



MR says will support anyone willing to fulfill country's aspirations

ASELA KURULUWANSHA

Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa said he will support anyone who will honestly dedicate himself to fulfill requirements of people of the country. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



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INFLATION DROPS BY 35.3% IN APRIL

The Department of Census and Statistics yesterday said that inflation in Colombo has dropped to 35.3 percent in April.

Sri Lanka's headline inflation, as measured by the Year-on-Year (Y-O-Y) change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI), **▶ TO PAGE 03**

IMF'S EFF AGREEMENT PASSED WITH 95 VOTES MAJORITY

120 MPS VOTE FOR RESOLUTION, 25 VOTE AGAINST

SJB, TNA, SLP VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION

IRANGIKA RANGE and ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Resolution for the Implementation of the Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Sri Lanka has been passed in Parliament yesterday with a majority of 95 votes. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

AL-QAEDA AGENTS PLANNED EASTER ATTACKS IN PUTTALAM ONE YEAR BEFORE

TID QUESTIONS MAIN SUSPECT AFTER AUSTRALIAN DISCLOSURE

SIRANJANI KUMARI

Police sources say that a year before the Easter Sunday terror attacks, some powerful members of the Al-Qaeda terrorist group had visited the country and planned the Easter attacks at Lacto Estate in Wanatawilluwa, Puttalam.

These facts have been revealed in the repeated questioning of the main suspects of the Easter terror attacks, who are said to have had relations with Al-Qaeda terrorist group and foreign terrorists.

This has been revealed in the further questioning which was carried out on April 21, after the main suspect of the Easter Sunday attacks Mohammad Abdullah Haq was taken to the Terrorist Investigation Department for re-interrogation.

He was allowed to be brought back to the Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) for further questioning by Colombo Additional Magistrate Pasan Amarasinghe on April 21 based on the reports given by the Australian Government. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

AL-QAEDA MEMBER RUMAN THALIB WAS ARRESTED IN AUSTRALIA

DIPLOMAT fetes London envoy Saroja Sirisena



Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in London Saroja Sirisena was awarded the Diplomat of the Year from Asia and Oceania at the prestigious DIPLOMAT magazine annual Awards Ceremony 2023 at the Royal Overseas League on April 24. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

TABLING OF ANTI-TERRORISM BILL WILL BE DELAYED - MINISTER TO OBTAIN VIEWS OF ALL FACTIONS CONCERNED

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA and IRANGIKA RANGE

Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms Minister Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe told Parliament yesterday (28) that the tabling of the Anti-Terrorism Bill will be delayed further. **▶ TO PAGE 03**



LG candidates can resume work close to their homes - PM

IRANGIKA RANGE

Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena told Parliament yesterday that the government will enable government servants who have given nominations for the Local Government Election to resume their work without violating the election law. He also said that the related gazette will be issued next week.

Accordingly, the government servants will be able **▶ TO PAGE 02**

IUSF Convener laments result delays in Kelaniya PSC inquires into campus grievances

Inter University Students' Federation (IUSF) Convener Wasantha Mudalige disclosed that the Kelaniya University's Computing and Technology Faculty has not issued results for 12 months and it has therefore, caused students' great distress. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Food poisoning at Nanu-Oya school, 21 hospitalised

Twenty nine schoolchildren of Grade Five studying at Glassaugh Primary School, Nanu-Oya were admitted to the Nuwara Eliya Provincial Hospital after they developed nausea, vomiting due to food poisoning. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

Former MP Sri Ranga remanded till May 12

Former MP J.Sri Ranga who was arrested for allegedly influencing witnesses over an accident in Vavuniya in 2011 was further remanded till May 12 by Vavuniya High Court Judge, M.M. Mohamed Mihal, yesterday. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



China ready to establish crude oil refinery here - Ambassador

Plans to begin the operation of 150 fuel filling stations soon Investing US\$ 120 to 140 million in Sri Lanka this year

ASELA KURULUWANSHA

Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong told the Chief Prelates of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters that a refinery with state-of-the-art technology capable of refining four tonnes of crude oil per day will be established in Sri Lanka as a Chinese investment. **▶ TO PAGE 03**



PRESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT AWARDS HONOURS 90 FOR THEIR COMMITMENT SRI LANKA WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN ENSURING DEVELOPING ECONOMIES HAVE RESOURCES TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE - PRESIDENT



A student receiving a gold award from President Ranil Wickremesinghe in recognition of her service for the protection of environment. Environment Minister Naseer Ahmed and Ministry Secretary Dr. Anil Jasinghe were also present.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe highlighted that it is not solely the responsibility of developing countries such as Sri Lanka to mitigate climate change in the world. During the Presidential Environment

Awards 2021-2022 ceremony held yesterday (28) at the Bandaranaik Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo, the President emphasized that developed countries, **▶ TO PAGE 03**

Court orders genetic samples from all suspects in former MP's murder

VEYANGODA SPECIAL CORR.

Since there are genetic samples from strangers in MP Amarakeerthi Athukorale's murder, the Attanagalla Magistrate Manjula Karunaratne yesterday ordered the Criminal Investigation Department to obtain the genetic samples of all the suspects including the suspects who are in remand custody. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

Magistrate visits shooter 'Buru Muna'

BIMAL JAYASINGHE

Nugegoda Magistrate Thanuja Jayasinghe yesterday arrived at Mirihana Headquarters Police to inspect Ravindu Warna Rangani alias Buru Muna, who was arrested in connection with the killing **▶ TO PAGE 03**

Colombo Additional Coroner hospitalised after assault

UDULLA PEIRIS

Colombo National Hospital's Additional Coroner Iresha Samaraweera was hospitalized yesterday (28) due to an incident of assault.

The coroner was assaulted yesterday (28) morning **▶ TO PAGE 03**

Pay salaries for those contesting LG Polls - Sajith

IRANGIKA RANGE

"Even though the Minister in charge of the subject had previously promised to pay salaries of the government servants who have given nominations for the Local Government Election, this has still not been done," Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said in Parliament yesterday. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



SAPPHIRE CLUSTER WORTH ONLY US\$ 10,200

It was revealed at the Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment that the real value of the star sapphire cluster that was touted to be worth US\$ 100 mn in 2021 is worth only US\$ 10,200. **▶ TO PAGE 03**



Guidelines for state agencies to raise abandoned infants to be formulated

A special meeting held to discuss receiving infants under three months abandoned by their mothers unwilling to reveal their identity and to make legal decisions in the best interests of the child under existing law. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Infants in peril as incubators malfunction in Embilipitiya

Infants taken for treatment to the Children's Ward of the Embilipitiya District General Hospital are facing inconveniences as seven out of 11 incubators are malfunctioning.

Hospital's Consultant Paediatrician Dr. Amila De Silva said that this situation needs to be rectified soon, operation of the neonatal unit **▶ TO PAGE 03**

Assault victim hacked to death inside A'pura hospital

AMILA PRABATH WANASINGHE

A person who was admitted to the Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital after being assaulted due to a personal dispute was attacked

with a sharp weapon by a person inside the hospital and the patient died yesterday (28).

The deceased is a 24 year old youth residing in Medawachchiya. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

United Petroleum Australia to begin operations soon

DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE

The United Petroleum Company in Australia, one of the three companies selected to operate in the petroleum sector in the country, has expressed its willingness to begin operations soon. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



The online meeting with Australian Company officials with Minister Kanchana Wijesekera.

