are used by many large corporate firms in Sri Lanka. Some of their valued clients include Dialog Axiata Group, Sampath Bank, LB Finance, Vallibel Finance, HNB Finance, HDFC Bank and Pan Asia Bank. The company has active open innovation

initiatives with several leading universities. With artificial intelligence (AI) based features, Affiniti solutions will soon be ready to compete in regional markets.

It is quite exciting to work with Affiniti Innovations by adding value to their CRM solution suite to our existing clients who will certainly see value in them said Mangala Rodrigo, CEO of Sampath IT Solutions. "In our quest of offering the best to our valued clients, we see it is strategically important to collaborate with Affiniti Innovations as they have appealing solutions that are being used by large firms in BFSI and telco sectors.

Festive Season with Union Assurance at One Galle Face Mall

Union Assurance, will be providing free health check-ups to people who visit its stall at the lower ground level at One Galle Face (OGF) between December 10-12.

Moreover, stay tuned for a big bash with Union Assurance Brand Ambassadors Bathiya and Santhush on December 22.

Identifying the importance of the health of its customers, Union Assurance's customer-centric insurance advisors will provide customised solutions to suit any requirement in order to lay a solid foundation for a financially independent future. Furthermore, with a HEALTH 360 solution, consumers now have the liberty to obtain the best treatment for their loved ones and themselves.

HEALTH 360 gives consumers the ease of a single solution for the entire family's health needs with comprehensive coverage for hospital charges, surgery, medication, maternity services, physicians, dental and optical services. It offers the highest age limit for a health rider covering up to 75 years, with a cover limit of up to Rs. 60 million per year.

Union Assurance has always prioritised its commitments towards helping its customers achieve the best in life through its strong protection, education, health, investment and retirement insurance portfolio.

To stay connected and relevant to the new-age customer, the stall, which is driven by innovation

and technology will allow people to receive all health reports and details about solutions via digital platforms. All our insurance advisors will be ready to provide the best solution delivery and service experience.

Union Assurance is a part of the John Keells Group, one of Sri Lanka's largest listed conglomerates. It is among the most awarded Insurance companies in Sri Lanka, completing over three decades of success with a market capitalization of Rs. 16.6 billion, a Life Fund of Rs. 45.3 billion and a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 300% as of June 2021.



Invitation for Bids (IFB)



SRI LANKA TRANSPORT BOARD (SLTB)

BID FOR THE SUPPLY OF SPRING BLADES

SLTB/TS/GEN/SPRING BLADES/2020

1. The Chairman, SLTB Procurement Committee, invites sealed Bids up to 10.30 a.m. on 05.01.2022 for the Supply of Spring Blades from Manufacturers / Accredited Agents of Manufacturers of Spring Blades. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased from the Secretary, SLTB Procurement Committee, No. 200, Kirula Road, Colombo 05 by paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 12,500 from 15.12.2021 to 04.01.2022 during the office hours (9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days).

Description	Bid Security (Rs.)
Supply of Spring Blades required for the bus fleet of SLTB for an year on minimum 45 days credit basis	750,000/=

- Manufacturers / Accredited Agents of Manufacturers of Spring Blades for omni buses are eligible to bid. Manufacturers should have at least 03 years experience in manufacturing of Spring Blades for omni buses.
- Domestic preference shall be a bid evaluation factor.
- Bids shall be valid up to 06.04.2022. However quoted prices shall be fixed for a period of one (01) year.
- Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security for the value mentioned above valid till 05.05.2022, irrevocable & unconditionally encashable upon the first written request by SLTB and issued by a registered commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka or an Insurance Agency registered with the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka. Any Bid not accompanied by a valid Bid Security will be rejected.
- (a) Any person who acts as an Agent or Sub Agent, representative or nominee for or on behalf of any Bidder shall register himself before submission of bids with the Registrar of Public Contracts, Sri Lanka as required by the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987. The Original Certificate of registration shall be submitted with the bid. The Bids of those Bidders who failed to submit such Original Certificate shall be rejected.
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The man directed well over 30 films, but to me he will always be remembered for four: *Magnificent Obsession*, *All That Heaven Allows*, *Written on the Wind*, and *Imitation of Life*. Of these only *Imitation of Life* had been filmed before, a lacklustre adaptation which hardly deserves comparisons with Sirk's version. Three of them featured Rock Hudson, back then the heartthrob of the American big screen, and two of them paired him with Jane Wyman, Ronald Reagan's first wife. Though I rank *Written on the Wind*, which features Hudson but not Wyman, as the best of them, the two that paired them - *Magnificent Obsession* and *All That Heaven Allows* - were what really established Sirk in the US.

MADAPATHA CHINTAKA

One of the most talked about soap operas of all time, *Dynasty* hit Sri Lankan screens in the 1980s. Sponsored by Singer, its screening entranced hundreds of thousands, at a time when television was just becoming established across the country. In his book on advertising in Sri Lanka the anthropologist Steven Kemper notes that this revealed a shift in cultural attitudes among the urban and suburban middle-class. An unabashed showcase of American business and capitalism and also a critique of them, *Dynasty* changed the US television culture almost as much as it did the Sri Lankan pop culture. Though limited to English speaking audiences, it had a lasting impact. Television was never going to be the same here.

The basic premise in *Dynasty* is, of course, the dilemmas of a rich American oil family. The theme has been used countless times by other serials, soap operas, and films that *Dynasty* became a trendsetter. Though preceded by such television shows as *Dallas*, it epitomised the times it was in and was of. Yet to say that is to admit that it too was influenced much by series and films going back two or three decades. Arguably the most influential among them was *Written on the Wind*, a 1956 film directed by Douglas Sirk.

EMOTIONALLY VOLATILE

Like the television serial it inspired decades later, *Written on the Wind* is about a rich oil family, made up of a world-weary patriarch, his emotionally volatile son, his nymphomaniac daughter, and another more kindly adopted son. The story revolves around a woman who enters their lives, the romantic triangle that she inadvertently forms between the son and his adopted brother, and the tensions this generates between the latter and the sex-hungry and sex-starved sister who had a crush on him. The movie climaxes with two deaths: that of the father and of a crucial character. Though it ends on an elegiac note, much like *Dynasty* it flaunts the wealth of its characters without embracing their values.

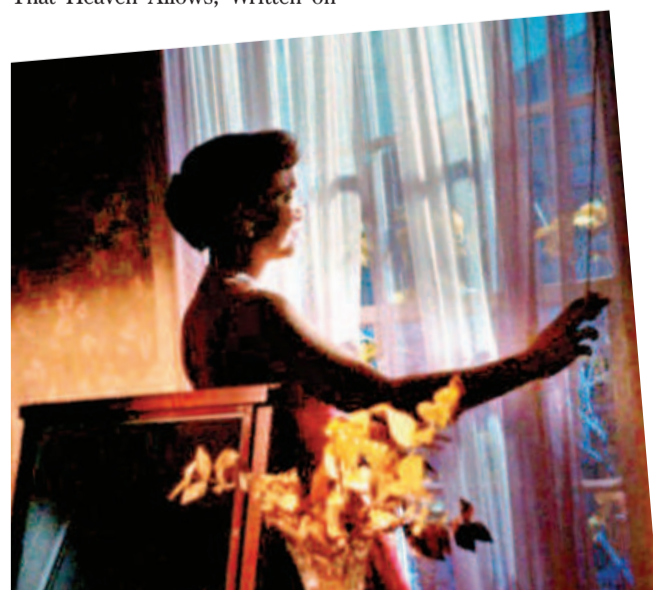
When it first came out, *Written on the Wind* puzzled critics. This was at the heyday of the Eisenhower presidency, when everything seemed alright for everyone and everyone seemed better off than ever before. Sirk's film, however, appeared to lampoon a way of life popular audiences had got used to and were content with. The question was, why?

Critics wondered whether the film valorised American society or satirised it. Roger Ebert correctly pointed out that the story was full of artifice and excess because it critiqued the excesses of American materialism, but this assessment was made 40 years later. At the time people felt confused. While retrospective reviews have elevated the standing of the film, not surprisingly, upon its release not a few critics tore it to shreds.

RICH PROTAGONIST

Douglas Sirk made a career out of melodramas. You know the sort I am talking about: a rich girl or guy befriends a poor guy or girl, society looks down on both, and the rich protagonist has to make a choice between giving into the demands of one's society and giving into one's feelings. This is more or less the story of *All That Heaven Allows*, Sirk's most loved film, but it is also at one level the plot of Eric Segal's *Love Story*. The man influenced the melodrama so much, his hand is present everywhere, in every other melodrama out there.

The man directed well over 30 films, but to me he will always be remembered for four: *Magnificent Obsession*, *All That Heaven Allows*, *Written on the Wind*, and *Imitation of Life*.



DOUGLAS SIRK AND THE AMERICAN DREAM



the *Wind*, and *Imitation of Life*. Of these only *Imitation of Life* had been filmed before, a lacklustre adaptation which hardly deserves comparisons with Sirk's version. Three of them featured Rock Hudson, back then the heartthrob of the American big screen, and two of them paired him with Jane Wyman, Ronald Reagan's first wife. Though I rank *Written on the Wind*, which features Hudson but not Wyman, as the best of them, the two that paired them - *Magnificent Obsession* and *All That Heaven Allows* - were what really established Sirk in the US.

For Sirk was not an American, less so a Hollywood man. Born at the turn of the century in Hamburg, he went on to become the leading stage director in Germany. Yet with the onset of Nazi rule, he fled the country for the US, returning to it after the War and returning to the US again some years later. It was with his return to the US, after a brief hiatus in the land of his birth, that he started making the tearjerkers for which he is known today.

These melodramas are quite unlike those which used to pass for that genre. Until Sirk's entry, the romantic melodrama served to legitimise and reinforce popular audiences' faith in their world. In effect these movies legitimised a certain way of life.

ORIGINAL IMITATION

Palpably of a different mould, Sirk used the same tropes that directors of melodrama had been using for about three decades to invert this faith in that culture and country. What he brought about with these four masterworks, in other words, was no less than a snide critique of American materialism. This is why his stories are about class conflict, and why the most perceptive of these four films, *Imitation of Life*, revolves around not class but racial conflict, years before the Civil Rights Movement picked up.

Sirk basically used the tropes of the romantic melodrama to unearth and critique the very society romantic melodramas had revolved around for so many decades. One notices this well if one compares the original *Imitation of Life* with Sirk's adaptation. The latter is full of grandiloquent set designs and majestic music, no doubt far in excess of what is needed for a story about a white woman and her daughter befriend a black woman and her daughter. Yet look deeper, and you will find that these grand visions are pivotal to the themes in the story, which are essentially about the hollowness of American society, the racism and the classism underlying it, and the dismal, poignant fate of the few who go up against it. The one more or less contrasts with the other, offering audiences a rich cinematic melange.

In framing it this way, Sirk didn't just reinvent an entire genre, he pushed its boundaries and linked it to other genres. Though hardly acknowledged as the father of the soap opera now, *Written on the Wind* is at one level its definitive prototype. *Magnificent Obsession* and *All That Heaven Allows* compare well with countless romantic tearjerkers that have become the staple of cinema halls and television screens today. *Magnificent Obsessions* is about a selfish playboy and the lives he changes. *All That Heaven Allows* is about a wealthy widow and her gardener. There is a sequence in the latter of the widow being invited and introduced to her gardener's world, a world away and apart from hers. It almost predicts the episode in James Cameron's *Titanic* where Jack introduces Rose to the third-class cabin.

Even though directors of romantic melodramas pay tribute to Sirk's genius, very few among them exploit the genre the way Sirk did. Among them, Todd Haynes stands at the top. The director of *Carol*, in its own way as much a devastating critique of the upper middle-class as any movie by Sirk, Haynes paid a direct tribute to the man with *Far From Heaven*. A subtle retreat of *All That Heaven Allows*, *Far From Heaven* revisits its plot while substituting a poor black gardener for the white gardener, opening the story to tensions which never really get resolved. Here he goes well beyond his influence: while Sirk ends *All That Heaven Allows* on a diffidently happy note, in *Far From Heaven* Haynes denies even that possibility.

Watching Douglas Sirk's films today, I realise how hopelessly sentimental we have become. It is a testament to his prowess that he didn't as much innovate on a genre as reinvent it. In doing so, he made it possible for us to be sentimental about movies while being discerning: to enjoy romantic trash while seeing through its artifice and its excesses.

Did we have our own Douglas Sirk? I am tempted to point at Vasantha Obeyesekere, who used the tropes of the popular cinema to subvert them. But unlike Sirk, Obeyesekere never got melodramatic in what he was doing: his stories are tragedies of the sort Sirk would not have touched, simply because they would have upended the melodramatic intentions of his stories. It is difficult to subvert the genre the way Sirk did. But then even in the pantheon of the American cinema, there has always been only one of his kind.

CHANNA BANDARA WIJEKOON

A poet's life is often a complicated one. Many world renowned poets irrespective of their gender tend to have somewhat dreamy lives involving failed marriages, homosexuality or indulgence in extreme carnal pleasures.

The whole world knows of poet, diplomat, senator and Nobel prize winner Pablo Neruda and his poetic masterpieces. His collection of love poems done in young age named 'Twenty Love Poems and A Desperate Song' was controversial for its extreme eroticism. He was also an intellectual who mingled with world renowned political figures and had a hand in world politics.

But very few know that Neruda had a short stint in Ceylon (Known as British Ceylon at the time) as well at the age of 25 in 1929.

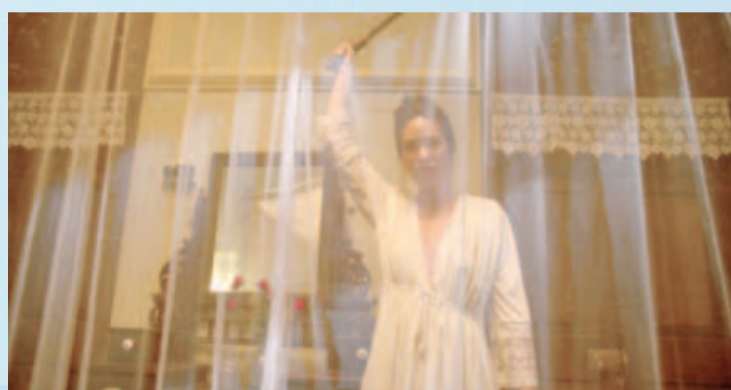
Asoka Handagama has carefully studied Neruda's life to design the plot for his latest film, 'Alborada' (The dawning of the day) associating with 1929 era. 'Alborada' is produced by H D Premasiri the founder of Sarasavi Bookshop.

Though Neruda's love poems externally sound romantic, they hide within them deceiving and objectifying women and particularly women of 'colour'. Handagama has used this aspect as the unique selling proposition of his film. Thus the director for his gripping screenplay has taken the essence of Neruda's perverted nature. The storyline blends with the picturesque backdrops of ancient Ceylon and its people. (One could even observe George Stewart's old building and the like shown in 1929 Colombo city). Being a free thinker and an innovator, this time around Handagama has made his film in English with Sinhala sub titles. It is also a smart market development tactic.

Neruda had often faced poverty and this fact is brought to the surface only via dialogues in the film. (Once he tells a friend, some months he isn't even paid for his job as a Consul due to lack of funds.)

In ancient Ceylon and until recent times there lived a Tamil community who were untouchables. They could be seen as small groups in towns seated on wayside terraces in daytime expecting some handy work. They were mostly needed by the citizens to clean their toilet pits and standalone toilets. Handagama sheds light on the lives of

DEVILISH DESIRES OF A POET



these people in his film in a very creative manner.