Nearly 33% of the families receiving Samurdhi benefits are not entitled - COPA

COPA disclosed that almost 33% of the families receiving the Samurdhi benefit are families who should not be entitled to the Samurdhi benefit, and a similar percent of families are the families who should be entitled to the Samurdhi benefit. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

Former Katana PS Deputy Chairman found killed in estate

Wanathavilluwa Police said that the body of seventy-two-year-old Peter Hapuarachchi, the former Deputy Chairman of the Katana Pradeshiya Sabha, was found dead yesterday (28) in the guard house of his coconut plantation. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

CB Governors' decision to default on the foreign debt conspiratorial - NPP

IRANGIKA RANGE

NPP Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake told Parliament that there is a connection between the IMF loan and the CB Governors' decision to default on the foreign debt. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



SJB files CIABOC complaint over US\$ 250 Mn bribe claim

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) yesterday filed a complaint at the Commission to Investigate the Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) over the reports of crediting US\$ 250 million **▶ TO PAGE 03**

Commemorative stamp issue to honour Chief Prelate on Sunday

ASELA KURULUWANSHA and NIHAL JAYAWARDENA

A commemorative stamp will be issued tomorrow (30) at 2.00 pm at Henegama Sri

Sanghananda Piriven University in honour of the centenary celebration of the late Rajakeeya Panditha **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Batticaloa Sinhala Maha Vidyalyaya opens after 33 years

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa special correspondent

The Sinhala Maha Vidyalyaya trilingual school at Batticaloa town was re-opened by the Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yahampath on Thursday (27), after a lapse of 33 years.

This school was closed due to the conflict in 1990. It has now been opened for admissions. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yahampath and Provincial Education authorities at the opening. **Picture by Sivam Packiyathan**

Five women arrested over sexual harassment of monk in Monnekulama

GAYAN KUMARA WEERASINGHE

Five women residents of the area were arrested following a complaint that a 48-year-old monk living in a temple located in the Weeradadana area of Monnekulama was sexually harassed and assaulted, Kotavehara Police said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Al-Qaeda agents planned Easter... From page 01

During the interrogation, it has been revealed that five persons from Al-Qaeda terrorist group had come to the country in 2018, inspected several areas and prepared plans for the attacks. The TID filing a motion yesterday (28) said that the mobile phone used

by Abdullah in contact with foreign terrorists has belonged to his friend, Mohammed Fausan, who is also a prime suspect in the Easter Sunday attacks. The TID investigators sought court permission to question the suspect. The TID informed the court the

these suspects are being investigated based on the statement made by Al-Qaeda member in Sri Lanka, Ruman Thalib who was arrested in Australia. Thalib is a resident of Beruwa. Mohammed Fausan who is the main suspect in the case regarding desecration

of Buddha statues in Wanathavilluwa in Puttalam and the case over the armoury of Lactowatte. He is also among the 24 suspects who have been indicted in connection with the Easter Sunday attacks before the Colombo High Court.

CB Governors' decision to default on the foreign... From page 01

He said that it was a conspiratorial decision. Speaking in Parliament yesterday during the debate on the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) agreement, he said that NPP would vote against the IMF EFF agreement as the government did not reveal any negotiations made with the IMF to Par-

liament until the final agreement was signed. MP Dissanayake also said that many professionals' salaries have gone negative due to government taxes. The MP further said that the Governor of the Central Bank, took a decision not to pay the debt even though the money had been allocated from the

budget on April 12 last year, without the consent of Parliament. There is a clear connection between that decision and the International Monetary Fund. This is a conspiratorial decision. We requested to report to Parliament what kind of agreements and what kind of discussions are going on related to IMF. But no

steps were taken to report anything to Parliament until a final agreement was concluded. Especially the President and the government had a responsibility to disclose everything if they directly affect the nation. That didn't happen either. However, they come and ask us for our vote finally. It is not fair.

Commemorative stamp issue to honour... From page 01

Mahopadhyaya Atharagama Sri Vajirajothi Nayaka Thera, the Anunayake of the Udarata Amara-pura Maha Nikaya, under the patronage of Highways and Mass Media Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena. On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of Hene-gama Sri Sanghananda Vid-yayathana Pirivena, a book of felicitation and a Sri Sanghananda Academic Collection will be released simultaneously. State Minister Shantha

Bandara, Member of Parli-ament of the Kandy District and Chairman of the Dis-trict Coordinating Commit-tee Gunatillaka Rajapaksa were present on this occa-sion as well. An indigenous medicine clinic and distribution of spectacles free will be held at the Sri Sanghananda Pirivena, Hene-gama on May 1. A blood donation campaign has also been planned to be held from morning

on this particular day. That evening, there will be a programme of enjoyment of songs under the patronage of veteran lyricist Ven. Ram-bukana Siddhartha Thera. A Pindapatha tour for the 65 monks has been planned to be held on May 3. Books and school sup-ples needed for school children will be accepted by the monks during their Pindapatha tour and will be distributed among the economically disadvan-taged children.

This event which is being held under the aus-pices of Dr. Rambukewela Gnanasinghe Nayake Thera, Chief Sanghanayaka of Singapore, founder of Kandy Wattarathenna Samadhi Cultural Center, Anuradhapura Samadhi Vihara, Singapore Samadhi Centre, and monk in charge of the Sri Sanghananda Pirive-na is being organized by the maha sangha led by Rambukewela Gnanaseeha nayake thera.

IUSF Convener laments result delays... From page 01

He stated that appearing before the Select Commit-tee of Parliament to make suitable recommendations for the expansion of higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka Chaired by Minister Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, PC in Parli-ament recently. The Select Committee of Parliament to make suitable recommendations for the expansion of higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka had called the Inter

University Students' Federa-tion before the Committee to discuss existing concerns pertaining to higher educa-tion and to look into poten-tial proposals and the way forward for the expansion of higher education oppor-tunities. Whilst emphasiz-ing that education should be a right and not a privi-lege, the Convener of the IUSF pointed out that many students drop out of univer-sity as they cannot hold against the pressures aris-

ing due to the shortcomings within the higher education system. Moreover, it was also dis-closed that Faculty of Allied Health Science University of Peradeniya are yet to put forward the academic calen-dar and that the Sabaraga-muwa University are yet to hold examinations. Accordingly, the Commit-tee decided to call for the Ministry of Higher Educa-tion, Vice Chancellors of all Universities, representa-

tives of the Inter University Students'; Federation and all other relevant parties to appear before the Commit-tee in order to collectively discuss matters arising and a way forward. Committee Members Dr. Seetha Arambepola, MPs Rauff Hakeem, Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Eran Wickramaratne, Prof. Chari-tha Herath and Dayasiri Jayasekara were present at the Committee meeting held.

Guidelines for state... From page 01

A special meeting was held on Thursday to establish records in the 379 child care centers under the supervision of government hospitals and Department of Probation and Child Care Services for confidential safe keeping of infants under three months who are abandoned by their parents for any reason and to discuss the way forward including the existing legal conditions. This special Committee meeting was held under the guidance of Justice Minister Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, PC. Women and Child Affairs State Minister Geetha Kumarasinghe said that children are usually handed to the Department of Probation and Child Protective Services or to child care centers supervised by them, or abandoned in other places such as hospitals, highways, while there are also reports of very few children being killed by

such parents, said the officials present. Minister Rajapakse instructed to form a committee consisting of all officials related to this process and work on the matter as soon as possible to consider the legal framework and guidelines required for this initiative.

State Minister Geetha Kumarasinghe said that if a child ever needs to know who the mother of the child is, it is the right of the child and there-fore it is important to prepare a work plan to keep informa-tion of the parents who abandon their infant's whist pre-serving the confidentiality of such information. Officials representing the rel-evant parties including Depart-ment of Probation and Child Care Services, Sri Lanka Police, Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment were present at this special meeting held.

LG candidates can resume work ... From page 01

to work in government insti-tutions in the relevant areas close to the constituency for which they are seeking votes. The Prime Minister added that those who come from dis-tant areas to the government institutions will be given the opportunity to do their duties again at the same places. I had a

discussion with the Election Commission regarding this. The Election Commission has not cancelled the election but has postponed the election. He said that it is important to act in such a way that the election law is not broken under the condi-tion that the election has been postponed but not canceled.

Assault victim... From page 01

This person, who was attacked by several people has been admitted to the Ward No 11 of the Anuradhapura Teach-ing Hospital and later he was transferred to a surgical ward of the Professional unit of the same teaching hospital for fur-ther treatment. While the patient was receiving treat-

ment in this unit, a man who entered the unit at around 5 am yesterday morning, attacked the young man with a sharp weapon in the neck area and a leg and has run away. According to the hospital sources, the patient died few minutes after he was admit-ted to the intensive care unit.

Former MP Sri Ranga... From page 01

Earlier, the Vavuniya High Court judge issued a warrant to arrest and produce the former MP before the Court for influencing and intimid-ating the witnesses in a case pending before it, regarding the death of a police sergeant, in an acci-dent near the Settikulam hospital, in Vavuniya, on July 30, 2011. The vehicle collided head-on with a tree, on the side of the road, killing the police

sergeant who was the MP's bodyguard. After the accident, the former MP made a statement say-ing that the vehicle had been driven by the police sergeant. However, investigations later revealed that the vehicle was driven by the former MP at the time of the accident. It was revealed that the former MP made phone calls to two people who had given evi-dence in relation to the case and tried to influence them.

Batticaloa Sinhala Maha... From page 01

The opening ceremony was presided over by the Batticaloa Zone Education Director Sujatha Kulendrakumar. After unveiling the plaque and cutting the ribbon the Governor admitted the first batch of children to the school. An old student girl of this school remi-nisced that this school estab-lished in 1954 catered to 2,700 children with 72 teachers then. The Governor expressed her great joy in being able to establish this school in the Batticaloa district to cater to those who's mother tongue was Sinhala. "A section of the popula-tion had left the district during the conflict and they are coming back with the co-operation of the education authorities. I am glad that they can give their children and education in their mother tongue," the Governor said.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SHANTHI HARISCHANDRA

(Retired Research Officer Agriculture Department, Beloved wife of late K. Harischandra - People's Bank)

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our neighbours, friends and relatives for their expression of sympathy, kindness and support during the sorrowful time of the death of our dear mother, mother-in-law, sister and grandmother. Arjuna, Kanchana, Jayanthi, Chathur and Adithya.

7th day "Bana" on 29th April at 7.00 p.m.

Pay salaries for... From page 01

Therefore, he said that he likes to inquire from the government as to why it cannot take a direct decision to pay the salaries and allowances to these candidates. The Opposition Leader questioned whether it is right to deprive the govern-ment employees of their salaries because the govern-ment does not have the backbone to conduct the elections. He further said that it is not the fault of govern-ment employees to lose their salaries. However, the govern-ment has made thousands of govern-ment orphans with this delay. He said that the government should consider this as a serious matter and intervene in this matter. The Opposi-tion Leader further said that if it is not possible to give money for the election, then it should at least take the necessary steps to pay the salaries of the government servants properly.

7th Year Remembrance



Mrs. BEATRICE FERNANDO Called to rest on 29 April 2016

Mother: You let us with beautiful memories Your love is still our guide Although we cannot see you You are always at our side Your loving children and grand children

United Petroleum... From page 01

United Petroleum Company in Australia noted that the company will start operations soon after an online meeting held last morning with Ministry officials. Attention was drawn on obtaining necessary business licences and entering into necessary agreements at the online meeting the company had with the Power and Energy Minister Kan-chana Wijesekara and Ministry officials. Government policies, infrastructure develop-ment and contractual dates and the time frame for starting operations were also discussed. Company officials said that they will inform the dates of starting business here in the com-ing week. Officials from the Finance Ministry, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, the Board of Invest-ment, the Petroleum Corporation and the Petro-leum Storage Terminals were present.

MR says will support... From page 01

He said further that he would try to get the government to do the work of rescuing the country from the fallen state it is in, and if not, he would think about another procedure. The former President was speaking to the media subsequent to visiting the Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy and engaging in religious observances at the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic. He also emphasized that the people should stand up against injustice more honestly.

AL paper marking... From page 01

He said that the teachers who retired after December 31, 2022 can also send applications for the same. Jayasundera also said that the examiners will be recruited for Physics, Chemistry, Mathemat-ics, Agriculture, Biology, Combined Mathemat-ics, Communication and Media Studies, Busi-ness Studies, Engineering Technology, Bio-sys-tems Technology, Science for Technology and English. Online applications can be submitted by visiting the website <https://onlineexams.gov.lk/eic>.

Five women arrested... From page 01

The women were presented to the Nikawer-atiya court and one woman was remanded until May 4. The other four women were released on bail. The arrested women are aged 32, 68, 44, 46, and 38 years. The police say that the only monk who resides in this temple has had conflicts with some of the villagers for some time. The police say that they have received continuous complaints from both sides for about two years and that they have investigated each complaint. This temple was built by the villagers who even donated their property to the temple. Since the village does not have a temple, this temple was built in 2018 with the donations of the villagers and it was dedicated to a monk who once lived in a temple in Southern Province. At that time, he was in a temple in Kalptiya.

The police say that this monk has not been staying in this temple for a long time and one of his close friends or followers resides in this temple. Nine monks have been residing in this temple from time to time. Police say that the villagers are currently divided into two groups and there are about 10 to 15 families in favour of the temple while the rest of the families are against the temple. According to the police, the reasons given by the villagers are that the religious activities are not properly performed in this temple. The police recently received complaints that the name board and the electric water pump of this temple had been stolen. About two months ago, a group of villagers occupied the temple saying that they will not leave the premises until the resident monk leaves. The police intervened and removed the villagers from the temple. The police have also taken steps to inform the District Secretary about this issue. Police said that on April 25, a group of women from the village went to the temple and harassed the monk forcing him to leave the temple. The monk has given the names of six women who had harassed him. One more woman is to be arrested.

Obituaries

DE SILVA, HESHAN (Emirates Islamic Bank - Sharjah), beloved husband of Pradeepa (HSBC - Dubai), loving father of Prashan and Ramesh, precious son of Dharshani and late Christopher, loving brother of Chrisantha and Pradeep, dearest brother-in-law of Sunethra (UAE), Geraldine, Praneetha and Sanjeeva (UAE), Dr Kosala and Dr Jeewani, Moshani and Sampath (Aus.), loving son-in-law of Asoka and late Cyril. Remains lie at the **Respect Funeral Parlour** from April 29th 4 p.m. onwards and 30th at 9 a.m. onwards. Burial at Borella Kanatte, Anglican Section at 4.00 p.m. on 30th April. No flowers by request. **8, Sakvithi Lane, Colombo 5.** 025969

NADARAJAH CHITRA (nee **CANDAVANAM**) Beloved wife of late Capt. Panchalingam Nadarajah, loving mother of Tahj, Nandan, Suresh, Prem and Punch, mother-in-law of Afshan, Perrine, Sonali, Amirtha and Rukshana, everloving grandmother of Aisha, Imaan, Vaishnavi, Ashvini, Talia, Kiara, Narayani, Lakshana, Ahil and Eshan, sister of late Ratna, late Mahesan and of Ganeshan and Ranjan, passed away peacefully on 27th April 2023. Remains will lie at **No. 6/7, Layards Road, Colombo 5** on 29th April from 9.00 a.m. onwards. Cortege leaves residence at 3.45 p.m. on the 30th for cremation at 5.00 p.m. at the General Cemetery, Borella (Old Crematorium). 025705

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Jaffna Municipal Council Purchasing of Street Lights JMC/PO5/MSO/Street Light/2023