Neruda forcibly involves with such outcast girl to fulfill his sexual fetish. When he rapes the girl, the Parvati statue is seen in the background clad in the red silk fabric which Neruda tried to gift this girl once. In the rape scene the girl's makeup resembles God Parvati and it is shown in a close-up shot. With these notions the viewer is provoked to think

more.

Why was Neruda attracted to this 'untouchable' girl? Was it because of her dark complexion, messy disposition, hairy armpits or because of her heroin looks? Was Neruda a pervert? Did he have a liking towards race-based sexual fantasies? Was he a person passionate in making love to multiracial women of

so-called low cast communities? These are basically the facts discussed in the film. The statue of Parvati, the god of fertility from Indian folklore and the local Devil mask is used artistically by the director to arouse imagination of the viewer.

Pablo Neruda (Luis Romero) comes to British Ceylon after a traumatic relationship that had changed romantic love into a passionate obsession. He wants to bury those memories. Yet his lonely Burmese lover Josie Bliss follows him to his hiding place in Ceylon. Neruda calls her a 'love terrorist' or a Burmese panther. But she tells someone when asked who she is, "I am Pablo's desire." Josie is played by Anne Solenne Hatte. She basically lives in the character.

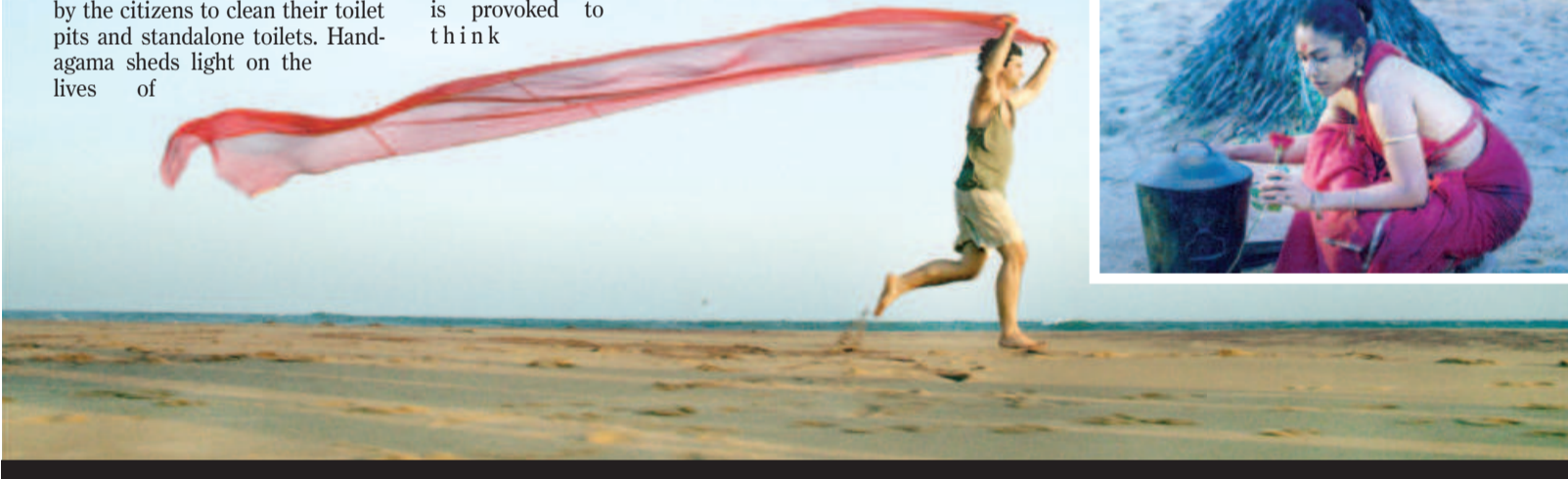
Neruda meanwhile continues experimenting love escapades with a slender white girl and also desires to make love to a low cast Ceylonese Tamil girl.

Dominic Keller adds a joyful nature to the whole story with his unique performance as Pablo Neruda's friend. (He is subtly shown as a gay person). Malcolm Machado's name is often tagged with Handagama's films and this time around too it has joined the bandwagon to portray one of the most striking characters in the film, the character of low cast damsel.

Channa Deshapriya has done a marvel capturing scenes in the perfect manner to add much value to Handagama's creation. Art direction lets us glide back to the said era with ease. Ajith Kumarasiri's music direction elevates the story to a different level. The eerie female voice that blends with Devil drumming would give someone goosebumps.

From being a scholar, playwright and a tele drama director Asoka Handagama has come a long way evolving to become a credible filmmaker. His earlier film 'Ege Esa Aga' (Let her Cry) clearly showcased how he has evolved as a filmmaker. 'Alborada' (The dawning of the day) brings him to the helm of his career as a film director.

The film itself is like a poem recited in a visual form.



Why Sri Lankan Bharatha Natyam lost its professionalism



DR SUBASHINI PATHMANATHAN

Bharatha Natyam has a spiritual history behind it. It is a Tamil classical dance form, which was fostered in the Tamil country many centuries ago. This ancient dance form is a part of Tamil heritage and culture. Above all, it is totally based and linked with spiritual Hindu philosophy and the Hindu way of life. The majority of the Tamil community all over the world preserves and protects this art form with utmost devotion and dedication. Even the expatriate Tamil community has carried the religion, language, literature, music, paintings, sculptures, and social customs with them to the migrated lands. This dance form is completely based on well-established Carnatic Music.

The present-day Sri Lankan Bharatha Natyam borrows some ideas from other classical and folk dances, which in the end, the pure traditional classical dance form Bharatha Natyam, lose its essence and sense. Moreover, competitions are arranged to perform this divine classical dance at various levels. One of the reasons being, that most of the student community and parents are very much keen to win a certificate or a medal. Nowadays many boards and organizations conduct examinations and competitions, though a majority of them are unrecognized.

Similarly, Bharatha Natyam artists are longing for unrecognized titles and awards, which are awarded by unauthorized individuals, as well as by certain unauthorized bodies without proper registrations. Most of

these emerging artistes are satisfied with this fake publicity. Due to these various diverted attractions, the present students have lost their interest in the stage performances. The stage performances are definitely a must to improve their own standards and creativity. Dance is a performing art, but unfortunately, the present generation students' attitudes and approaches are changed. Many dance teachers introduce numerous fusion and mixed assorted dances into this pure classical Bharatha Natyam to attract a mediocre level audience. This is one of the main causes that our country has failed to produce at least a few professional Bharatha Natyam artistes in the Sri Lankan art world.

Earlier the traditional Gurus conducted the art, not based on time limit and prescribed syllabus, but they impart the art with utmost dedication according to the level of understanding, personal ability, talents, age, involvement and different category of skills of the student community. The earlier generation students studied in the ancient Gurukulams. They learnt the art under the same teacher in the same style for several years. Hence, this efficacy on part of the teacher ultimately produced a considerable number of outstanding artists in the art world.

From the 1940s till today Bharatha Natyam is widely practising in Sri Lanka. But in the earlier generation, a substantial number of outstanding Bharatha Natyam artistes were in the performing art field. But today, most of the yesteryear performers have simply turned into dance teachers and have given up their stage career. This is also one of the main causes of the decline of experienced and professional artistes in the Bharatha Natyam art world of Sri Lanka.

Present Sri Lankan Bharatha Natyam teachers are the products of the fine arts institutions. After the art has moved to the institutions, the methodology of teaching took a

new turn and a new dimension. The students in the fine art institutions study the art not under one teacher as in Gurukulams. It means that the same art is imparted by numerous types of dance teachers at different stages in fine art institutions. Numerous teachers handle the same art in different ways. Their ideas, approaches, views and interests differ from one another.

Ultimately, the interest of the students gets disturbed and distorted, affecting the students' psychology. As a result, these external factors sometimes affect the excellent dance career of the youngsters.

Most of the present generation dancers pay more attention to pure Nirtha, (Adavus or steps) which is essentially mechanical. Not much consideration is paid to the important feature of the dance, called Nirthya (facial expression, or Rasas emotional involvement).

The majority of the teaching community of Bharatha Natyam, all over the world have no deep involvement, dedication or knowledge of the Hindu philosophy. Since this art is purely based on Hindu philosophy and Tamil culture, most of the teachers fail to impart the art or induce or inspire the art among the students effectively. The present-day dance classes are very much commercialized, having more than thirty to thirty-five students in one class, where no proper attention is paid by the teachers. This too contributed towards the decline in the standard of Sri Lankan Bharatha Natyam. Sadly, some Bharatha Natyam artistes adorn themselves with Bharatha Natyam costumes, make-up and display a mixed variety of dances under the label and name of the Bharatha Natyam! Ultimately they destroy the real sense and essence of the art.

Sadly, the above-said facts show why Sri Lanka failed to produce a significant number of outstanding performers in the field of Bharatha Natyam.

Original spark

Professor SUNANDA MAHENDRA

Creative Thinking, Creative Commentary, Creativity and Creative Skills are terms widely used in social sciences as well as in Humanities, referring to understanding in a better sense the awareness of the vital importance of bringing about a better way of seeing and feeling. As such, the creative thinking process is observable behind every great social project as in every great work of art or science, and behind every great invention that has given rise to the advancement of the progress of human existence.

Creativity and creative thinking are seen from several points of view. Most subject areas that have come to be in the academic sphere envelop these terms from several points of view. In this direction, basic questions such as what creativity is and why creative thinking is necessary are raised from time to time. In a seminal work on the subject, a resourceful work came to be read by scholars titled 'What is Creative Thinking' by Dr Catharine Patrick, as far back as 1956. Later on, the work came to be accepted as a primary handbook cum manual.

Eleven vital chapters appear with illuminating titles. The need that goes into creativity and creative thought is the starting point, where the need to prepare or the preparation is pinpointed as the starting point. From here onwards, the process of creativity is observed from several points of view such as incubation, illumination and verification as linked to creative thinking.

As such, the four-fold points of view that go as preparation, incubation, illumination and verification are seen from several standpoints.

The learned writer basically raises such questions as what is the nature of the mental process, which typically precedes the outstanding achievements of the human being over the years. This leads to the formulation of possible characteristics of creative thinking on the part of humans as opposed to or as different to other earthly creatures. This also leads to questions such as: What are the stages in our thinking? What do we mean by inspiration? Does the creative thinking of the average person show the same essential structure as that of the famous artist, scientist, and/or inventor?

As the scholar points out, although, we recognize many and wide differences between classical Shakespearean play, an American folk song, the chemical formula for radium and a formulated legal cause, yet the process of thinking that preceded the production of these diverse end products exhibit the need for creative thinking. The various or diverse methods adopted by humans in all these areas are seen as the need for creative thinking. The scholar Catharine Patrick tries to interpret the fact that though the methods, materials, techniques and aims may greatly differ in the various fields of human endeavour, the psychological process underlying the production of a work of art, or an invention or a social project or a scientific formula is fundamentally the same.

In this direction, the reader of work is taken steps ahead to common categories of thoughts; a reader of the work is given the freedom to think more deeply into the areas of the necessity of creativity on creative thinking.

Is there a difference between the common ways of thinking and creative thinking? The reader is taken into the areas of the creative thoughts that had gone into the well-known product of poets, painters, as well as inventors. The scholar uses a term denoted by the creative thinker as opposed to the common thinker.

The work of Catherine Patrick is more bent on the psychological process of creative thought, where areas are seen as the need for creativity arising in various forms.

For example, the reasons for the origins of folklore, where tales, legends and myths abound are discussed from various points of view. The birth of the lullaby and/or the nursery song by a mother comes as a necessity rather than a social manipulation.

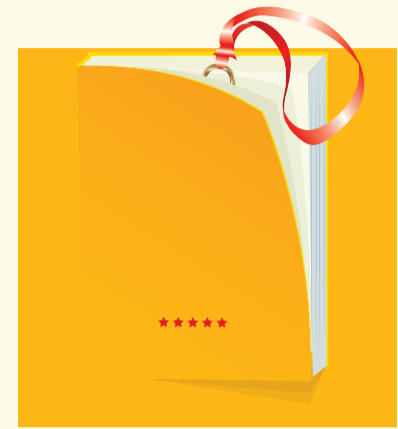
In order to address the necessities of creative thinking, Patrick takes three basic standpoints that go as Emotional Standpoint, Imagination as its limits as well as strengths and the Stages of productivity or creativity in the content. From these standpoints, the reader comes to feel that the work transcends a common guide or a manual.

The work attempts to present various viewpoints of creators such as singers, poets, and creative narrative writers, discoverers of science activities, researchers and investigators into paintings as well as sculptures. The reader too comes to receive various definitions on concepts of creativity such as motivation, cognition and the value of innovations. An attempt is made to compare the orient and occidental views on creative thinking from various standpoints.

The reader is also given the chance to improve his or her creative thinking patterns by a series of questions posed on the last chapter not as an appendix, but as a brainstorming session to be performed as self-guidance – a subtitle that goes as "Thinking of ourselves and others. A variant factor to the average IQ text brought down as a conventional test, a programme to improve creative thinking in ourselves and others, include such areas and factors and potential characteristics and attitudes favourable for creative thinking and suggestions as learning tool for creative thinking as different from other forms of thinking. Several guidelines that could be utilized in a classroom too are given.

It is underlined the need for a teacher to equip his or her teaching methods in order to help guide the student in the classroom to take up creative thinking not as a mere lesson but as an ongoing work devoid of obstacles. Then comes the advent of the parents in guiding the students in variable forms of creativity.

The emphasis is laid down on the necessity for the teacher and parents to improve the basic creative skills of young people, in order to build a better state of environment necessary to sustain existence. As the writer scholar Patrick says: Let every teacher, instructor and professor stop and ask himself this question: How do I teach? What are the methods I employ?

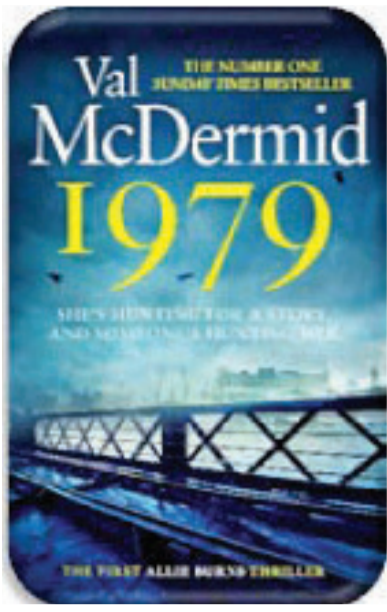


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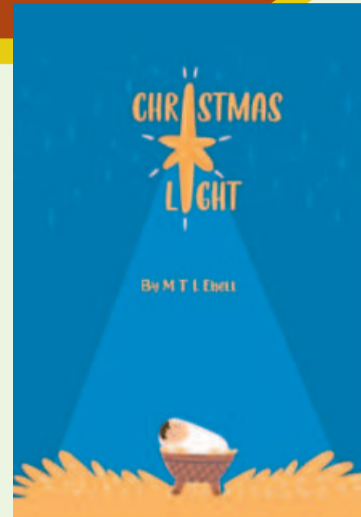
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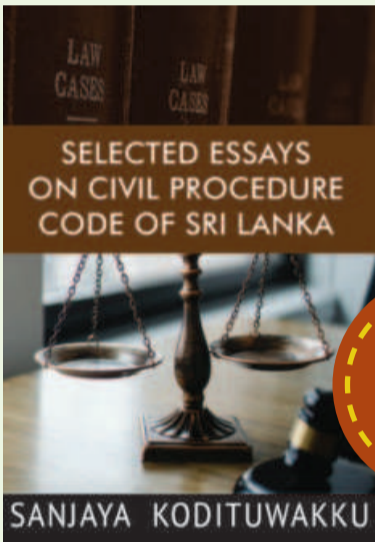
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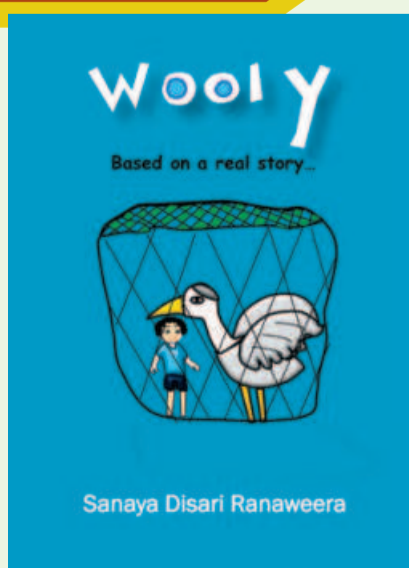
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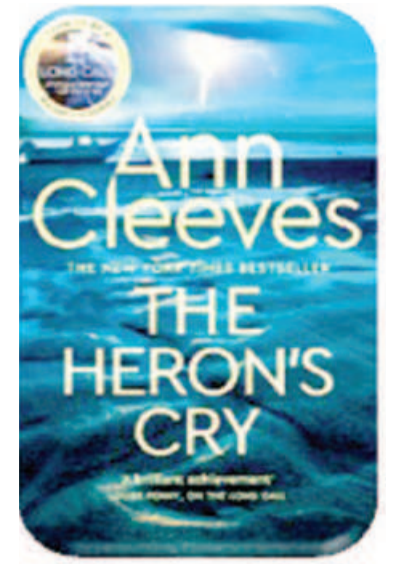
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TITLE: How Space Works: The Facts Visually Explained

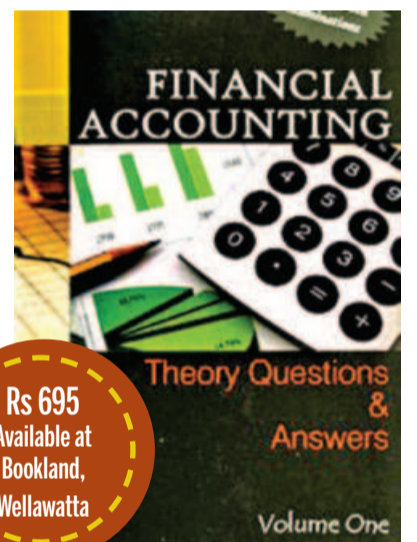


An out-of-this-world reference book about space that introduces you to the weird and wonderful world of astronomy and space exploration. From the structure of the Milky Way to the Earth's nearest celestial body, the Moon, How Space Works takes you on an unforgettable tour through the stars and galaxies, and to the furthest reaches of space!

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TITLE: Financial Accounting - Theory
AUTHOR: Hilary Fernando

Experienced accounting guru Hilary Fernando, moves away from numerical sums and instead delves into the basic principles of accounting theory. This book contains in question and answer format the definitions, functions and the nitty-gritties of components such as book-keeping, credit notes, current assets, trial balances, a variety of accounting ratios and so much more. Written in simple language yet comprehensive in its scope, this economically priced hand-book is perfect for students and also just anyone who wishes to get a grip on the theory of accounting.



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TITLE: Perspectives on Constitutional Reform in Sri Lanka
AUTHOR: Dr. Hiran W. Jayewardene and Prof. Sharya Scharenguivel



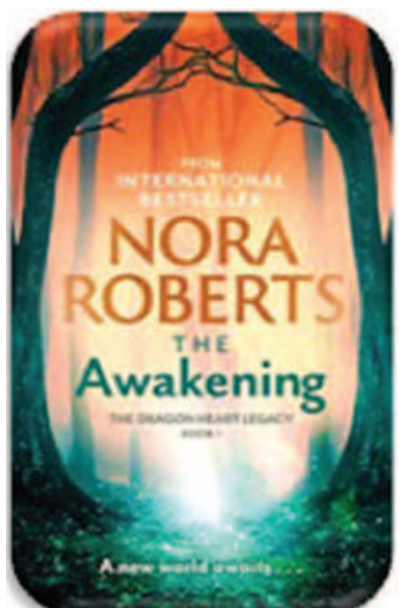
This store of legal thought that hopes to inspire our next Constitution, comprises a series of specialist essays some of the foremost members of our legal fraternity. It seeks to bring forth discussion on what would be the best mix of provisions to provide rapid development whilst protecting sovereignty, within a context of balancing the aspirations of a multi-ethnic society.

Savitri Goonesekere, M. Soranarajah, Nigel Hatch, Suri Ratnapala, Geoffrey Alagaratnam, Palitha Fernando, Lakshman Marasinghe, Nirmala Chandrahasan, Palitha Kohona, Jayampathy Wickramaratne and Dayanath Jayasuriya are just some of the personages who have contributed.

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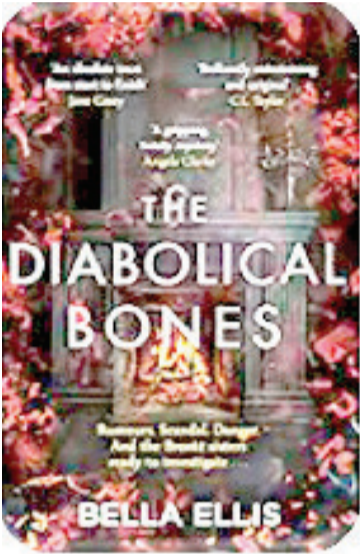
TITLE: The Awakening
AUTHOR: Nora Roberts

When Breen Kelly was a girl, her father would tell her stories of magical places. Now she's an anxious twenty-something mired in student debt and working a job she hates. But one day she stumbles upon a shocking discovery: her mother has been hiding an investment account in her name. It has been funded by her long-lost father—and it's worth nearly four million dollars.



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TITLE: The Diabolical Bones
AUTHOR: Bella Ellis



Haworth Parsonage, February 1846: The Bronte sisters— Anne, Emily, and Charlotte—are busy with their literary pursuits. As they query publishers for their poetry, each sister hopes to write a full-length novel that will thrill the reading public. They're also hoping for a new case for their fledgling detecting enterprise, Bell Brothers and Company solicitors.

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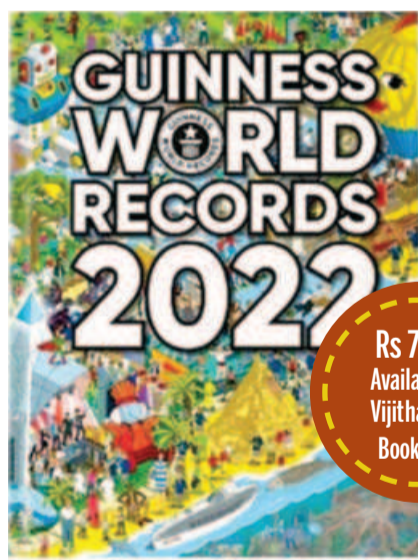
TITLE: Vladimir Putin: Life Coach
AUTHOR: Rob Sears

What can the rise and reign of this century's most feared politician teach us about life, work and love? Rob Sears shows how the machinations that enabled Putin to dominate the Kremlin and undermine the United States of America could also help you take control of your mundane life. How would you like to ruin your enemies by sharing compromising material about that time they didn't wash their hands?



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TITLE: Guinness World Records 2022



This provides a fascinating snapshot of our world today. The editors have chosen to curate the book with environmental issues at the forefront of their mind, and open with a chapter exploring what's happening to our ecosystem and what superlative lengths people are going to make a difference. Readers are encouraged to put their own record-breaking to good, so look out for projects that might inspire you to make a difference - so don't just Discover Your World, Change Your World!

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Vijitha Yapa
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TITLE: Christmas with the Surplus Girls
AUTHOR: Polly Heron

Nancy Pike is out of her depth. A pupil at the Miss Heskeths' school for surplus girls, she's blundering through her lessons and her job placements. She never wanted to leave her beloved pie-shop job, but she knows she needs to better herself. Her only joy is getting to know the children at St Anthony's orphanage. And working for Mr Zachary Milner twice a week.



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MINISTRY OF WATER SUPPLY NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD

BID NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Works/Supplies as described below.

No	Name of Contract & Contract No	Non Refundable Fee (Rs)	Bid Security Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Estimated Cost (Rs.) Excluding VAT	Place of Issuing of Documents & Contact Person	Closing Date and Time
CIVIL TENDERS							
1	Construction of 10,000m ³ /day Water Treatment Plant at Morawaka WSS Contract No : NWSDB/S/CP/A4-66/GOSL/2021/1	100,000/- + VAT **	Rs.8,290,000/-	Registration with CIDA field of Water Supply & Sewerage Grade C1 or above and registration of the contract as per the Act. No. 3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	828.8 Million	Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana Tele: 011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	17/01/2022 10.00hours
2	Construction of Intake Well, Supply and Laying of RAW Water Main and Augmentation of Water Treatment Plant at Udugama Contract No : NWSDB/S/CP/A2-45/GOSL/2021/1	100,000/- + VAT **	Rs.5,256,000/-	Registration with CIDA field of Water Supply & Sewerage Grade C2 and registration of the contract as per the Act. No. 3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	525.5 Million	Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana Tele: 011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	17/01/2022 14.00 hours
3	Supply, Delivery & Laying of HDPE Pipes, Fittings and Specials for Replacement of PVC Pipe Service Connection to HDPE Pipe in Ampara Region Contract No : NWSDB/RSC(E)/CP/A3-65/GOSL/2021/11R	20,000/- + VAT **	Rs.1,180,000/-	Registration with CIDA field of Water Supply & Sewerage Grade C3 and C4 and registration of the contract as per the Act. No. 3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	78.83 Million	Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana Tele: 011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	12/01/2022 10.00 hours
4	Laying and Fixing of HDPE/DI Pipes, Fittings, Specials, Valves and Accessories for Pipe Laying Along Kottawa - Pannipitiya Road Contract No : WC/P&D/C/PL/KALALGODA/2021/09	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs.365,800/-	Registration with CIDA field of Water Supply & Sewerage Grade C4 and C5 and registration of the contract as per the Act. No. 3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	39.11 Million	Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana Tele: 011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	14/01/2022 10.00 hours
5	Construction of Chain Link Fence along RDA boundary to protect intake in Dehiowita Water Supply Scheme Contract No : RSC(SAB)/AGM(KEG)/REH/DEHIOWITA/CIVIL/2021/65	4,000/- + VAT	Rs.36,000 /-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Building & Civil Works in Grade C5 to C9	3.6 Million	RSC (Sabaragamuwa), NWSDB, New Town, Ratnapura Tele: 045-2228274-6 Fax : 045-2228273	29/12/2021 14.00 hours
6	Construction of Service Reservoir, Pump House ,Supply & Laying of Transmission & Distribution pipe for Syston & Silanwatta RWS Scheme & Distribution pipe for Zyston & Silenwatta RWS Scheme & Detection of Valves and Installation of Valves under KNPIWS Project Contract No : KNPIWSP/CIVIL/PC- 04/2021-32	35,000/- + VAT **	Rs. Million 1.28/-	Registration with CIDA field of Water Supply & Sewerage Grade C3 and C4 and registration of the contract as per the Act. No. 3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	128.3 Million	Kandy North Pathadumbara Water Supply Project, NWSDB, Pahala Kondadeniya, Katugastota Tele: 0812492390 Fax: 0812492286 Pre bid meeting & site visit will be held on 06 th January 2022 at 10.00 am (Compulsory)	12/01/2022 14.00 hours
7	Construction of Store at 4 th Mile Post Trincomalee Contract No : RSC(E)/DGM/RH/STORE/ TRINCO/2021/84	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs.146,550/-	Registration with CIDA field of Building Construction Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the Contract as per the Act No.3 of 1987 with the Registrar of Public Contract	14.70 Million	Regional Support Centre (East), NWSDB, No.48A/1, Kandy Road, Trincomalee Tele: 0262222519 Fax: 0262225225	29/12/2021 10.00 hours
8	Existing Service Connection Rectifications at Keppetipola Water Supply Scheme Contract No : RSC(UVA)/DGM(UVA)/REH/KEPPETIPOLA/ 2021/204	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs.360,030/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage in Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the Contract as per the Act No.3 of 1987 with the Registrar of Public Contract	24.0 Million	RSC (Uva), Tender Section, NWSDB, Mediriya Road, Badulla. Tele: 0552230934 Fax: 0552230974	29/12/2021 14.00 hours
9	Laying and Jointing of HDPE/DI Pipe and Fittings for Distribution Improvement at Galkanda area Diyathalawa Water Supply Scheme Contract No : NWSDB/U/CP/A3-34/GOSL/ 2021/1	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs.323,920/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage in Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the Contract as per the Act No.3 of 1987 with the Registrar of Public Contract	21.59 Million	RSC (Uva), Tender Section, NWSDB, Mediriya Road, Badulla. Tele: 0552230934 Fax: 0552230974	29/12/2021 14.00 hours
Reference to the advertisement dated 2021.12.08, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Flow Meters in Western Central Region Contract No : NWSDB/CAM/CP/A9/23/GOSL/2021/02. Please note that the corrected Estimated Cost (Rs.) Excluding VAT is 82.5 Million							
Reference to the advertisement dated 2021.11.03, Construction of 12000M ³ / D Water treatment Plant Storage Tanks and Supplying & Laying of Transmission main at Padiyathalawa and Mahaoya Integrated WSP Contract No: NWSDB/RSC(E)/CP/A5-34-GOSL/2021/02 Please note that the closing date of this tender has been extended up to 2022.01.05 at 10.00 hours							
Reference to the advertisement dated 2021.12.01, Land Development Resettle Affected Families at Magalkanda, Gampaha, Attanagalla and Minuwangoda Integrated Water Supply Scheme. Contract No : RSC(SAB)/GAMIWSS/CIVIL/LOAN/RUWAN/2021/49 Please note that the closing date of this tender has been extended up to 2021.12.22 at 14.00 hours and please note that the Eligibility requirements have been changed as "Registered with CIDA in the field of Building & Civil works in grade C6 or above and Non Refundable Fee had been changed as Rs.12,500 + VAT"							
Reference to the advertisement dated 2021.11.10, Construction of vehicle washing and tanker filling system (Reclaimed Water Reuse Facility) at Soysapura Contract No: NWSDB/GCWR/CP/A8-05/2021/01 Please note that the closing date of this tender has been extended up to 2021.12.22 at 10.00 hours							
Reference to the advertisement dated 2021.11.10, Construction of Ulhitiya Water Supply Scheme Contract No: NWSDB/U/CP/A4-79/GOSL/2021/01 Please note that the closing date of this tender has been extended up to 2021.12.31 at 14.00 hours							
SUPPLY TENDERS							
10	Supply, Delivery & Installation of Chlorine GAS Neutralization System with accessories for Moronotha Water Supply Scheme Contract No : NWSDB/SAB/CP/A2-61/GOSL-2021/05-B-R	6,000/- + VAT **	Rs.120,000 /-	Manufacturers or their Local accredited agents for Supply & installation of Chlorine Gas Neutralization System, Chlorine Gas Detection System and accessories. Registration of the contract as per the Act. No. 3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	-	RSC (Sabaragamuwa), NWSDB, New Town, Ratnapura Tele: 045-2228274-6 Fax : 045-2228273	04/01/2022 14.00 hours
11	Supply & Delivery of Portable Type Ultrasonic Flow Meters Contract No : WC/SS/M(NRW)FLOW METERS/2021/182-RH	4,000/- + VAT	Rs.72,000 /-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agents for supply and Delivery of portable type ultrasonic flow meters upon production of a letter of request for documents on a business letterhead.	-	RSC (W-C), No. 175A, Kaluthota Building, Nawala Road, Nugegoda, Tele:/Fax: 011- 2856421	31/12/2021 10.00 hours
12	Supply Install, Test, Commission and Handover of Four Nos Dosing Pump Sets and Accessories for Poonakary and Paranthan Water Towers Contract No: RSC/N/DGM/RH/PUMP/POONAKARY&PARA/2020/040	4,000/- + VAT	Rs.41,380 /-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agents for supply of Gas Chlorinators, chemical equipments, laboratory equipment & Accessories.	-	RSC (Northern), NWSDB, Jaffna Road, Vavuniya. Tele: 024-2225719 Fax: 024-2225088	05/01/2022 14.00 hours
SERVICE TENDERS							
13	Provision of Janitorial Services for Manager's Office (Panadura-Horana), AE (Bandaragama) Office, OIC (Panadura) Office, OIC (Kumbuka) Office, Welmilla Tower Office, OIC (Ingiriya) Office & OIC (Horana) Office In Panadura-Horana Region Contract No: W-S/P&C/J(04)/P-H/O&M/2021/48	6,000/- + VAT **	Rs.73,000/-	The successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be a registered company in Sri Lanka under the business registration regulation having minimum of three (03) years' experience in the field of providing janitorial services at the same time of the submission of the bid.	7.29 Million	RSC (WS), NWSDB, No.07, Angulana Station Road, Angulana, Moratuwa Tele/Fax: 0112224888, 0112637945 Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 23.12.2021 10.00 a.m at Manager's Office (Panadura-Horana)	30/12/2021 10.00 hours
HIRING VEHICLES							
14	Hiring 01 No. of 8,000L Water Bowser for Veyangoda Water Supply Scheme, RSC(W/N) Contract No: RSC(W/N)/SS/BOW./MNG(GAM)-VWSS/GAMIWSS /2021/103RR	4,000/- + VAT	Rs.5,000/-	As per the Document		RSC(W/N) Office, No.433/4A, Ganemulla Road, Kadawatha Tele: 0112922129 Fax:0112922146	05/01/2022 10.00 hours
15	Hiring 01 No. of Crew Cab for OIC (Biyagama) in Kelaniya Region Contract No: RSC(W/N)/SS/HIRING/KEL (O&M)2021/135	2,000/- + VAT	Rs.5,000/-	As per the Document		RSC(W/N) Office, No.433/4A, Ganemulla Road, Kadawatha Tele: 0112922129 Fax: 0112922146	05/01/2022 10.00 hours
16	Hiring a three wheeler for Kakkaddicholai Water Supply Scheme in Batticaloa Region. Contract No: RSC(E)/DGM/O&M/THREE WHEELER/ KOKKADDI CHCHOLAI/ BATTI/2021/100	2,000/- + VAT	Rs.11,000/-	Firms having experience in similar service		Regional Support Centre (East), NWSDB, No. 48A/1, Kandy Road, Trincomalee Tele: 0262222519 Fax: 0262225225	29/12/2021 10.00 hours
17	Hiring a three wheeler for Chenkalady Water Supply Scheme in Batticaloa Region. Contract No: RSC(E)/DGM/O&M/THREE WHEELER/ CHENKALADY/BATTI/ 2021/101	2,000/- + VAT	Rs.11,000/-	Firms having experience in similar service		Regional Support Centre (East), NWSDB, No. 48A/1, Kandy Road, Trincomalee Tele: 0262222519 Fax: 0262225225	29/12/2021 10.00 hours