- The Chairman Procurement Committee (PC) on behalf of Municipal Council, Jaffna now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders as in the table below:
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Chief Engineer, Jaffna Municipal Council. TP:0212221186 Fax: 0212221187 E-Mail: mcjaffnamail@yahoo.com office hours from 09:00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs.
- Qualifications requirements include: Possessing the minimum 3 years' experience in selling and having island wide maintenance in the particular brand and field. A margin of preference for eligible locally produced goods offered shall not apply. Additional details are provided in the bidding document.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language could be purchased by interested bidders from the address given below from **29th April 2023 until 19th May 2023 from 09:00 hrs. to 14:00 hrs.** on the submission of a written application and upon a payment of non-refundable fee of Rs.2000.00 + All Taxes the payment method will be cash or bank draft drawn in favor of **Commissioner, Jaffna Municipal Council.**
- Bids must be delivered to the address given below on or before **19th May 2023 at 15.00 hrs.** Bid number must be written on the top of envelop. Late bids will be rejected. Immediately after closing of bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives' who choose to attend at the address given below. **All bids must be accompanied by a bid security and the validity periods of bid security are given in table below.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at Commissioner, Jaffna Municipal Council, Point Pedro Road, Jaffna on **11th May 2023 at 14:00 hrs.,** interested bidders may participate in this meeting their own expenses.
- The address referred to above is **Commissioner, Jaffna Municipal Council, Point Pedro Road, Jaffna.** The Bid Name & No must be mentioned on the top of the envelop. The bid can be sent in post/ in courier service or shall be deposited in the bid box in the above address.
- The bid validity shall be until: **21.07.2023 (63 days after the deadline for bid submission)**

S. No.	Bid Name & No.	Name of the Item	Period of Contract	Bid Security	
				Amount	Required Period
01	Purchasing of Street Lights JMC/POS/MSO/Street Light/ 2023	50 Watts single high power COB LED Street Light - 189 Nos.	45 Days	72,000.00	18.08.2023
		100 Watts double high-power COB LED Street Light - 81 Nos.			

Chairman, Procurement Committee, Jaffna Municipal Council, Point Pedro Road, Nallur.

SLMA-Suwa Seriya MoU renewed

To expand scope of coverage beyond COVID

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) and 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation was signed recently. This was a renewal of the existing MoU and will further strengthen the collaboration between SLMA and 1990 Suwa Seriya.

Based on the MoU, the SLMA will provide medical advisory service for COVID-19 or any other medical emergency situation that will affect the entire country through DOC Call 247 patient helpline.

The 247 services of the SLMA will provide telephonic triage and have the option of requesting 1990 Suwa Seriya to provide transport to necessary patients to hospitals on information gathered from the phone conversation initiated by the patient.

This partnership has served the nation at critical phases of the COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) in collaboration with 1990



Sri Lanka Medical Association and 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation officials at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Suwa Seriya and SLT-Mobitel, introduced the Doc Call 247 COVID-19 Helpline in August 2021, when the country was experiencing an unprecedentedly challenging number of patients when the healthcare system was reaching its tipping

point. Since its inception, this initiative has completed more than 100,000 calls and contributed in a significant way to reduce the over-saturation of hospital bed occupancy and facilitated home-based-care management of patients.

Upon renewal of the MoU, the 247-helpline service will expand its scope of coverage beyond COVID. This collaboration will be an immense benefit to the patients, specially during this crisis.

Minister Sabry to attend ADB Board of Governors Annual Meeting in S.Korea

Foreign Minister Ali Sabry, PC will leave for Incheon, South Korea to attend the 56th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), scheduled to be held from May 2-5, representing President Rani Wickremesinghe.



The Annual Meeting is a high-level event attended by around 3,000-4,000 participants, including Ministers of Finance, Governors of Central Banks, Senior Officials of the major global banks, companies and media.

The Foreign Minister will deliver a statement at the Governor's Business Session on May 4, 2023 among other interventions during the period.

The Minister is expected to have bilateral meetings with the counterparts of a number of other countries on the sidelines of the event, to discuss Sri Lanka's ongoing engagements for economic revival.

Director General of the Department of External Resources Ajith Abeysekera will accompany the Foreign Minister on the visit.

Beware of fake Hela Bojun food outlets - Agriculture Ministry



The food at the Hela Bojun outlets is prepared using 100 percent local ingredients. The Hela Bojun outlets of the Ministry of Agriculture do not sell food prepared using wheat flour at all. Only nutritious foods prepared using rice flour instead of wheat flour and fruit drinks prepared without mixing sugar and drinks like Belimal and Ranavara are sold.

It is also prohibited to sell stale food and unheated food items. Hela Bojun Food Centers provide ready-to-eat hot meals to customers.

The Agriculture Ministry yesterday emphasized that except for the food outlets with the Hela Bojun name run by the Agriculture Ministry, the other places which are by using that name are not Government-owned Hela Bojun outlets at all.

These Hela Bojun food outlets are a concept of the Ministry of Agriculture and information has been reported that other people are also running food outlets under the same name.

Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera instructed the Ministry officials to conduct constant monitoring activities to maintain the identity and quality of the Hela Bojun outlets belonging to the Ministry.

Hela Bojun outlets are in operation all over the island to promote food prepared using rice flour instead of wheat flour.

Counterfeit outlets using the name of Hela Bojun are deceiving consumers and selling processed food and stale food made from wheat flour.

Currently, a large number of people are consuming food from Hela Bojun outlets belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture islandwide.

Therefore, among the places with the name of Hela Bojun, the food is prepared using only rice flour only in the Hela Bojun outlets belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture. The minister said that since the government has allocated 100 million rupees for the promotion of Hela Bojun outlets this year, using that money it also advised to make appropriate arrangements to maintain the quality of these outlets network.

Dr. Anoma Wijesinghe creates Lionistic history

Dr. Anoma Wijesinghe, who created history when she was elected the first Lady District Governor of Lions International District 306-B1, Sri Lanka, has earned the accolade of fellow Lions and Lionesses, for living up to expectations and personifying the Lionistic Motto 'We Serve'.



Dr Anoma Wijesinghe

married to Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe, PMJF, MAF, a multitasking personality and a successful businessman, who himself led the District as District Governor in the Lionistic Year 2009/2010. The couple have two daughters who are both doctors.

A multitasker with a blessed family and home, Dr Wijesinghe, who is equally devoted to her profession, lives the Lionistic Motto 'We Serve'.

Dr. Wijesinghe's simplicity was demonstrated when she selected 'Co-existence with Others', as the theme for the year, which was deemed very appropriate for a country striving for 'togetherness' to face the many challenges.

Giving weightage to her medical professionalism and Lionism, she chose 'School Sanitary Project' as the District's primary project for her year of Governorship, providing healthy clean toilets to over 150 Schools in the Lions District of 306-B1.

With the Lionistic Year 2022/2023 set to end on June 30,

2023, Dr Wijesinghe, despite her busy schedules, has visited almost all the Clubs (100+) in the District, spreading from Colombo Pettah, along the Coastal Belt of Sri Lanka - Wattala, Pamunugama, Negombo to Wayamba, Chilaw, Puttalam, Mannar and Jaffna. She has also had 14 new clubs added this year and has supported the Lions International with a record 38 new Melvin Jones Fellows. These were possible owing to her great motivational factor.

Dr. Wijesinghe has proved the importance of 'Co-Existence', even among genders and has also motivated the ladies to take up leadership, proving that ladies are equal partners, practicing and living up to the Lionistic Motto 'We Serve'.

The entire Lions of Lions International District 306-B1, Sri Lanka are proud of District Governor Dr. Anoma Wijesinghe for living up to the expectations and say "Thank You" to Madam District Governor Dr. Anoma Wijesinghe.

Dr. Wijesinghe MAF, a medical doctor by profession began her ascent to the coveted district leadership position in the Lionistic Year 2020/2021 when she was unanimously elected the 2nd Vice District Governor of District 306-B1. A year later she was elected the 1st District Governor and in the Lionistic Year 2022/2023 as the 1st Lady District Governor of the District.

Lions International District 306-B1 welcomed Dr Wijesinghe's election as a proud moment for the District, noting that she adds glamour and status to the District hierarchy.