Please register online www.drc.gov.lk of Registrar of Companies to get PCA 3 form (only for tenders marked as "****"). Further, please use gmail for registration.

Bidding documents will be issued on production of a letter of request on a business letterhead together with the payment receipt of non-refundable tender fee between 09.00 hours and 15.00 hours on normal working days up to day before the closing date.

Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the place of issuing documents during normal working hours.

Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late bids will be returned unopened.

Chairman, National Water Supply and Drainage Board



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CANCELLATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, **Mohamad Ali Faleen Jaufer Sadi** (Holder of National Identity Card bearing No. 641741477 V) of No. 224/3, **Balakaduwa, Alawathugoda, Kandy** have appointed **Polwaththa Durage Thushari Manel Kumudu** No. 449, **Balakaduwa, Alawathugoda** by Power of Attorney No. 1420 dated 15th March 2018 and attested by A.P. Amila D. Ambagala Notary Public of Kandy. I inform the General Public of Sri Lanka that I do hereby cancel the said Power of Attorney with immediate effect and as such the said Power of Attorney has no more valid in law and I will not hold any liability on any transaction on this Power of Attorney.

Mohamad Ali Faleen Jaufer Sadi
10th December 2021

CANCELLATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, **Don Gayathri Kanchana Mayanunne** (Holder of National Identity Card bearing No. 856080153 V) of No. 295, **Saman Dewala Road, Alawathugoda, Kandy** have appointed **Don Kalinga Mayanunne** of No. 11, **Saman Dewala Road, Alawathugoda** by General Power of Attorney certified by **Kethma Rajapaksha Yapa Counselor** Embassy of Sri Lanka, Kuwait, on 02nd of March 2021. I inform the General Public of Sri Lanka that I do hereby cancel the said Power of Attorney with immediate effect and as such the said Power of Attorney has no more valid in law and I will not hold any liability on any transaction on this Power of Attorney.

Don Gayathri Kanchana Mayanunne
10th December 2021

REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, **Shariffa Shabnam Siddique** of No. 44/6B, School Lane, Nawala do hereby inform the Government of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and its people that Power of Attorney No. 220 dated 4th September 2019 attested by **Hetti Arachchi Mathukandage Dayarathna**, Notary Public of Colombo granted by me in favour of **Wijesinghe Mudiyansele Jayantha Padmasiri Hunukumbura** of No. 10/5, **Bamunagedara Road, Kurunegala** is hereby revoked, cancelled, annulled and made null and void by me with effect from 9th December 2021 and that hereafter I shall not be held responsible for any Act or transaction committed by the above stated **Wijesinghe Mudiyansele Jayantha Padmasiri Hunukumbura** under the said Power of Attorney in my name or on my behalf.

SHARIFFA SHABNAM SIDDIQUE
Principal

9th December 2021

CANCELLATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, **Weera Bandulage Sachi Nilakshi Dayananda** of 291, **Mayfield Estate, Ballapana, Galigamuwa Town** bearer of Identity Card No. 885052835 V in the Kegalle District of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is the Power of Attorney holder of the Power of Attorney No. 22300 dated 13th May 2019, attested by **Romei Wijewardena** Notary Public of Kegalle, appointing my mother, **Olidurage Deesha Sandakumari Anoja** of No. 291B, **Mayfield Estate, Ballapana Galigamuwa Town, Kegalle**, bearer of ID No. 705804591 V as the principal Attorney.

The said Power of Attorney is annulled and cancelled from the date of publication of this notice and I cease to be the Power of Attorney holder of aforesaid Power of Attorney. Further, I do hereby inform the General Public that I been this Power of Attorney holder cease to be the Power of Attorney holder of the said Power of Attorney as from today.

(**Weera Bandulage Sachi Nilakshi Dayananda**)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007

Name of the Company : **CLARET CHRISTIAN COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL (PVT) LTD.**
Number of the Company : **PV 00235927**
Address of the Company's Registered Office : **No. 160, 1/1, ST. JAMES STREET, ALUTHAMAWATHA, COLOMBO 15.**

Name of the Company : **3000 LEISURE MANAGEMENT (PVT) LTD.**
Number of the Company : **PV 00248265**
Address of the Company's Registered Office : **No. 85/ 2, 2nd FLOOR, COTTA ROAD, BORELLA, COLOMBO 08.**

Name of the Company : **CEYLON SPICE CORPORATION (PVT) LTD.**
Number of the Company : **PV 00249334**
Address of the Company's Registered Office : **No. 107, BIYAGAMA ROAD, PELIYAGODA.**

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Supply of Dry Drugs to the North Western Provincial Department of Ayurveda - 2022

Sealed Bid applications are hereby invited up to 10.00 a.m. on 05.01.2022 by the Procurement Committee Chairman on behalf of the North Western Provincial Department of Ayurveda for the Supply of Dry Drugs for the period from 01.03.2022 up to 28.02.2023.

- Categories of Dry Drugs and quantities to be ordered will be provided along with Bid Documents.
- Bid documents could be obtained during working days of the week from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by submitting the receipt obtained on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1500/= and a refundable deposit of Rs. 25,000/= from 15.12.2021 up to 04.01.2022 to the Finance Assistant of the North Western Provincial Department of Ayurveda on Kurunegala - Colombo Road.
- A Pre-Bid meeting will held at this Office at **10.30 a.m. on 29.12.2021.**
- The words "**Bid for the supply of Dry Drugs 2022**" should be written on the top left-hand corner of the sealed envelope containing the Bid and sent by Registered Post to the address below to receive before the closing time for accepting Bids at 10.00 a.m. on 05.01.2022 or should be deposited in the Bid Box kept in the North Western Provincial Department of Ayurveda.
- Bids will be opened in this Office at 10.10 a.m. on 05.01.2022 and Bidders or their representatives could participate on this occasion.
- Further details or clarifications regarding this Bid Invitation could be obtained from the Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda by contacting on Tel. No. 037-2228408.

S.M.A.R. Seneviratna
Procurement Committee Chairman

North Western Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda,
Office of the North Western Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda
Kurunegala



CEYLON PETROLEUM STORAGE TERMINALS LTD (CPSTL)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

BIDS FOR THE SUPPLY OF 23,750 NOS. BAR SOAP (WITH WRAP) WEIGHT 650 GRAMS
BID NO.: KPR/56/2021

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited (CPSTL), Oil Installation, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya will receive sealed/email bids for the above.

Interested parties may refer the bidding document (*only for viewing purpose*) and obtain necessary information through the website www.cpstl.lk and the original bidding documents (full set) could be obtained on submission of a written request (*the request letter shall be on the company letterhead and signed by an authorized person*) via an email to procure@cpstl.lk during working days from 0900 hrs. to 1400 hrs, from 15.12.2021 till 29.12.2021. Considering bidder's request, Manager Procurement, CPSTL may issue the consent via email for depositing the non-refundable bidding document fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Two Thousand (LKR 2,000.00)**, if appropriate.

On receipt of non-refundable bidding document fee to CPSTL account, bidding documents (full set) will be issued by Procurement Function via email.

Bids shall be submitted on the bidding document obtainable from Procurement Function and duly filled bidding documents may be sent by post/courier under registered cover or sealed cover to reach the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, C/o Manager Procurement, Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited, Procurement Function, 01st Floor, New Building, Oil Installation, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya or could be deposited in the tender box kept at the main entrance of CPSTL, at or before **1400 hrs. on 30.12.2021.**

In case, the bidders are unable to submit the original bids as above, they could submit the scanned copy of the duly filled bidding documents in PDF format via email to tenders@cpstl.lk to reach at or before **1400 hrs. on 30.12.2021** at their own discretion. However, the original bid document shall be securely kept to be submitted to the Manager Procurement when requested.

Bids will be closed at 1400 hrs. on 30.12.2021 and will be opened immediately thereafter at the office of Manager (Procurement). Due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country, the authorized representatives of the bidders may be allowed to participate/witness the tender opening procedure via video conferencing method.

Bids shall be valid up to 03.03.2022 from the date of opening of the bid.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Rupees **Forty Five Thousand (LKR 45,000.00)** and shall be valid until **31.03.2022** and beyond any extension subsequently requested.

Any of the interested parties who wish to submit a bid, shall register himself at the Department of Registrar of Companies www.dre.gov.lk (e-ROC) as per the Public Contracts Act, No. 03 of 1987 for every public contract value exceeding Sri Lankan **Rupees Five million (LKR 5,000,000)**.

Further details and clarifications (if any) shall be sought from the Manager Procurement on **Tel: 011-2572156/ 011-5663121, Fax: 011-2572155, E-mail: procure@cpstl.lk**

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
C/o Manager Procurement
Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited
Procurement Function
1st Floor, New Building
Kolonnawa,
Sri Lanka.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS

ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Chief Engineer's Office, Road Development Authority (RDA), Matara on behalf of the Road Development Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the project described below.

Description of work	Location	Contract period (Days)	Engineer's Estimate (except VAT & NBT) (Rs. Mn.)	Eligibility	Bid Security (Rs.)
Construction of Concrete Drains on Kamburupitiya School Lane near the Bank of Ceylon RDA/MM/SP/M/RMFT/2021/M-03	Matara District	90	4.99	C4 to C8 including C4 & C8	46,250.00

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidders shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid and appropriate registration at the time of submitting the Bid under the National Registration system of Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA former ICTAD).
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include specially in **Highway construction.**
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Chief Engineer's Office, Road Development Authority, Meddawatta, Matara (Tel./Fax: 041-2222546) and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below from 0900 hrs. to 1600 hrs. on working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested ICTAD registered bidders in Southern Province on the submission of a written application to the Chief Engineer, Chief Engineer's Office, Road Development Authority, Meddawatta, Matara from 15.12.2021 until 28.12.2021 from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 for each (exclusive of VAT).
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below at Chief Engineer's Office, Road Development Authority at or before 14.00 hrs. on 29.12.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 29.03.2022.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Security for an amount given in the table above. Bid Security shall be valid up to 13.04.2022.

The address referred to above is;

The Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Chief Engineer's Office,
Road Development Authority,
Meddawatta, Matara.
Tel/Fax No. 041-2222546

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Essential Repairs to be implemented in Court Buildings

Sealed bids are invited by the Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Justice from qualified and eligible bidders for the repairing of the following Courts Buildings.

No.	Court Zone	Project Name	Package No.	ICTAD No.	Estimated Total Cost (Excluding VAT and Contingencies) (Rs. Mn)	Non Refundable Tender Fee (Rs.)
1	Gampaha	Construction of Boundary Wall for Civil Appealate High Court at Gampaha	MOJ/AC26 / 78 / 2021	C9 and C8	1.93	1,000.00
2	Gampaha	Conversion of District Court Office, Record Room and other improvements to Building at Court Complex - Mahara	MOJ/AC26 / 79 / 2021	C7 and C6	7.54	2,000.00
3	Negombo	Improvements and repairs to existing office court hall for new additional High Court at Court Complex - Negombo	MOJ/AC26 / 80 / 2021	C7 and C6	6.81	2,000.00
4	Negombo	Repairs and Improvements to Old Court Buildings for Additional Magistrate Court at Negombo	MOJ/AC26 / 81 / 2021	C5 and C4	33.70	8,000.00
5	Embilipitiya	Repairs to Court Buildings and Construction Work at Embilipitiya	MOJ/ACT/NCB /26/31/RAT/P-002	C5 and C6	15.87	5,000.00

- Descriptive details regarding the requirements and specifications of implementation for the above mentioned projects are provided with the bid documents.
- Bids will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for award of contract, the successful bidder should not have been blacklisted and should have obtained the CIDA / ICTAD Registration for the Grade listed above.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Accountant (Procurement) of the Procurement Division, 1st Floor, Ministry of Justice, No. 19 Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10 and the bid documents may be inspected during office hours (between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 pm.) on weekdays (except on Public Holidays) from 15/12/2021 at the above said Procurement Division. Telephone / Fax No. 011-2438178.
- Interested bidders may purchase a complete set of bid documents for the above project during office hours (between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.) up to 3.00 p.m. on 03.01.2022 on submission of a written request to the Secretary, Ministry of Justice upon payment of the non-refundable fee mentioned for each set of documents to the Procurement Division, 1st Floor, Ministry of Justice, No. 19, Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10.
- Sealed Bids in duplicate,
 - May either be sent by registered post to the Chairman, Procurement Committee to the address given below to receive at the Ministry at or before 10.00 a.m. on 04.01.2022
 - Or
 - May be deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Procurement Division, 1st Floor, Ministry of Justice, during office hours to receive at or before 10.00 a.m. on 04.01.2022.
 Late bids will be rejected. Bids sent in any other way or electronically will not be accepted.
- All bids should be accompanied by a bid security to the value mentioned in the above table in Sri Lankan Rupees as a Bank Guarantee as per the form attached to the bid documents. Bid security should be valid until the date mentioned in the bid documents. Value of Bid Security should be as mentioned in each of the bid invitation document. Bids that are not attached with a valid bid security will be rejected. Further information regarding the submission of bids is mentioned in the bid documents.
- Bids should be valid until the dates mentioned in the bid documents.
- Bids will be opened immediately after closing of bids at the address given in Para 05 above in the presence of bidders and /or their authorized representatives who wish to attend personally.
- Ministry of Justice will not bear responsibility for any cost that may have to be incurred by the bidders regarding preparation or delivery of bids.
- Pre bid meeting will be held on 29/12/2021.
- Procurement Board reserves the right to take the final decision regarding this procurement.

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Justice, No. 19, Sangaraja Mawatha,
Colombo 10.



**NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 16 SUB - SECTIONS (2D)
OF THE COAST CONSERVATION AND COASTAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT ACT NO. 57 OF 1981**

**Proposed Recreational Beach Area/ Sea Water
Front Development Project - Phase 1
From Colpetty to Dehiwala Canal Outlet**

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

It is hereby notified that the Report of Environmental Impact Assessment study on proposed **Recreational Beach Area/Sea Water Front Development Project - Phase 1 from Colpetty to Dehiwala Canal Outlet** has been submitted by the Urban Development Authority, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla, as required by the Section 16 (1) of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Act No. 57 of 1981 as amended by the Act No. 64 of 1988 and No. 49 of 2011 will be available for inspection by the public at the following institutions from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. for a period of 30 days from 15.12.2021 (Except weekends and public holidays)

In addition, this report in 03 languages can be used in the official website (www.coastal.gov.lk) of the Department of Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management

- (1) State Ministry of Coast Conservation and Low Lying Lands Development, 12th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 2, Battaramulla
- (2) Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department, New Secretariat Building, 4th Floor, Maligawatte, Colombo 10
- (3) Central Environmental Authority, 104, "Parisara Piyasa", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
- (4) District Secretariat, Colombo
- (5) Divisional Secretariat, Thimbirigasyaya
- (6) Divisional Secretariat, Dehiwala
- (7) Municipal Council, Colombo
- (8) Municipal Council, Dehiwala- Mount Lavina
- (9) Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, District Office, Dehiwala
- (10) Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department, Regional Office, Moratumodara, Moratuwa

Any member of the public can submit their comments in writing on the above Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the Director General, Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department within 30 days from 15.12.2021.

Eng. R.A.S. Ranawaka
Director General
Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management

Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department
New Secretariat, 4th Floor, Maligawatta, Colombo 10.

Telephone - 011-2449754, 011-2449197, 011-2387922
Fax - 011-2438005, 011-2472623

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NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

This is to inform that the below mentioned Company was incorporated on 18th of August 2021, under Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
Name of the Company : **Hiru Fashion & Apparel (Private) Limited**
Number of the Company : **PV 00243784**
Registered Office : No. 162, Kotugodella Veediya, Kandy.
H. Nadee
Company Secretary

**REVOCATION OF
POWER OF ATTORNEY**

I, Rajapakshage Deepalal Rajapaksha (NIC No. 740785176V) of No. 678, Galkanda, Horampella, Minuwangoda in the Divisional Secretary's Division in the District of Gampaha of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, do hereby wish to inform the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that the Power of Attorney bearing No. 3939, dated 25th October, 2019 attested by P.R.A. Wijesinghe Attorney-at-Law and Notary Public of Gampaha granted by me to Renuka Malkanthi Rajapaksha (NIC No. 687349689V) of No. 678/B, Bolanegama, Horampella, Minuwangoda appointing her as my Attorney, is hereby legally cancelled and revoked and made null and void with effect from 15.12.2021 and that the said Power of Attorney has no validity or recognition, legally hereinafter and henceforth and a shall not be held responsible for any act or transaction entered into or done in respect of the said Power of Attorney hereinafter and henceforth, by aforesaid Attorney.
Rajapakshage Deepalal Rajapaksha

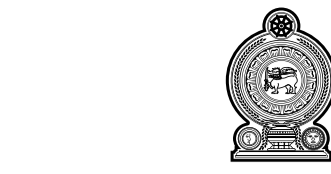
**REVOCATION OF
POWER OF ATTORNEY**

I, Shariffa Shabnam Siddique of No. 44/6B, School Lane, Nawala do hereby inform the Government of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and its people that Power of Attorney No. 221 dated 4th September 2019 attested by Hetti Arachchi Mathukandage Dayaratna, Notary Public of Colombo granted by me in favour of Wijesinghe Mudiyansele Jayantha Padmasiri Hunukumbura of No. 10/5, Bamunugedara Road, Kurunegala is hereby revoked, cancelled, annulled and made null and void by me with effect from 9th December 2021 and that hereafter I shall not be held responsible for any act or transaction committed by the above stated Wijesinghe Mudiyansele Jayantha Padmasiri Hunukumbura under the said Power of Attorney in my name or on my behalf.
SHARIFFA SHABNAM SIDDIQUE
Principal

9th December 2021

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

**OBTAINING PUBLIC COMMENTS OVER THE NATIONAL
POLICY ON GREEN PROCUREMENT**

The Ministry of Environment is making arrangements to introduce the National Policy on Green Procurement incorporating environmental performance into the conventional public procurement system of Sri Lanka. Multiple socio-economic and environmental issues have been created in the face of emerging global challenges, including climate change as well as financial, water and energy crises. The current outbreak of the Covid 19 epidemic around the world has also exacerbated the crisis. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce nationally correct and effective economic, social and environmental management initiatives to overcome these challenges and Green Public Procurement is one such strategy.

The National Policy has been formulated in collaboration with the relevant stakeholder institutions, which will directly pave the way to meet the target 12.7: "Promote Public Procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities" which comes under the 12th Sustainable Development Goal; "Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns". The Ministry of Environment will act along with the Ministry of Finance to implement the National Policy. With the implementation of the green procurement, it is expected to procure products, services and works in a way to minimize potential adverse environmental impacts through evaluating them.

Direct the market for innovation and sustainability by creating a demand for green products through the massive purchasing power of the government, create an opportunity to provide main policy goals regarding the same as well as encourage the industrial sector to respond to the need of further promoting the use of environmental standards and certification methods in the market are the main objectives of implementing of this National Policy. The Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, is taking necessary steps to establish a "National Framework for Eco Labeling" to promote the implementation of a reliable green certification and labeling system in the country and to facilitate the implementation of this National Policy.

In this policy, Identify green products, services and works available in the market; making aware of the relevant stakeholders including procurers, suppliers, manufacturers on relevant matters such as green procurement, green production, certification; training, knowledge management and capacity building, making necessary legal amendments and establishment of institutional mechanism for policy implementation; facilitating local manufacturers; and keeping the international cooperation are specific matters taken into consideration. The policy will be implemented systematically providing the required time for products greening and for the transformation of market and public sector.

The draft Policy on Green procurement has been published in Sinhala, Tamil and English in the official website of the Ministry of Environment for the public comments and expected to be received on or before 15.01.2022, through following addresses.

Postal Address :

**Director,
Environment Planning and Economics Division
Ministry of Environment
4th Floor, "Sobadampiyasa", No. 416/C/1, Robert Gunawardena Mawatha,
Battaramulla**

Email: divisionepe@gmail.com

**Secretary
Ministry of Environment**

15.12.2021

THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

Kandy Range

The Chairman Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of the Office of the Director of Irrigation, Kandy will invite sealed bids for rate quotations for the Supplying & Transporting of Readymix Concrete for the construction of Anicut and Canal system of Godigamuwa Wewa, Matale Division under National Competitive Bidding procedure from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement of followings:

Bid No.	Description	Qty	In cash (Rs.)	In guarantee (Bank guarantee Only) (Rs.)
DI/KAN/PRO/SUP/2021/01	Supplying and Transporting of Ready-mix Concrete (Grade - 15)	700 m ³	60,000.00	120,000.00
	Supplying and Transporting of Ready-mix Concrete (Grade - 20)	1100 m ³	100,000.00	200,000.00

- Ready-mix concrete to be transported to Godigamuwawewa (Distance from Naula to Godigamuwa Wewa is 21 km).
- Bidding documents can be purchased from the office of the Director of Irrigation, Kundasale on a written request made on a Company Letterhead (original) and by paying Rs. 1,000.00 for non-refundable form fee from 15.12.2021 to 04.01.2022 on working days from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.
- Bids must be accompanied by Security as stated above valid for 77 days. Any bid without a valid Bid Security will be considered as non-responsive and rejected without any query.
- Completed original and duplicate Bids should either be deposited in the Tender Box kept for this purpose in the office of the Director of Irrigation, Kundasale to reach me at or before 15.00 hrs. on 05.01.2022.
- Relevant Bid No. should be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the Bid documents.
- Bids shall be closed on 05.01.2022 at 1500 hrs. and opened immediately. Late Bids will be rejected. Bidders or their representatives can participate at the Bid opening. The decision of the Regional Procurement Committee is empowered to reject single, or all Bids at its own discretion.
- For further clarifications, please contact.

Chief Engineer, Office of the Director of Irrigation, Kundasale - Tel. No. 081-2422982

Regional Irrigation Engineer, Matale - Tel. No. 066-2222356

**Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Office of the Director of Irrigation,
Kundasale.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS



PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Air Force invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders to purchase under mentioned Goods and Services to the Sri Lanka Air Force

S/ No.	Procurement Identification Number	Description	Date and time of Bid closing / opening	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Last Date of Issuing of Bidding Documents	Date and Time for Pre Bid Meeting
01.	AHQ/21/PUB/E/1015	Hiring of Passenger Coaches for SLAF Liberty Runs -2022	04 January 2022 at 1030 Hrs	35,000.00	03 January 2022	20 December 2021 at 0930 Hrs
02.	AHQ/21/PUB/E/1016	Hiring of Passenger Coach for SLAF Liberty Run (SLAF Base Katunayake to Chilaw) -2022	04 January 2022 at 1030 Hrs	2,000.00	03 January 2022	20 December 2021 at 0930 Hrs
03.	AHQ/21/PUB/E/1006	Purchase of a Motor Grader for Sri Lanka Air Force	04 January 2022 at 1030 Hrs	12,500.00	03 January 2022	20 December 2021 at 1030 Hrs

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure and tenders mentioned in above, para 01 are subjected to two envelop bidding method.
- The complete set of bidding documents in English language could be inspected by the interested bidders from the www.airforce.lk, the website of the Sri Lanka Air Force. The bidding documents can be purchased from the Tender Section of the Procurement Division, between **1000 Hrs to 1400 Hrs on every working day** with effect from **13th December 2021** after paying the Non-refundable fee to the Shroff at Sri Lanka Air Force Station Colombo prior to the collection of bidding documents. The last date of issuing of the Bidding documents is mentioned in para 01 above. The original receipt obtained for the payment of Non-refundable fee is to be attached to the bid. A bid without the receipt will be considered as an invalid bid.
- The sealed bids in duplicate, shall be addressed to "The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee" and may be either dispatched by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box at the **Main Guard Room at Sri Lanka Air Force Station Colombo, No. 140, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02**, well before the closing time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened at the Tender Opening Room Sri Lanka Air Force Station Colombo, No. 140, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02 soon after the closing the bids.
- Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the opening of the bids, upon presentation of their National Identity Card and letters of authorization from their employers. No bidder or his representative will be permitted to attend the bid opening after the bid closing time.
- Bidders who have purchased bidding documents may participate for the pre-bid meetings scheduled to be held on specific dates mentioned in para 01, at Tender Opening Room Sri Lanka Air Force Station Colombo, No. 140, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02.
- The supplies shall be delivered to Sri Lanka Air Force Base Katunayake. The prospective bidders shall be aware that they shall include all their expenses with all taxes including VAT and other levies in the bids submitted.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Procurement Officer (Tel. 011-2325468) or Staff Officer Procurement (Tenders) (Tel. 011-2441044 Extension 23569 Fax: 011- 2441553 and 011-2347694) or by forwarding written requests to the address mentioned below;

**Procurement Division,
Sri Lanka Air Force,
No.140,
Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha,
Colombo 02.**

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Employment Opportunities



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION VACANCY

POST OF CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The University Grants Commission being the apex body of the University System will entertain applications from suitably qualified candidates for the Post of Chief Internal Auditor at the University Grants Commission Secretariat.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- (a) Should possess a Membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka or its equivalent
AND
(b) Should possess at least ten (10) years of experience in Accounting and/or Auditing in an executive capacity after acquiring the qualifications at 1 (a) above.
OR
- A confirmed officer holding a post of Accountant/Internal Auditor of the Commission or Bursar of a Higher Educational Institution who possesses fifteen (15) years of experience in accounting and/or auditing in an executive capacity and at least five (05) years of satisfactory service as an Accountant/ Internal Auditor of the Commission or Bursar of a Higher Educational Institution with qualification at 1 (a) above. At least three (03) years of such experience (of the five (05) years of experience mentioned above) should be after acquiring the qualification at 1 (a) above.

Note: 'Accounting and/or Auditing experience' means, experience gained in an executive capacity in Accounting and/or Auditing in a State or in a reputed Private Sector organization.

SALARY SCALE:

U-EX 3 (I) -104,000- 3x2,170; 11x2,700 - 140,210 p.m.
(In addition, the Government approved allowances are payable)

OTHER BENEFITS :

- The holder of the post of Chief Internal Auditor will be eligible for sabbatical leave in terms of the existing regulations.
- The holder of the post of Chief Internal Auditor is entitled to an assigned vehicle with the approved fuel allowance.
- Gratuity payment will be in accordance with the provisions of the Payment of Gratuity Act No. 12 of 1983.
- The selected candidates will become contributors to the Universities Provident Fund and Universities Pension Scheme in terms of the existing regulations. The appointee is required to contribute 10% of the monthly salary to the Provident fund while the employer will contribute a sum equivalent to 15% of that salary of which 8% is credited to the Pension Scheme, 7% to the Provident Fund and 3% to the Employees Trust Fund.

The employees who will not be able to serve twenty years or more in the University System from the date of appointment to the compulsory age of retirement (Non Academic - 60 years) will not be contribute to the Universities Pension Fund and such employee will not a member of the Universities Pension Fund.

METHOD OF RECRUITMENT :

- Selection by a structured interview.
- Applicants who have scored 40% marks or above at the structured interview are eligible to be considered for selection.