Coming from a highly motivational professional family involved in the field of medicine, Dr Wijesinghe had her primary education at Sujatha Vidyalaya in Matara and her secondary education at Devi Balika Vidyalaya in Colombo, from where she entered the Medical Faculty in Colombo, passing out with a shining rank among the first 21 in the entire country.

Presently she is a practicing medical doctor in the private sector, having followed her brother and sister. Charming in look and personality, the 1st Lady District Governor is

Programme initiated to give women opportunity for higher positions in Police - IGP tells COPA



Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts Lasantha Alagiyawanna informed the Department of Police to provide the next proposed programme of the Police Department within a month.

The Chair of the Committee stated the above on Thursday when Sri Lanka Police was summoned before the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) to examine the Auditor General's report and current performance for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The Secretary to the Ministry of Public Security, the Inspector General of Police and many senior police officials were invited to this event.

There were questions as to why when the Police Department was called before COPA in 2016, a recommendation had been given in this regard, but it had not yet been implemented. The Inspector General of Police said that since it is difficult to set up a single information technology system for the Sri Lanka Police, steps will be taken to introduce information technology systems in segments.

Accordingly, the Inspector General of Police said that a new pilot project is currently being implemented in Hatton and Nuwara Eliya Police Stations where details can be obtained from the filing of a complaint to the status of its court proceedings.

The Committee Chair emphasized that it is essential to establish an information technology system in the police department where relevant information can be obtained immediately by integrating the motor transport department and other institutions. Accordingly, he was instructed to give a report on the current programme and the proposed plan to the Committee within a month.

Issues such as the lack of female police officers in the Sri Lanka Police were also addressed. It was disclosed that there are 2,419 female Police Constable vacancies and it was proposed to complete the said vacancies in the year 2023. However, it

could not be done due to the current economic situation.

The Inspector General of Police said that the conventional context within the police force has been changed and the necessary reform programme has been initiated to provide opportunities for women to higher positions including the post of Inspector General of Police in the future. He said that as a result, an opportunity will be provided for the emergence of a future female Inspector General of Police.

Attention was also drawn to the expired tear gas belonging to the Police. Senior Police officers informed that the process of disposal of expired tear gas has started and they will never be used.

The Committee instructed to dispose of the expired tear gas existing in all police stations across all of Sri Lanka. Furthermore, according to international conventions, the Chair of the Committee informed that a report should be prepared and submitted to the COPA on the measures taken in controlling the public riots including tear gas.

Special attention was also paid to the need to improve the language skills of police officers. Senior police officers pointed out that many programmes have been started to impart Tamil and English language skills to police officers. The Committee emphasized the need to streamline those activities.

Issues related to police promotions, police reward fund management, road accident control, crime control and other problems and their solutions were also discussed here.

State Ministers Kader Mastan, Prasanna Ranaweera, Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Diana Gamage and Members of Parliament Tissa Attanayake, A. L. M. Athulalah, J. C. Alawathuwa, Weerasumana Weerasinghe, (Ms.) Manjula Dissanayake, (Ms.) Mudita Prashanthi, D. Weerasingha, (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda, Ashok Abeysinghe, (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasingha was present at the Committee meeting.

Twenty two apprehended for engaging in illegal fishing

The Sri Lanka Navy during search operations conducted off Nayar, Mullaitivu and around Kinniya Bridge on April 27 apprehended 22 persons for engaging in light-coarse fishing and night diving. Along with the suspects, eight dinghies, diving gear and fishing equipment were also taken into naval custody.

The Navy conducts continuous operations in the coastal areas surrounding the island to safeguard the marine ecosystem from the negative impacts of unlawful fishing practices. Accordingly, a group of Rapid Action Boat Squadron personnel of Naval Detachment Nayar, belonging to SLNS Gatabaya in the Eastern Naval Command carried out this operation in coordination with the Office of Fisheries Inspector in Mullaitivu.

The operation led to the arrest of eight persons, along with three dinghies and unauthorised fishing gear for practicing light-coarse fishing.

Meanwhile, SLNS Gokanna and SLNS Parakumba in the Eastern Naval Command with the Office of Assistant Directorate of Fisheries Trincomalee carried out a search operation in the lagoon surrounding the Kinniya Bridge and arrested 14 persons for engaging in night diving. The Navy also seized five

dinghies and diving gear used for this illegal act.

The suspects held in these operations are residents of Negombo, Mullaitivu, Kinniya and China Bay, and are between 29 and 56 years in age. The apprehended individuals together with their belongings were handed over to the Assistant Directorate of Fisheries in Mullaitivu and Trincomalee for onward legal action.

Smart remote control ceiling fan controller 'Odessa' unveiled

'Odessa', a device that can operate a fan with a smartphone was unveiled at the Trace Expert City in Maradana on Thursday evening with the initiative of its technical and commercialization partner, OREL Corporations, as an invention of the Faculty of Science of the University of Kelaniya.

This smart remote control ceiling fan controller has been produced by Kelum Perera, a PhD student at Kent University in America under the guidance and supervision of Professor Sudath Kaligamudali, the Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Kelaniya. This was further developed by Ms. Nuwanga Cooray, Dr. Kasun Piyumal, Supun Gunarathne, and Geethanjana Wanigasekera.

Although you can find various remote-controlled devices in the market, the specialty of this device is that it can operate the fan with a smartphone without a remote.

This is the first time that the University of Kelaniya has entered into an agreement with a leading electrical company in Sri Lanka.

On October 29, 2019, the agreement was signed with the University of Kelaniya and OREL Private Company as its technical and commercialization partner for the 'Odessa' device.

The money received by the university from the commercialization of this new device was used to formulate a research fund for the Faculty of Science, which will provide the financial requirements and opportunities for undergraduates for their innovations and research.

Nabbed with Rs.800,000 worth hashish in Silawathura

A coordinated search operation conducted by the Sri Lanka Navy and the Mannar Police in Silawathura on Thursday led to the apprehension of a suspect with 893g of hashish.

Through its constant vigilance and persistent efforts, the Sri Lanka Navy is making significant strides in eradicating the scourge of drugs from the country.

Based on information received by the Northwestern Naval Command, the combined operation was mounted by SLNS Therapuththa and Mannar Police in the Silawathura area.

Accordingly, a person in the area was interrogated on suspicion and a hashish parcel was recovered in his possession. Thus, the suspect along with the parcel of narcotics weighing about 893g was taken into custody. Meanwhile, the street value of seized narcotics is believed to be around Rs.800,000.

The apprehended suspect is a 24-year-old resident of the Silawathura area. The accused together with the parcel of hashish was handed over to the Mannar Police for further legal action.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Saturday
 Draw No.: 1901 Colour: Yellow
 Date: 23.04.2023
Today's Jackpot
Rs. 83,132,287.40
 Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
DLB
 Development Lotteries Board
 358, 3rd Floor, C. G. Silva House, Union Plaza, Colombo 3
 Tel: 2333 945-47 Fax: 2333 500 Website: www.dlb.lk
 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

DLB DEVELOPMENT LOTTERIES BOARD OFFICIAL RESULTS
 27.04.2023 - Thursday
 Draw Number: 3785 Colour: Brown
 Winning Numbers: 17 35 43 54
 Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 2,205,098.40

Draw Number: 1249 Colour: Orange
 Winning Numbers: 04 12 33 48 72 73
 Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 325,921,734.20

Draw Number: 569 Colour: Blue
 Winning Numbers: 04 12 33 48 72 73
 Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 19,272,996/-

Draw Number: 1899 Colour: Light Blue
 Winning Numbers: 04 08 12 19 F
 Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 83,011,701/-

Draw Number: 4234 Colour: Red
 Winning Numbers: 19 29 36 58 E
 Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 42,707,369.70

Draw Number: 2073 Colour: Green
 Winning Numbers: 22 41 64 70 Q
 Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 97,286,706.40

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.
 * If the super prize has already been won, the starting jackpot will be applicable.

Daily News



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A welcome move

Appearing before the Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) that inquired about the issues faced by the Police Service, Inspector General of Police (IGP) C. D. Wickramaratne said they have commenced a scheme to provide openings for female Police personnel to reach high office including being installed in the post of IGP.

He said the necessary reforms to change the old ways of the Police are already underway that includes vesting female Police officers with more authority and enabling them climb the ladder in the Police hierarchy to attain high positions in the Service including that of the post of IGP.

No doubt, a majority of the male Police officers are not going to take kindly to the new development. Most of them are still of the mindset that the Police is a male preserve. When a female officer was elevated to the post of Senior DIG some time back, there were several Court petitions filed by male Police officers against the move.

This certainly is a novelty here, but in developed countries female Police officers are treated on par with their male counterparts and are as good and efficient if not better and certainly go high up in the ladder. Many countries indeed have Police Forces headed by females.

But why object to a female going places in the Police Service? Didn't we produce the first woman Prime Minister of the world and didn't she place Sri Lanka on the world map perhaps as no other Lankan leader had done before her and arguably after her? This goes to show that leadership is not all about brawn but also includes stature and certainly grey matter.

If male Police officers object to women being made IGP due to questions of brawn they are harbouring the wrong attitude. Brain matters as much as brawn if not more for an office that carries with it much responsibility and sensitive decision making.

Besides, a female as the IGP certainly will be welcome by all women in this country who comprise 52 percent of the population. Already there are complaints that female representation in Parliament does not match their strength, population wise, and calling for laws to be enacted to raise their numbers. Most would like to see this happening in the Police Service too which no doubt would give the Police a more human face.

According to what transpired at COPA there are still 2,419 women Police Constable vacancies that need to be filled before year end. This is also an indication of the stepmotherly treatment given to females in the Police Service which has been considered a male bastion all this time. Besides, inducting a female as IGP would help the Police to regain some of its lost prestige. A female IGP would also serve to minimize human rights violations thrown at the doorstep of the Police and eliminate custodial deaths and 'accidental' shooting of suspects while being escorted to locate weapons.

It is unlikely that a woman IGP will tolerate such happenings - her outlook on the treatment of fellow humans beings far removed from that of a male IGP. It is also very likely that under a female IGP corruption in the Police Service would be contained to a large degree.

Not just women, even men, particularly radical youth would welcome a female IGP who they would think would be more restrained in ordering crackdowns or the use of teargas and water cannons on protesters for the same reason. Even the crime rate could be brought under control under a female IGP who will adopt different ways to tackle the menace from those of their male counterparts. A female IGP too would be able to command obedience over her male officers whose attitudes and responses may be different towards a male IGP.

The Police Service should undergo changes in other ways too. Today the Police have acquired a bad reputation. Hardly a day passes without one coming across in the media about some felony or other committed by a Police officer. A Police Constable was arrested while preparing to dig up a treasure in some remote corner of the country while our men in khaki are also deep into the drug business as revealed by none other than Public Security Minister Tiran Alles recently. The minister also revealed that some Police officers plant false evidence to implicate innocent people in narcotics crimes.

In certain areas Station OICs are working hand in glove with extortionists as revealed recently by some villagers in an area in Kandy in a complaint. The Police have also miserably failed to contain the rising number of killings and drug related crime. Presently some Senior DIGs are challenging their transfer orders which shows the extent to which indiscipline has set in within the Police Service. What is therefore needed is a complete transformation of the Service into a modern outfit with the ability to meet new challenges, making it a strong, disciplined force.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

There is no limit to what we,
as women, can accomplish.
- Michelle Obama

Writing longhand Vs typing: Which is better?

The write battle



SACHITRA MAHENDRA

In the battle of the pen and the keyboard, which one reigns supreme? Is it the classic, slow-paced elegance of writing longhand, or the modern convenience and speed of typing? While both methods have their merits, the debate rages on. Let us explore the pros and cons of each and try to settle the score once and for all. So, grab your pen and paper, or your trusty keyboard, and let's get ready to rumble!

In today's digital age, we have a variety of ways to record our thoughts, ideas, and messages. But with the popularity of computers and smartphones, is there still a place for writing longhand? Many writers swear by the practice, arguing that writing by hand is better than typing for various reasons.

Writing longhand refers to the act of writing by hand, using a pen or pencil and paper. Some people prefer writing longhand because it allows them to slow down and think more carefully about what they're writing. It can also be a more personal and intimate way of writing, as the writer's unique handwriting style is reflected in their words. Here are some of the benefits and drawbacks of writing longhand:

Writing longhand may seem like an antiquated practice in a world dominated by technology, but it still has its advantages. One of the most significant benefits of writing by hand is that it forces you to slow down and think more carefully about what you're writing. Unlike typing, which allows you to spew out words at lightning speed, writing longhand requires you to take your time and consider each word and phrase carefully. This can result in more thoughtful and considered pieces of writing, whether you're working on an essay, a novel, or a letter to a friend.

Another advantage of writing longhand is that it allows you to personalize your writing. Your unique handwriting style becomes part of the message you're conveying, adding a personal touch that is lost when you type. Whether you're writing a love letter, a poem, or a journal entry, your handwriting style can infuse your writing with your own unique personality and style, making it more meaningful and authentic.

Studies have also shown that writing by hand can have cognitive benefits, including improved memory retention and recall. The physical act of writing by hand engages different parts of the brain



than typing, which can result in better long-term memory retention. In addition, because writing longhand requires more focus and attention than typing, it can also improve your ability to concentrate and stay focused.

While there are certainly benefits to writing longhand, it's important to also consider the drawbacks. One of the most significant downsides is that writing by hand can be slow and laborious. This can be a problem if you need to keep up with a fast-paced lecture or discussion, as you may struggle to write down important points quickly enough. In addition, if you're working on a project with a tight deadline, writing longhand may not be practical or efficient.

Another potential downside of writing longhand is the physical strain it can cause. Writing for long periods of time can put a strain on your hand and arm muscles, especially if you have pre-existing conditions such as carpal tunnel syndrome or arthritis. This can lead to discomfort and even pain, which can

make it difficult to continue writing for extended periods of time.

Editing a handwritten document can also be more challenging than editing a typed one. Making changes to a handwritten document requires more time and effort than simply typing new text or deleting old text. This can be particularly frustrating if you need to make multiple revisions or edits, as it can slow down the entire writing process.

Typing has become the go-to method of recording information for many people, thanks to its speed and convenience. However, like writing longhand, typing has both pros and cons that should be considered.

One of the most significant benefits of typing is its speed. With practice, many people can type much faster than they can write longhand, which can be a real advantage in fast-paced situations. Whether you're taking notes during a lecture, transcribing an interview, or working on a tight deadline, the ability to type quickly and accurately can help you stay on top of your work.

In addition to speed, typing is also more convenient than writing longhand.

With a digital device, you can easily save and access your work across devices, which means you can work from anywhere and never lose your progress. This can be particularly useful if you're collaborating with others, as you can easily share your work and make changes in real-time.

Finally, editing a typed document is often easier and quicker than editing a handwritten one. With just a few clicks, you can make changes to your text, move paragraphs around, or even completely rewrite sections. This can be a huge advantage when working on a project with multiple revisions or edits, as it can save you time and effort.

While typing offers many advantages over writing longhand, it's also important to consider the potential drawbacks. One significant downside of typing is that it can feel impersonal and detached. Unlike writing longhand, where your personality and style are reflected in your handwriting, typing can feel sterile and uniform. This can be particularly frustrating for those who value individuality and self-expression in their writing.