OTHER CONDITIONS:

- Applications for the above post should be made in the prescribed form which could be downloaded from the UGC Website www.ugc.ac.lk. Duly completed applications should be forwarded under **registered cover or hand delivered with copies of all relevant certificates to reach the Senior Assistant Secretary/Personnel, University Grants Commission, No. 20, Ward Place, Colombo 07, by December 31, 2021. Applications sent in the specified forms will only be accepted.**
- The name of the post in respect of which the applications are sent, should be stated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Candidates are required to forward a scanned advanced copy of their applications with all the annexures to the email ex@ugc.ac.lk.
- Candidates in the service of the University Grants Commission and Higher Educational Institutions/Institutes, Government Departments, State Corporations and Statutory Boards should channel their applications through the Heads of their respective Institutions. Applications which are not forwarded through the respective Heads of Departments will be rejected.
- Applications received after the closing date/not in conformity with the above requirements/ incomplete applications will be rejected.
- University Grants Commission reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Secretary
University Grants Commission
No. 20, Ward Place
Colombo- 07

December 6, 2021



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

NATIONAL LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES BOARD (NLSL)

BID FOR THE CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AND ICH (INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE) VIDEO PRODUCTION FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES BOARD 2021 - 08

Chairman, Procurement Committee, National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLSL), invites sealed Proposals for the Selection of Service Provider organizations for the Concept Development & ICH (Intangible Cultural Heritage) Video Production for National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLSL) at No. 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07.

Bidding documents can be obtained between 0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs. from 16.12.2021 to 05.01.2022 from the Assistant Director (Finance), National Library and Documentation Services Board at No. 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07 on submission of a written request.

Bids will be closed at 10.30 hrs. on 06.01.2022 and opened at the Office of Assistant Director (Finance) at NLSL, No. 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07, immediately after closing time of the Bid. Bidders or their authorized representatives may be present at the opening of the bid.

Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Finance Division, National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLSL), No. 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07.

Bidding documents may be inspected up to 1500 hrs. on 05.01.2022 at the Assistant Director (Finance) Office, National Library & Documentation Services Board (NLSL), No. 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07.

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought over contacting Assistant Director (Conservation) via 0773376838.

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
National Library & Documentation Services Board (NLSL),
No. 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY OF COOKED MEALS TO NORTH WESTERN PROVINCIAL AYURVEDA HOSPITALS - 2022

Sealed bid applications are hereby invited up to 10.00 a.m. on 05.01.2022 by the Procurement Committee Chairman on behalf of the North Western Provincial Department of Ayurveda for the supply of cooked meals for Ayurveda Hospitals mentioned below for the period from 01.03.2022 up to 28.02.2023.

- The menu included in a single round of meals will be provided along with bid documents.
- The hospitals to which services should be provided are D.B. Welagedara Ayurveda Hospital - Kurunegala, D.B. Welagedara Ayurveda Hospital (Paying Ward) - Kurunegala, Narammala, Murutenge, Dodamgaslanda, Kirimetiya, Nedalagamuwa, Madampe, Ambanpola, Wariyapola and Puttalam Rural Hospitals.
- A bidder could submit bid applications for one or several hospitals and separate bid applications should be submitted separately for each of the hospitals.
- Bid documents could be obtained during working days of the week from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by submitting the receipt obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1500/- and the refundable deposit as mentioned below from 15.12.2021 up to 04.01.2022 to the Finance Assistant of the North Western Provincial Department of Ayurveda on Kurunegala - Colombo Road. The refundable deposit for D.B. Welagedara Ayurveda Hospital is Rs. 50,000/-, D.B. Welagedara Ayurveda Hospital (Paying Ward) is Rs. 5,000/-, for each of the Rural Hospital mentioned above at Rs. 10,000/-.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at this office at 10.00 a.m. on 29.12.2021.
- The words "Bid for supply of cooked meals for (name of hospital) - Hospital" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the sealed envelope containing the bid and sent by registered post to the address below to receive before 10.00 a.m. on 05.01.2022 or should be deposited in the Bid Box kept in the North Western Provincial Department of Ayurveda.
- Bids will be opened at the North Western Provincial Department of Ayurveda at 10.10 a.m. on 05.01.2022 and bidders or their representatives could participate on the occasion.
- Further details or clarifications regarding this bid invitation could be obtained from the Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda by contacting on Tel. No. 037-2228408.

S.M.A.R. Seneviratna,
Procurement Committee Chairman

North Western Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda,
Office of the North Western Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda,
Kurunegala.

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- RATNAPURA.** 045-2223883, 0777-221939
Lake House Advertising Centre, No. 88, Main Street.
- RATNAPURA.** 045-2230730
G.G. Karunaratne, No. 16, Church Road

SOUTHERN PROVINCE

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

UVA PROVINCE

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

CENTRAL PROVINCE

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

EASTERN PROVINCE

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

NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

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

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE

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

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THE COMMITTEE ON HIGH POSTS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA TO EXAMINE THE SUITABILITY OF PERSONS APPOINTED/ NOMINATED TO THE STATE SERVICES AND STATE CORPORATIONS

The Committee on High Posts of the Parliament of Sri Lanka is due to examine the suitability of the persons appointed / nominated to the following posts: -

No.	Name and Address	Designation
1.	Prof. Gamini Senanayake No. 156/14, Crystal Terrace Rukmale, Pannipitiya.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Council for Agricultural Research Policy
2.	Mr. Methsiri Wijegunawardena No. 95/4, Udahamulla Station Road, Gangodawila, Nugegoda.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Company Limited
3.	Mr. D.M. Thilak Dewagiribandara No. 162/16, Jayagath Mawatha, Hokandara North, Hokandara.	Appointed as the Chairman of the National Hunger Eradication Campaign Board
4.	Mr. Sonala Gunawardhana No. 1028/6, Subodharama Temple Road, Pothuwarawa Road, Malabe.	Appointed as the Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board
5.	Mrs. Stella Marapana No. 13 A, Pelawatta Road, Nugegoda.	Appointed as the Chairperson of the Public Performance Board
6.	Mr. Upul Dharmadasa No. 21, Mallika Road, off Temple Road, Mount-Lavinia.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority
7.	General (Retd.) G.A. Chandrasiri No. 43/A, Auburn Side, Dehiwala.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Airport and Aviation Services (SL) Ltd
8.	Mr. G.K.S.L. Rajadasa No. 24, Sasa Housing Scheme, Palkelele, Kundasale.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority
9.	Major (Retd.) Dulath L. Wijetilleke Iconic Apartments, No. 110, Apartment 14C, Parliament Road, Rajagiriya.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Rakna Arakshaka Lanka Ltd
10.	Major General (Retd.) D.S.N.K. Senadeera, No. 512/F, Udumulla Road, Battaramulla.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Ranaviru Seva Authority
11.	Mr. Siripala Amarasinghe No. 170/M-2, Godapargahalanda Road, Kiriwathuduwa.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Central Environmental Authority
12.	Mr. P.P.H.J. Aruna Ratnakumara Prime Residence Leebra, No. 240/10, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.	Appointed as the Chairman of the State Printing Corporation
13.	Mr. Premachandra Epa, No. 44, Wattedegara Road, Maharagama.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board
14.	Mr. L.B. Wickramasinghe, No. 177, Kannangarama Mawatha, Mathugama.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Milco (Pvt) Ltd
15.	Mr. E.F.J. K.Tissa Weerasingha No. 144/12, 9th Lane, Alwis Town, Wattala.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Northsea Ltd
16.	Prof. M.P.S. Magamage No. 101/1 A, 'Tharangani', Hiramadagama, Kahawatta, Rathnapura.	Appointed as the Chairman of the National Livestock Development Board
17.	Mr. Gayan Dissanayake No. 82/1, Araliya Uyana, Pallegama, Embilipitiya.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Gal Oya Plantations (Pvt) Ltd
18.	Mr. Nishantha Sandabarana No. 41, Annapitiya Road, Tangalle.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Lanka Salt Limited
19.	Ms. Saranga Kanchani Rathnayake Paddy Rich Farm, Debarawewa, Thissamaharama.	Appointed as the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation
20.	Mr. Jayantha Wijerathne Yakkalawatta, Bakmeegolla, Ibbagamuwa.	Appointed as the Chairman of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka
21.	Mr. R. L. Anton de Mens No. 149/A2, Nonagama Junction, Ambalanthota.	Appointed as the Chairman of the National Council on Road Safety
22.	Mr. Razik Zaroook, No. 4/5, R.G.Senanayake Mawatha, (Gregory's Road), Colombo 07.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka
23.	Mr. Janaka Nimalachandra No. 195, 2/1, Karlsruhe Court, Baseline Road, Colombo 09.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt.) Ltd
24.	Prof. W.A.P. Weerakkody No. 3, Circular Road, Dewaragampala, Mawanella.	Appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Post Harvest Management
25.	Mr. K. Ratwatte No. 9/5, Pathiba Road, Colombo 05.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Bank of Ceylon
26.	Mr. Gamini Ekanayake No. 8/239, Galle Road, Ethagama, Kalutara.	Appointed as the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Cement Corporation

Any organization or individual desirous of making representations with regard to the above appointments nominations should send duly signed written memoranda under registered cover to "The Secretary, Committee on High Posts, Committee Office, Parliament of Sri Lanka, Sri Jayewardenepura, Kotte" on or before **29 December 2021**. Representations may also be faxed to fax No. 011-2777300 or be sent via email to: highposts_c@parliament.lk.

The Committee may require such memoranda to be supported by oral evidence. The advertisement is also available in the Parliament Website (www.parliament.lk)

**Secretary to the Committee
Secretary General of Parliament**

**Parliament of Sri Lanka
Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte.
15 December 2021**

COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE YEAR - 2022/2023

Applications will be received for **Registration of Suppliers for the year 2022/2023** by the Municipal Commissioner, Colombo Municipal Council, up to **3.00 p.m. on 31st January 2022** from reputed Suppliers, Manufacturers and Contractors for the supply of following goods and services for the year - 2022/2023

Application forms could be obtained from the **Customer Care Unit of Colombo Municipal Council, Town Hall until 3.00 p.m., 05th January 2022 upon payment of non-refundable Registration fee of Rs.2300/= (with taxes) for each Item.** Application form will not be issued after 3.00 p.m. on 05 th January 2022.

Duly filled Application form with relevant document should be sent to the below mentioned address **at before 3.00 p.m. on 31st January 2022** and "Registration of Suppliers for the year 2022/2023" should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope containing the applications.

**CHIEF ACCOUNTANT (PROCUREMENT),
CENTRAL PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT,
COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
TOWN HALL,
COLOMBO 07.**

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought from the Chief Accountant (Procurement) on **Tel: 0112686389 & 0112673173.**

ITEM NO.	SUPPLIES
1.	Air Conditioning Equipment for Buildings
2.	Air Conditioning equipment for Motor vehicles
3.	Aluminum Products
4.	Aluminum Door, Fiber Door, PVC Door & Fittings
5.	Artificial Plants & Flower Pots (Made from Cement, Concrete, Clay, Plastic etc.)
6.	Asphalt Concrete
7.	Audio Visual equipment
8.	Ayurvedic Drugs and Herbs etc.
9.	Bags (Office bags, Brief cases, School bags, Leather bags etc.)
10.	Beauty Culture Equipment & Cosmetics
11.	Batteries
12.	Bitumen & Lubricants
13.	Canvas Materials etc.
14.	CCTV Camera System
15.	Ceramic Products, Glassware & Cutlery Items
16.	Chemical and Disinfectants & Pesticides
17.	Coir Brooms, Ekel Brooms, Mops, Ceiling Brooms, Coir Mattresses, Mats etc.
18.	Computer & Photocopy Accessories (including Toner Ribbon etc.)
19.	Computer, Printer & UPS ,Soft wares and Networking
20.	Curtain Cloth, Rexene Curtain, Railing, Hooks, Fittings etc.
21.	Cement
22.	Dental Equipment
23.	Desserts (Yoghurts, Ice Cream, Watalappam etc.)
24.	Digital Cameras
25.	Dry ration items
26.	Electrical Items (Bulbs, Switches, Cables, Cable Ties etc.)
27.	Fertilizer & Chemicals
28.	Fiberglass Materials
29.	Fire Extinguishers & Other Safety Equipment
30.	Flags, Corner Flags, Bunting etc.
31.	Food Items (Short Eats, Lunch, Dinner, Dry Foods, Water Bottles)
32.	Garden Benches and Water ponds
33.	Gully covers, Manhole covers
34.	General Hardware Items (Mammoty, shovel, wheel barrow.)
35.	GI Pipes, MS Sheets, Angel, Box Bar, Tor steels etc..
36.	Hardware Items, Split Cane, Cotton Waste & GSW Pipes etc.
37.	Home Appliances (Refrigerators, T.Vs. Electric kettles, Fans, Water Boilers etc.)
38.	Ice Coffee, Faluda, Fruit Juice Packets etc.
39.	Insecticide, Weedicide and Pesticide etc.
40.	Items related to wood Polish, Varnish etc.
41.	Laboratory Chemicals
42.	Laboratory Equipment
43.	Landscaping Materials(Grass Sodds, Plants, Trees Coir Dust, Compost, Fertilizer etc.)
44.	Machinery & Equipment
45.	Medical Equipment
46.	Metal, Sand and Bricks
47.	Milk Packets
48.	Minor Tools & Equipment
49.	Motor and Auto spare parts.
50.	Office Equipment (Photocopy Machines, Typewriters, Roneo Machines, Calculators, Fax Machines, Adding machines etc.)
51.	Office Furniture (Steel & Wooden)
52.	Ophthalmic Equipment Machines and Supplies
53.	P.V.C. Coated Mesh, Wire Mesh and Other Mesh Items.
54.	P.V.C. Pipes and Fittings etc.
55.	Paints
56.	Plastic Materials & Rubber Products (Dust Bins, Rubber Carpets etc.)
57.	Plywood Sheet, Plywood Doors & Paint Brushes
58.	Pre-Cast Concrete Items (RCC Hume Pipes, Concrete Posts, Curbs, Interlocking Paving Blocks & RCC Poles etc.)
59.	Printed forms & Computer Stationery
60.	Printing Ink, Printing Paper, Mono Metal & Other Material Required for the Printing Press
61.	Rain Coats, Gum Boots, Badges, Eppaulets etc.
62.	Ready Mix concrete
63.	Sanitaryware
64.	Sewer Cleaning rods.
65.	Slaked Lime, Boiled Lime & Yellow and Other etc.
66.	Sports materials (Play Equipment, Body Building Equipment etc.)
67.	Stationery
68.	Supply of Refill LP Gas for Cylinders (12.5 kg, 2.3 kg, 37.5 kg)
69.	Survey and Drawing Office Materials
70.	Timber
71.	Traffic Sign Board
72.	Trophies (Souvenirs, Plaques, Medals, Badges etc)
73.	Tyres and Tubes
74.	Thermo Plastic & Glass Beads
75.	Uniform Materials & Footwears
76.	Veterinary Equipment & Medicine
77.	Western Drugs

ITEM NO.	SERVICES
01.	Aluminum Extrusion Fitting Works
02.	Auto Tinkering & Painting
03.	Binding of Library Books
04.	Building Maintenance.
05.	Cleaning Services and Janitorial Services
06.	Clearing and transporting of imported goods from Harbour & Airport
07.	Clutch/Brake Relining and bonding
08.	Computer & Electronic equipment repairs & Services
09.	Construction of Electricity Line (Street lighting)
10.	Crank Shaft Grinding
11.	Curtaining of Office Building
12.	Digital Printing (Posters, Banners etc.)
13.	Door Winding Mechanism repairs
14.	Electrical Repairs.
15.	Engine overhauling, Crank Grinding, Head Facing Re-boring etc.
16.	Fabricating & Repairing Hydraulic Hoses & Cables
17.	Fabricating of Number plates,
18.	Fabricating, Paints and installation of steel trusses
19.	Floral Decorations
20.	Hiring Of Air Conditions
21.	Hiring Of Generators
22.	Hiring Of Sound Systems and stage lighting Systems
23.	Hiring Of Steel Temporary sheds, Marquees, Chairs, stages, event Items etc
24.	Hiring of Vehicles
25.	Hiring Sound Systems
26.	illumination works
27.	Name Board, Banners, Painting & Sign Writer
28.	Painting Work of Equipment, Office building, Railings and other steel Fabrication
29.	Polishing of Furniture
30.	Purchase & Removal of used Spare Parts & Electrical Components.
31.	Purchase & Removal of used Tyres
32.	Rattaning works.
33.	Rebuilding Tyres and Tubes
34.	Restaurant, Catering & Bakery Services
35.	Repair and fixing of collapsible doors
36.	Repair work (fabrication) of tractor trailers
37.	Repairing of Air Condition Machines, Electric Fans, Generators, Water Pumps and Motors, Refrigerators etc.
38.	Repairing of Radiator
39.	Repairing of Wheel Alignment
40.	Repairs to Cylinders, and Injector Pumps, etc
41.	Rubber Moulding and fiberglass Moulding
42.	Sand casting Works
43.	Sewing and Mounting loose covers to Vehicles
44.	Starter motor, alternator rewinding & repairing
45.	Tailoring
46.	Transporting (Cement, Bitumen etc.)
47.	Upholstery Work (Vehicle etc.)
48.	Valve refilling
49.	Vehicle Air Conditioning
50.	Vehicle and equipment repairs (Approved garages)
51.	Vehicle Body Parts (Fiberglass) repairs
52.	Washing and ironing of Cloth.