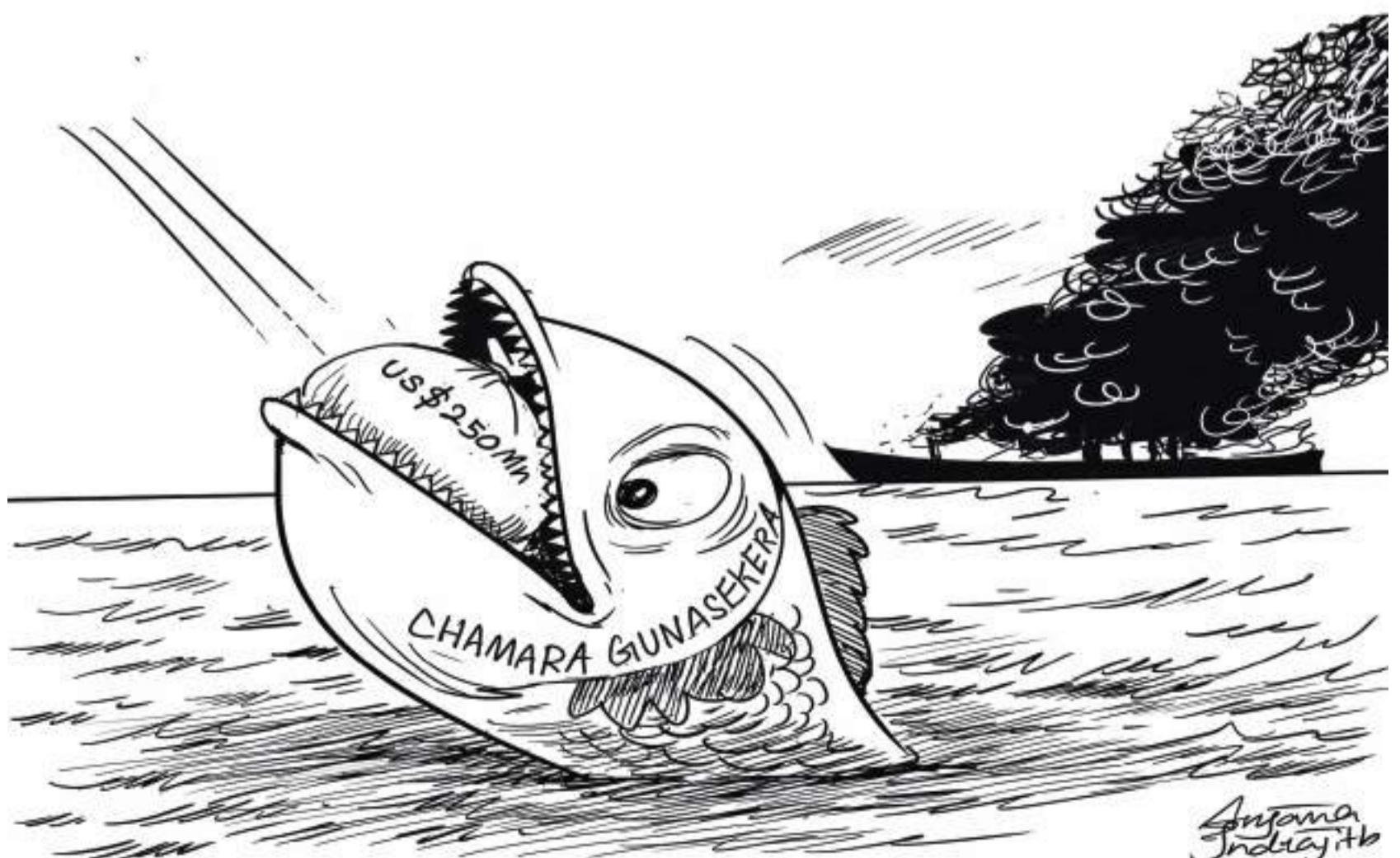
Another potential downside of typing is the potential for distraction. With so many digital devices at our fingertips, it's easy to become sidetracked by notifications, social media, and other distractions when typing. This can not only slow down your work but can also affect your overall productivity and focus.

Additionally, some studies suggest that typing can be more cognitively taxing than writing longhand. Because typing requires more mental effort to compose sentences on a keyboard, it may be more mentally taxing, leading to increased cognitive strain and potential burnout.

So, which is better: writing longhand or typing? The answer, as with many things, depends on the situation. Writing longhand can be a great way to slow down and produce more thoughtful pieces of writing, but it's not always practical or convenient. Typing, on the other hand, is faster and more convenient, but can be more mentally taxing and can feel impersonal.

Ultimately, the best approach is to use a combination of both methods, depending on the task at hand. For example, you might use writing longhand for journaling, brainstorming, or outlining, and then switch to typing for drafting, editing, and finalizing your work. By using both methods, you can take advantage of the unique benefits.

In today's digital age, we have a variety of ways to record our thoughts, ideas, and messages. But with the popularity of computers and smartphones, is there still a place for writing longhand? Many writers swear by the practice, arguing that writing by hand is better than typing for various reasons. Writing longhand refers to the act of writing by hand, using a pen or pencil and paper. Some people prefer writing longhand because it allows them to slow down and think more carefully about what they're writing.



Antanaya Indrajith

Tracing the Royal Navy fleet in Trincomalee



HMS Colombo

DISHAN JOSEPH

Trincomalee is a name synonymous with maritime and naval history. I have previously visited this area on eight occasions in search of naval topics, along with the Sri Lanka Navy. During these expeditions I was immensely assisted by Admiral Ravi Wijegunaratne, Admiral Travis Sinniah, Admiral Piyal de Silva and Admiral Sirimevan Ranasinghe who all served as Commanders of the Navy. In today's narrative we will discover the role of the ships and submarines, stationed in vintage Ceylon. Many will not realize the silent but significant role of the Royal Navy submarines in their stealth sea defence role. It was this resilient British-Ceylonese partnership that turned the tide of the war in favour of the British Forces. The resplendent Koddidiyar Bay with its confluence of fresh water and sea water makes it unique. It is believed that the deep submarine canyon here is only second to the Mariana Trench in the Western Pacific Ocean.

A vintage battle

Even in the 17th Century the Trincomalee area was the envy of many foreign nations. The Portuguese invaded Ceylon and had a strong presence in Trincomalee, by 1612. Subsequently, the defiant Dutch drove away the Portuguese and established a naval fleet in the island by 1659. The Battle of Trincomalee was fought between a British fleet under Admiral Sir Edward Hughes and a French fleet commanded by Admiral Pierre Andre de Suffren off the coast of Trincomalee, on September 3, 1782.

Ancient naval records indicate French Admiral Pierre de Suffren arrived in February 1782 and immediately engaged the British fleet. The French Navy had ships that delivered deadly firepower carrying 64 guns. The Royal Navy also had ships like HMS Hero and HMS Superb that were fitted with 74 guns. The latter was commanded by Admiral Hughes. After the savage sea battle the British limped back to Madras while the French returned to Trincomalee to effect repairs.

Many Sri Lankans will be surprised to know that Royal Navy had a ship named after Trincomalee. The HMS Trincomalee was a Royal Navy sailing frigate. This beautiful vessel is now restored as a museum ship afloat in the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Hartlepool, England. After being ordered on October 30, 1812, HMS Trincomalee was built in Bombay, India. The ship's crew was made up of 315 officers and sailors. She was armed with 46 guns. Even today her guns are fired once a week at the floating museum to entertain visitors.

A primary coastal defence of the Royal Navy was their massive cannons. One such gun weighing 12 tons can still be seen at Osterberg Ridge, in Trincomalee. The Sri Lanka Navy has carefully preserved all monuments and artifacts

from the vintage era including those on Sober Island.