Conditions pertaining to the registration of suppliers

- The council reserves the right to reject or accept relevant items and services giving no reason whatsoever.
- Application should be included only relevant to the goods or services which can be supplied according to the nature of the business as mentioned under the Business Registration Certificate.
- Quotations will be invited from the selected, registered suppliers. At the same time the Council reserves the right to accept quotations from the other Suppliers under the existing circumstances.
- The Suppliers who fail to submit quotations when they are duly informed of the necessity or the suppliers who fail to supply and deliver of the stipulated time after order is made and those whose Supplies are not in compliance with relevant specifications and samples will be blacklisted.
- Those who require payments for the materials in advance will not be registered. Credit facilities should be granted at least for a period of 60 days.
- The relevant institutions to be checked by a Committee appointed by the Municipal Commissioner and to obtain recommendations regarding the capacity of the provision of services and /or materials and not to register such institutions not recommended by that Committee.

The contra version of the conditions after the registration will result in the relevant Supplier's name being written off the registration list.

**ROSHANIE DISSANAYAKE - Attorney At- Law,
MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER,
COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.**

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Lake House

DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL - MATARA

Invitation for Bids

Maintaining the Canteen - 2022

Quotations are invited for maintaining the canteen at the Matara General Hospital and for preparation of food and beverages in the Intern Medical Officers Chummary for the period from 01.02.2022 up to 31.01.2023.

- I. Institutions and individuals interested in this matter should submit the receipt obtained for payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,000.00 to the Shroff's Section of the hospital along with the National Identity Card to obtain bid documents.
- II. Bid documents could be obtained from the Head Office of the Hospital from 15.12.2021 up to 05.01.2022 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
- III. The File No. and the name of the tender should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the tender.
- IV. Tender application should be submitted in two copies.
- V. Duly completed tenders will be accepted up to 10.30 a.m. on 06.01.2022 and will be opened at 11.00 a.m. on this day and applicants could participate on this occasion.
- VI. Further details could be obtained by contacting on Tel. Nos. 041-2227820 / 041-2227821 or 041-2222261/63.

**Chairman,
Regional Procurement Board,
General Hospital,
Matara.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 11KV POWER CABLES AND 11KV RING MAIN UNIT (RMU) AT THE BANK OF CEYLON HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AT COLOMBO 01

Bid No. PDL/SP/2021/03

1. **The Chief Executive Officer, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01,** now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11kV Ring Main Unit (RMU) on Floor 17 and 11kV Power Cables from 11 kV Switchgear Panel in Basement 2 to Power Transformers on Floor 17 of the Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building at Colombo 01 as described below and the estimated cost of **Rs. 26 Million plus VAT.**

The Works consist of :

- (a) Removal of the existing 11kV Power Cables installed from 11kV Switchgear in Basement 2 to Power Transformers on Floor 17 (2 Nos. feeders), removal of 11kV off load isolator on Floor 17, transporting cables and the isolator to Basement 2 and handing over to the Employer.
- (b) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11kV Ring Main Unit (RMU) on Floor 17.
- (c) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11kV 3 core XLPE Power Cables from 11 kV Switchgear in Basement 2 to RMU being installed on Floor 17 (2 Nos. feeders).
- (d) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11 kV 3 core XLPE Power Cables from RMU to Power Transformers on Floor 17 (2 Nos. feeders).

The time for completion for the whole of works shall be 240 Calendar Days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding Procedure.**

3. Qualification requirements to qualify for submission of Bids and thereafter award of contract include **(the relevant documentary evidence must be submitted with the Bid in order to prove that the Bidder meets all of following qualification requirements, failing which the relevant Bid will be liable for rejection) :**

- (a) The Bidder shall have at least **Seven (7) years'** experience of carrying out similar type of works/contracts in Sri Lanka.
- (b) The make of SF₆ Ring Main Unit, cable and cable termination accessories being offered shall have at least **Five (5) years'** proven service record in Sri Lanka.
- (c) An accredited local Agent / Authorized Distributor / local country office of the Manufacturer should be available in Sri Lanka for the make of SF₆ Ring Main Unit being proposed during the past Five (5) years from the closing date of the Bid.
- (d) The Manufacturer of SF₆ Ring Main Unit shall have a minimum of 15 years' experience in manufacturing of Ring Main Units (Same voltage range offered) and should have supplied SF₆ Ring Main Unit successfully outside the country of the manufacture for minimum of Five (5) years for usage in utilities.
- (e) The Bidder must have an average annual turnover of not less than LKR 59 Million for at least 3 financial years during the last five (5) financial years (Documentary evidence in terms of audited financial statements must be submitted with the Bid).
- (f) The Bidder must have experience in successful completion of one similar nature & complexity contract of value above Rs. 21 Million during last 5 years from the date of closing of the Bid (Documentary evidence for name of the contract, employer, contract amount, contract period, date of completion, etc. shall be submitted with the Bid).

4. Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the Office of the **Maintenance Manager, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building, "BOC Square" No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01,** during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs on working days from **20 December 2021 until 04 January 2022.**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested prospective Bidders on submission of a written application in their company letterhead to the **Maintenance Manager, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01,** on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs from **20 December 2021 until 19 January 2022** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 4,000/=** per set of documents only. The method of payment will be in cash.

6. Sealed Bids shall be deposited in the Tender Box available at the Office of **Property Development PLC, Floor 19, Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01,** or sent by Registered Post addressed to **The Chief Executive Officer, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01,** of the above address to reach him at or before **1500 hrs on 20 January 2022.** Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after closing. Bidders or their representatives may attend the bid opening.

7. Bids shall be valid up to **20 April 2022 (91 Days from date of closing of the Bids).**

8. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security for **Rupees Four Hundred Thousand Only (Rs. 400,000.00)** in the form of a Bank Guarantee or an official cheque issued by a licensed commercial bank, which shall be valid up to **18 May 2022 (119 Days from the date of closing of bids).**

9. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **05 January 2022 at 1500 hrs** at the Office of Property Development PLC, on Floor 19, Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01.

11. For further details please contact the **Maintenance Manager, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01** on Telephone Nos. **011-2544328 / 2380949.**

**The Chief Executive Officer,
Property Development PLC,
Floor 19, Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building,
"BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha,
Colombo 01.**



NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK

TENDER NOTICE

JANITORIAL SERVICES AT HEAD OFFICE BUILDINGS AND OFFICIAL BUNGALOWS - 2022/2023

The Chairman, Corporate Procurement Committee (Major), National Savings Bank will receive sealed tenders for Janitorial Services of the National Savings Bank.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

- (a) Minimum of 3 years experience in Janitorial Services of similar nature in Government or reputed private sector institutions.
- (b) The daily capacity of janitors employed in one building premises belonging to Government or reputed private sector institutions should be at least 40 during the last three (03) year period, and another two building premises with at least 35 janitors per day (each) during the same period.
- (c) Minimum credit facility of Rs. 2,000,000/- from a reputed bank approved by the National Savings Bank.

Specification and Tender Documents will be issued by the AGM (Engineering) of the Bank on receiving of non-refundable documents fee of Rs. 5,000/-.

Tender documents can be examined free of charge and could be obtained from the AGM (Engineering) of the National Savings Bank at his office from **15.12.2021 to 04.01.2022,** during working days up to 3.00 p.m. making a non-refundable payment as indicated above, in cash to the Head Office Branch of National Savings Bank.

Sealed Tenders should be sent by registered post addressed to Chairman (Corporate Procurement Committee - Major), C/o AGM (Engineering), National Savings Bank, 255, Galle Road, Colombo 03 or hand delivered to the AGM (Engineering), Premises Division of National Savings Bank to reach him at or before **2.30 p.m. on 05.01.2022.**

Tenders will be opened immediately after the closing of tenders and an authorized representative is allowed to participate in the event. For any clarifications, please contact AGM (Engineering) of the Bank on Tel: 2573928.

**Chairman,
Corporate Procurement Committee - Major
National Savings Bank,
255, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.**

BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

CONSTRUCTION OF A LOADING BAY AND SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF A WEIGHBRIDGE FOR SOLID WASTE SEPARATION YARD AT KANDY INDUSTRIAL PARK, KENGALLA

CONTRACT NO : BOI/TS/KIP/2021/04/06/002

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka invites sealed Bids for construction of a loading bay and supply, delivery, installation & commissioning of a weighbridge at Kandy Industrial Park, Kengalla. The construction period is 75 days.
2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Since the total cost estimate of this Procurement is below 50 Mn. Regional preference and CIDA Grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii).
3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements.
 - 3.1 Bidder shall be registered with the Institute for Construction Industry Development Authority under category C6 & C5 for Building Construction.
4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award : Experience as a Contractor for at least one work of a similar nature and complexity equivalent to the proposed works over the period of last 5 years.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Director (Zone), Kandy Industrial Park, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Kengalla. Tel. No. 0812423992, 081-2423994, Fax No. 0812423991 and inspect the Bidding Document at the same address between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs during weekdays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Director (Zone), Kandy Industrial Park, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Kengalla from **15.12.2021 to 05.01.2022** between **0900 hrs and 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 2,000/= + VAT.** The method of payment will be by cash.
7. Sealed Bids shall be delivered with duplicate to reach The Director (Zone), Kandy Industrial Park, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Kengalla at or before **1400 hrs on 06.01.2022.** Late Bids will be rejected.
8. Bids will be opened soon after the closing time specified above at the Zone Office of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Kandy Industrial Park, Kengalla. Interested Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of Bids.
9. Bids shall be valid up to **08.04.2022** and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **Rs. 200,000.00.** Bid Security shall be valid up to **06.05.2022.**
10. A Pre Bid Meeting will be held at **1000 hrs on 23.12.2021** at the Office of Director (Zone), Kandy Industrial Park, Kengalla. Interested Bidders may participate at the Pre Bid Meeting.

**Chairman
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

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ANURADHAPURA	025 2 221 411
MAHAJANA BOOK SHOP - Anuradhapura	
ANURADHAPURA	025 2 222 806
SATHSARA BOOK SHOP - 40, KADAPANAH, ANURADHAPURA	
ANURADHAPURA	025 2 222 575
PANDITIA BOOK SHOP - 56/24, MATITHIRIPALA SENANAYAKE WJ, NEWS BUS STAND, ANURADHAPURA	
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AMBALANTOTA	047 2 223 152
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TISSAMAHARAMA	047 2 239 088
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BATTICALOA KATHTHANKUDY	077 7 435 566
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BATTICALA	065 2 226 034
PRIYA STORES, N.K. RATHNASINGHAM, NO.01, MARKET ROAD, BATTICALOA.	
POLONNARUWA POLONNARUWA	077 9 627 542
PARAKUMI BOOK SHOP - HOSPITAL JUNCTION, POLONNARUWA.	
KADURUWELA	076 4 201 263
GALLE CITY STORES - KADURUWELA, POLONNARUWA	
KANDY HIDAGALA	081 3 813 666
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KANDY	081 2 222 780
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DAWASA CENTER - NO.14, STATION ROAD, GAMPOLA.	
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011 2 429 342 | 011 2 429 343

Fax - 011 2 429 375 / 011 2 429 380



INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF CEYLON

(MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES)



Registration of Industries for provision of Scrap Material, Copper, Brass, Aluminium and Iron as Raw Materials under concessionary rates for the Year 2022

In accordance with the Cabinet Decision dated 14.09.2014 under a programme of providing small and medium scale industrialists metallic scrap material to use as raw materials required for their industries, Applications are called for the registration of industrialists for the year 2022 under the following fields.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Scrap Copper and Copper related metals | 5. Scrap Iron |
| 2. Scrap Brass and Brass related metals. | 6. Scrap transformers and transformer related metals |
| 3. Scrap Aluminium and Aluminium related metals | 7. Used furnace oil. |
| 4. Scrap Cast Iron | 8. Scrap Lead |

The above scrap materials are used as raw materials for your industry, You will be eligible for registration.

(Industries which have been registered in 2021 are not required to apply to the new registration in 2022)

1. Marketing Division - Head Office 2. Website: www.idb.gov.lk 3. District Offices

Ampara - 063 2222405	Jaffna - 021 2222421	Matale - 066 2223160
Anuradhapura - 025 2222335	Kandy - 081 2224233	Matara - 041 2222001
Badulla - 055 2222470	Kalutara - 034 2222601	Monaragala - 055 2276097
Batticaloa - 065 2228410	Kegalle - 035 2223124	Mullaitivu - 021 2290209
Colombo - 011 2815009	Kilinochchi - 021 2283754	Nuwara Eliya - 052 2223668
Galle - 091 2227034	Kurunegala - 037 2223212	Polonnaruwa - 027 2223077
Gampaha - 033 2222909	Mannar - 023 2251599	Puttlam - 032 2222093
Hambantota - 047 2225468	Ratnapura - 0452222567	Trincomalee - 026 2227330
Vavuniya - 024 2222274		

All completed applications should be handed over to the relevant District Office on or before 31.01.2022. Chairman, Industrial Development Board of Ceylon.

All inquiries should be directed to, Director Marketing No. 615, Katubedda, Moratuwa, Tel. 011-2607003 / 011 2623439



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF SURGICAL ITEMS

Closing -21/12/2021@10.00 a.m.

The Central Purchasing Unit of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka invites quotations from Local Agents who are registered with Central Purchasing Unit for the supply of surgical items for 1 year requirement of the Rajiya Osusala outlets.

Tender Reference	Item	Pack Size	Quantity
LP/CPU/OSU/URG/120/DEC/21/12/2021	KN-95 FACE MASK-WHITE COLOUR	1'S	200,000 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/151*/21/12/2021	ELBOW CRUTCHES	1'S	3,000 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/450*/21/12/2021	WALKING STICK	1'S	2,500 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/340*/21/12/2021	QUARD CANE	1'S	2,000 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/397*/21/12/2021	WALKER WITHOUT WHEELS	1'S	3,000 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/152*/21/12/2021	UNDER ARM CRUTCHES	1'S	4,500 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/149*/21/12/2021	WHEEL CHAIR	1'S	4,500 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/148*/21/12/2021	COMMODO WHEEL CHAIR	1'S	5,000 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/455*/21/12/2021	FIRST AID BOX (12"X13"/13"X15"/12"X8"/14"X18"/12"X13"-GLASS/12"X20"-GLASS)	1'S	12"X13" GLASS - 3000 Nos. OTHER SIZES - 1500 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/258*/21/12/2021	AIR MATTRESS WITH MINIMUM 6 MONTH WARRANTY	1'S	4,000 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/430*/21/12/2021	MOVING WALKER WITH WHEEL	1'S	3,000 Nos.

You are requested to indicate the lowest price in Sri Lankan Rupees that could be offered. A certified copy of the National Medicinal Regulatory Authority (NMRA) Registration should be forwarded along with the quotation if available.

Tenders shall be submitted in **one Original and One Duplicate** sealed separately and marked as Original and 'Duplicate' respectively. Both Envelopes shall together be enclosed in one Envelope, sealed and addressed to The Chairman/Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, 16th Floor, "Mehewara Piyasa", No. 41, Kirula Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka. In addition, the following information also should be included in your quotation.

- Delivery date - Ability to deliver the goods along the period of one year, as and when needed.
- Ex-stock availability (ex-stocks are expected to be supplied within 03 working days after placing the order)
- Delivery schedule / date will be informed accordingly.

Tenders will be closed on 21.12.2021 at 10.00 a.m. The above quotations should be placed in the Tender Box at the Internal Audit Department of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation Head Office. **The tender number & the item description should be placed on the left hand corner of the envelope.**

➤ The tender is awarded by Procurement Committee depending on the quality, availability marketability & the price after evaluation by the Technical Evaluation Committee.

➤ **One sample should be submitted to Central Purchasing Unit**, when the quotation is submitted.

➤ The quantity of this tender is subject to change according to the requirements of the Osusala outlets. Central Purchasing Unit will inform the relevant details.

➤ Once the tender is awarded, you should be able to supply the goods within three working days. If goods are not supplied as per our requirement SPC may award the tender to next acceptable bidders.

• **Offers from unregistered suppliers will not be considered, Please attach NMRA certificate or the Waiver of registration to consider for an award.**

• **Please attach the receipt received from the "Registration of Public Contracts" for the bids over Rupees 5 million.**

• **Please submit bid bond, value equal to 02% of the bid value, valid for 06 months (180 days from the tender closing date).**

• BONDS/GUARANTEES

(a) Bid Bond

1. Bidders should furnish an unconditional Bid Bond encashable on first written demand to the value stated against each item in the **Annex i** of the Bidding Document. Bid Bond should be submitted together with the Bid or to reach SPC on or before the closing date and time of Bid. Bids submitted without Bid Bonds, will not be considered.

2. The Bid Bond should be valid for at least 30 days beyond the validity of the Bid. The amount of bid bond should be 2% of the total bid value.

3. The Bid Bond shall be as per specimen at **Annex iii** and shall be issued by one of the following institutions.

i. A commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

ii. A bank based in another country but the security or guarantee "Confirmed" by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka.

iii. A Letter of Credit issued by a Foreign Bank, but 'Confirmed' by a Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka.

iv. Any other Agency approved by the Treasury from time to time.

Or

v. A cash deposit

(b) Performance Bond

4. The successful Bidder shall within 14 days from the notification of award should submit an unconditional Performance Bond up to 10% of the total value of award. Failure to comply with this request shall constitute sufficient grounds for the Corporation to cancel such award and forfeit the Bid Bond/Security.

5. However, the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation Procurement Committee reserves the right to increase the required Performance Bond at their discretion.

6. The Performance Bond shall be as per specimen **Annexure iv-** and shall be issued by one of the institutions given at para 3.

7. Claims on the Performance Bond will be made by the Corporation on the very first instance the supplier fails to comply with the terms and conditions of Bid/indent and L/C.

Manager - Central Purchasing Unit
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka
26th Floor, No 41, Kirula Road,
Colombo 05.
Telephone: 2439667

GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA



MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS

ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

"100,000 KM ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME"

HIRING OF MACHINERY FOR PROJECTS UNDER DIRECT LABOUR FORCE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Chief Engineer's office (Galle), on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA) invites sealed quotations for the above Projects from the regional Suppliers for the following machinery.

CATEGORY	CAPACITY	PERIOD	CONDITIONS
Excavator	200 HP	Depending on the Service requirement	Priority will be given to Registered Year below 10 years on 30.12.2021
Excavator	120 HP	Depending on the Service requirement	Priority will be given to Registered Year below 10 years on 30.12.2021
Excavator with Breaker	120 HP	Depending on the Service requirement	Priority will be given to Registered Year below 10 years on 30.12.2021
JCB		Depending on the Service requirement	Priority will be given to Registered Year below 10 years on 30.12.2021
Vibrating roller	05 Ton	Depending on the Service requirement	Priority will be given to Registered Year below 10 years on 30.12.2021
Vibrating roller	12 Ton	Depending on the Service requirement	Priority will be given to Registered Year below 10 years on 30.12.2021
Motor Grader (Blade 10 feet)	120 HP or above	Depending on the Service requirement	Priority will be given to Registered Year below 10 years on 30.12.2021
Tipper	01 Cube	Depending on the Service requirement	Priority will be given to Registered Year below 10 years on 30.12.2021
Tipper	03 Cube	Depending on the Service requirement	Priority will be given to Registered Year below 10 years on 30.12.2021

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Relevant documents may be inspected free of charge and can be purchased from Chief Engineer's office (Galle) Road Development Authority, Fort, Galle.
- A relevant application shall be purchased by interested suppliers on submission of a written application to the Chief Engineer's Office, Road Development Authority, Fort, Galle from **16.12.2021** until **30.12.2021** from 09:00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 540.00 (including VAT). (Tel. No. 0912234891)
- Suppliers who are unable to come to office for purchasing quotation due to the prevailing situation, office can be contacted through **cegalle.rda@gmail.com** Application can be sent by a mail and they will be quoted. When the bid submitting so, obtain a receipt by paying application fee to the RDA along with quotations. Other offers will be rejected.
- Sealed quotations may be dispatched either by registered post or hand delivered as follows at or before 10.00 a.m. on **31.12.2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Quotations will be opened soon after the closing. Suppliers or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of quotations.
- Offers shall be marked as "Hiring of machinery -" on the top of left-hand corner of the envelope.

CHAIRMAN,
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE,
CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE (GALLE),
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
FORT, GALLE.



Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department

State Ministry of Coast Conservation and Low Lying Lands Development

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Supply of 250 Geo bags (Contract No: CCD/CD/2021/83)

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department invites sealed bids from you for the supply of 250 geo bags.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted by the Department or by any other government Department.
- Further information may be obtained from Chief Engineer (Coastal Development), Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department, at the address given below and inspect the bidding document at the same address on any working days from **0900 hrs. to 1530 hrs. (Telephone / fax : 0112472622 / 0112387920)**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in the English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Rupees Three thousand five hundred only (Rs.3,500.00)** from **2021.12.15 - 2022.01.05**. The method of payment will be by cash and shall be deposited to the Shroff of the Department.
- Bids shall be delivered or sent by Registered Post in **duplicate** to the address below on or before **2022.01.06 at 1400 hrs.** The bid Number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of the envelope. 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 up to **2022.03.09**.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Security to the amount of **LKR 40,000.00** issued by a bank approved by the Central Bank. Bid Security shall be valid up to **2022.04.06**.

The address referred to above is:

Chief Engineer (Coastal Development),
Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department,
Fourth Floor, New Secretariat,
Maligawatta,
Colombo 10.

Telephone : 0112472622

Fax : 0112387920 / 0112438005

Mail : coastaldevelopmentcd@gmail.com

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee,
Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department.

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Ministry of Trade Co-operative Wholesale Establishment

Invitation for Tenders for sale of Used Lorries

Sealed Tenders are accepted for Sale of Used Lorries belonging to the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment

Vehicles could be inspected from 17.12.2021 up to 31.12.2021 during office hours between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. in the Transport Division at the C.W.E. located at No. 105, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10. Further details could be obtained from the Manager (Operations) on Tel. No. 0777385290.

Tender applications and conditions could be obtained from the Procurement Division at the Head Office of C.W.E. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/= for each application. A refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 10,000.00 should be paid to the Cashier at the C.W.E. Head Office before 10.00 a.m. on 31.12.2021 for each item when submitting Bids.

Tenders will be opened immediately after closing of accepting Tenders at 12.00 noon on 31.12.2021.

The Tender Board retains the right of the final decision.

**Chairman
Departmental Procurement Committee
Co-operative Wholesale Establishment
No. 27, Vauxhall Street,
Colombo 02.**

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Registration of Transport Providers for – 2021/2022 (To obtain Lorries on hire basis)

Applications are hereby invited by Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited for transport providers who wish to register themselves with the Lanka Sathosa Limited for the under mentioned Lorries for the purpose of transporting Grocery Items, Dry Ration Items (Essential Goods) and other required items related to sales in Lanka Sathosa outlets for the year 2022.

Registration fee per lorry (Non-refundable)+VAT

Capacity	Registration Fee (Rs.)
Below 5MT	5,000.00
10MT	10,000.00
15MT	15,000.00
20 MT or above	20,000.00

Condition of the Lorries should be as follows.

Diesel, with lockable doors, safe full body, good condition tires for transporting ration material.

application together with a set of relevant documents can be downloaded through the under mentioned website from 16th December 2021 for free of charge or collect from the procurement Division (3rd Floor) at Lanka Sathosa Limited head office by paying Rs.2,500/- (Except Registered Suppliers of lorries for year 2021/2022)

www.lankasathosa.org

Duly completed application forms together with all the necessary documents should be hand delivered from 16th December 2021 at the under mentioned address.

3rd floor
Procurement Division
Lanka Sathosa Limited
No.27, CWE Secretariat
Building,
Vauxhall Street,
Colombo 02.

Contact under Mentioned Officer for clarifications;
Senior Logistics Officer- Lanka Sathosa Limited – 070 1560720
Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited, reserves the authority to final decision.

**Lanka Sathosa Limited, Sathosa Secretariat Building,
No.27, Vauxhall Street , Colombo 02.**

Department of Local Government, Northern Province

NOTICE FOR MEETING UNDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS

(Amendment) Act No. 22 of 2012

I, Mariyathas Patrick Diranjan, Commissioner of Local Government, Northern Province by virtue of powers vested to me under Sub Section No. 66 (G) of Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act, No.22 of 2012, hereby notify to convene the meeting for the election to fill the vacancy of Chairman of Vavuniya North Pradeshiya Sabha in Northern Province on 22.12.2021 at 10.30 am at the hall of the Vavuniya North Pradeshiya Sabha.

**Mariyathas Patrick Diranjan,
Commissioner of Local Government,
Northern Province.**

**Department of Local Government,
Northern Province,
Elders Home Complex,
A9 Road, Kaithady,
Jaffna.**

14th December 2021

My No.: WGSWD&EIP/ACQ/KB/15

Land Min's Ref No.: 4/3/10/2012/LRB/323

**Weras Ganga Storm Water Drainage and
Environment Improvement Project,
No. 03, Sri Jayawardanepura Mawatha,
Welikada, Rajagiriya.**

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460)

The inquiry for ownership and compensations under Section 9 of the Land Acquisition Act regarding the lands described below which have been acquired to the government is scheduled to be held from 28.12.2021. For more details, please see the Gazette No. 2255/11 dated 23.11.2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

SCHEDULE

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01. Province | : Western |
| 02. District | : Colombo |
| 03. D/S Division | : Kesbewa |
| 04. Location | : Thumbowila, Bokundara |
| 05. Village | : Thumbowila, Bokundara |
| 06. Preliminary Plan No. / | : Sheet No. 05 in Block 01 of 18 in the Cadastral Map No. 521203 |
| Cadastral Map No. | : Sheet No. 02 in Block 07 of 07 in the Cadastral Map No. 521211 |
| | : Sheet No. 03 in Block 01 of 07 in the Cadastral Map No. 521211 |
| | : Sheet No. 05 in Block 07 of 18 in the Cadastral Map No. 521203 |
| 07. Lot Numbers | : 216 allotments in the aforementioned Cadastral Maps |
| 08. Total Extent | : 20.7909 hectare |

**H.Thilakawardhana
Acquiring Officer,
Weras Ganga Storm Water Drainage &
Environment Improvement Project,
Divisional Secretary's Division - Kesbewa**

**Weras Ganga Storm Water Drainage &
Environment Improvement Project,
No. 03, Sri Jayawardanepura Mawatha,
Welikada, Rajagiriya.**
08.12.2021

**The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News**



Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited WANTED A BUILDING FOR RENT OR LEASE

WATTALA

BID NO. ERD/SDD/PROC/2021/582/M417

Wanted a building with space not less than 2000 sq. ft. to be used as a Customer Service Centre, from Wattala area. Negombo Road (from Peliyagoda to Express way at Mabola) or old Negombo Road or Hunupitiya Road (from Hendala Junction to Rail Gate) facing or closer to the main road or along Aweriwatte Road or Hekitta Road or Sri Wickrama Road or Thelangapatha Road or Alwis Road or in close proximity with access roads not less than 20ft. in width, for immediate occupation. Premises should include electricity, to water and drainage facilities. The property should be with a land of around 40 extent preferably with a parapet wall.

The period of rent or lease will be 02 Years.

Sealed offers are accepted up to 11:00 hours on 2021/01/06, Offers will be opened soon after the closing of bids.

Offers should include full details including

- * Contact telephone number,
- * E-mail address,
- * Expected rent/lease amount,
- * All other relevant details
- * Terms and conditions with copies of the Title Deed and the Survey Plan.

Due to prevailing covid-19 situation, bid opening will be carried out online via Zoom meeting. The owners or their authorized representatives can participate at the bid opening online. To issue the meeting link, bidders shall send a request email to "procurement@leco.lk" specifying the title and number of participating bid. (Please contact 011-2371637 for any clarification)

Offers can be sent under registered post to the address given below (offers shall be received to Lanka Electricity Company before the date and time of closing of bids), or offers can be deposited in the Tender box placed at the Company Head Office on or before the time & date of closing of bids.

Only the owners of the premises shall submit their offers.

Title of the procurement and bid shall be mentioned on the upper left hand corner of the envelope.

For any further clarifications, please contact the
Head of Human Resources & Administration via 011-2-371 600

TENDER NOTICE

www.leco.lk

General Manager
Lanka Electricity Company (Pvt) Ltd.,
E.H. Cooray Building
411, Galle Road, Colombo 03.



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<p>Kandy Branch</p>  <p>KANDY No.99 ,D.S.Senanayaka veediya ,Kandy 081 223 4200</p>	<p>Anuradhapura Branch</p>  <p>ANURADHAPURA No.310/1/2, Harischandra Mawatha, Bank Town 025 222 2370</p>
<p>Matara Branch</p>  <p>MATARA No.29, Upper Floor, Main Bus Stand 041 223 5412</p>	<p>Nugegoda Branch</p>  <p>NUGEGODA 4th Floor Savsiri Complex, High Level Road 011 282 8114</p>
<p>Jaffna Branch</p>  <p>JAFFNA No.06, Sirampirady, Off Stanley Road 077 616 4901</p>	<p>Maradana k/v Branch</p>  <p>MARADANA No.383, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10 011 242 9336</p>
<p>Kataragama Branch</p>  <p>KATARAGAMA Opposite Kataragama Bus Stand, Pussadewa Mawatha 047 223 5291</p>	

LAKE HOUSE HEAD OFFICE HOT LINES
1949, 011 242 9342, 011 242 9333
No 35, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10

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