Trincomalee during WW2

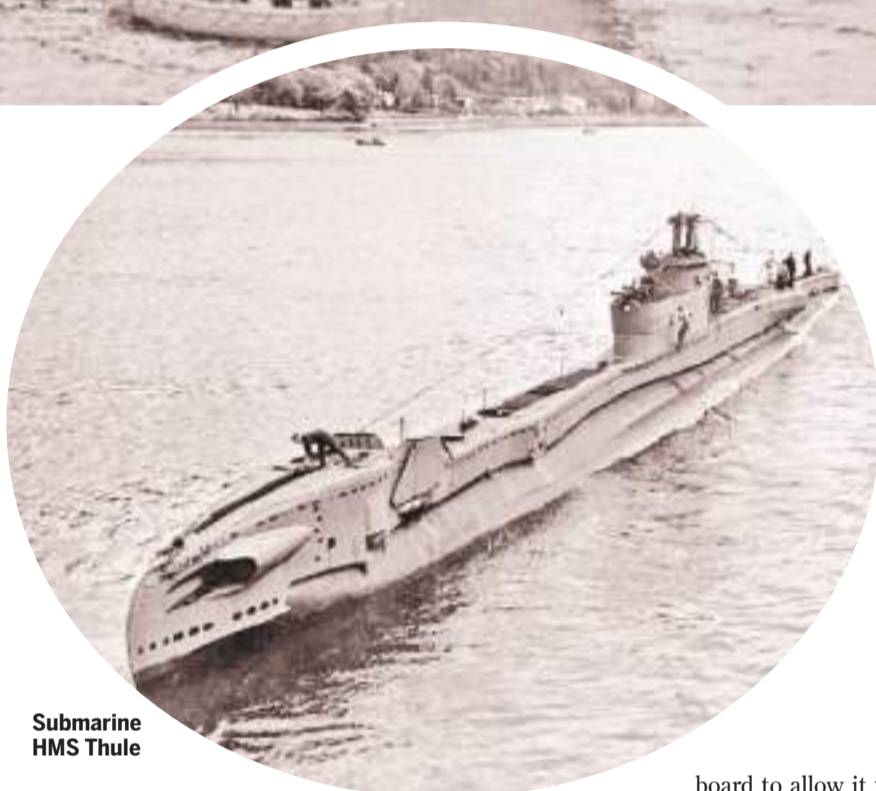
By March 1942, Britain was drained. After two and a half years of intense warfare, her flagging forces had been pushed beyond the limit. During the height of the Second World War, Prime Minister Winston Churchill had said "The capture of Ceylon, the consequent control of the Indian Ocean, would have closed the ring and the future would have been black". The bold initiative of the Royal Navy and courageous Ceylonese volunteers influenced the final victory of the Allied Forces. The British Admiralty had just six weeks to assemble a viable defensive force for the island of Ceylon. Admiral Sir James Somerville was urgently appointed as Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet. The Royal Air Force (222 Group) operated under Air Vice Marshal d Albiac. The incoming enemy Japanese Imperial Navy was commanded by Vice Admiral Nagumo with his battleships grouped into Carrier Division 1, 2, and 5 with additional attack squadrons.

Royal Navy Fleet

In order to understand and fully appreciate the maritime defence role of Trincomalee we must see the number of ships that were here. Imagine all the ship's crew and their support crews on shore. The newly formed British fleet consisted of HMS Indomitable, HMS Formidable, HMS Warspite (flagship of Admiral Somerville), HMS Emerald and HMS Enterprise, the destroyers HMS Paladin, HMS Panther and HMS Foxhound. The other vessels were light aircraft carrier HMS Hermes, HMS Resolution, HMS Revenge, HMS Ramilles, HMS Royal Sovereign, HMS Fortune, HMS Dragon, HMS Griffin and the Australian ships HMAS Vampire and HMAS Norman. The Trincomalee harbour was guarded by 5 coastal gun batteries. HMS Cornwall and HMS Dorsetshire were stationed at Colombo harbour.

On April 4, 1942 the Commander-in-Chief of Ceylon Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton ordered all ships to sea. Flash warnings were sent across this island. All air and ground forces were put on action stations high alert. The Japanese Forces attacked Trincomalee inflicting damage, but the Royal Navy fought back gallantly.

There was another British ship named after this island. HMS Ceylon was built at Clydebank, Scotland. She was 555 feet in length and had 9 six-inch guns. After commissioning, HMS Ceylon left the Port of Plymouth, England, in October 1943 on her journey to Trincomalee, her designated station. She reached Ceylon after the Japanese air raid. Another British ship was named after our capital as HMS Colombo. She was a light cruiser with five 6 inch guns. She had a crew of 435 personnel. In June 1942 HMS Colombo returned



Submarine HMS Thule

Even in the 17th Century the Trincomalee area was the envy of many foreign nations. The Portuguese invaded Ceylon and had a strong presence in Trincomalee, by 1612. Subsequently, the defiant Dutch drove away the Portuguese and established a naval fleet in the island by 1659. The Battle of Trincomalee was fought between a British fleet under Admiral Sir Edward Hughes and a French fleet commanded by Admiral Pierre Andre de Suffren off the coast of Trincomalee, on September 3, 1782.

to the UK to undergo a refit and conversion as an anti-aircraft cruiser. She proudly survived the war.

I was surprised to discover that the magnificent American Navy Lexington class aircraft carrier USS Saratoga was also deployed to the Indian Ocean in 1944 to enhance the British Eastern Fleet.

Underwater Predators

The Royal Navy 4th Submarine Flotilla and its depot ship, the HMS Adamant operated with the Eastern Fleet based at Trincomalee. Since British subs were smaller and had less endurance than American boats, they were considered more suitable for inshore operations.

The 'S' class had a range of up to 7,000 miles and carried enough supplies on

board to allow it to remain at sea for 30 days. 'T' class submarines

could cover 12,000 miles and stay at sea for 50 days. British submarines were capable of operating a 'wolf pack,' patrol. In this way they achieved success against low-speed targets. In addition to looking for enemy shipping to sink, a number of submarines carried out special operations. These included landing clandestine parties on islands involved in intelligence work and resupplying or recovering them.

On January 23rd, submarine HMS Thule (in charge Lieutenant Commander ACG Mars) sailed from Trincomalee for the South China Sea for a special operation to land men and stores on the East coast of Johor. The landing place was twenty miles North of Singapore on a beach cut off from the mainland by swamps. She passed through the Sunda Strait on February 1st and the operation was successfully carried out on February 6th. The group was re-supplied and valuable intelligence was brought back.

It is of interest that the South China Sea could be reached as easily from Trincomalee as from Fremantle. Two more submarines left for patrol in January; HMS Selene (in charge Lieutenant Commander HRB Newton) on 25th and HMS Statesman (in charge Lieutenant RGP Bulkeley) on 31st. Records indicate Lieutenant Swanson of HMS Shakespeare, who fought off many Japanese attacks and brought his severely damaged submarine back to Trincomalee from the Malacca Strait, was awarded the DSO medal (Distinguished Service Order).

By April 1945, when the final phase of the submarine campaign in the Far East began, the war in Europe was nearing its conclusion. The Allied armies were bravely overrunning Germany. The Japanese had now practically lost command of the sea. The five remaining Japanese battleships were lying camouflaged and hidden in creeks and inlets in the Inland Sea with no fuel. The Second Flotilla of the Royal Navy remained at Trincomalee with the depot ship HMS Wolfe (commanded by Captain JE Slaughter). The British Eastern Fleet had fought the good fight. Ceylon had stood up to the challenge, and won.



HMS Trincomalee



HMS Ceylon

Malinda
The Morning Inspection



On sweeping close to one's feet



Picture by Tharindu Amunugama

Jayanath Bodahandi (Bodhi), the eldest in his family, would have been just out of school when his father, an illustrator at an advertising agency, passed away. Bodhi could draw and the kind people at the agency offered him a job.

There was a problem. Bodhi lived in Balapitiya and the salary would hardly cover expenses such as rent, food and bus fare. There was a solution. The *hamuduruwo* of the village temple arranged for him to stay in a temple in Colombo.

Bodhi returned to the temple late after his first day at work to find there was no food for him. The *loku hamuduruwo* had explained that it wasn't a rich temple frequented by wealthy and generous laity; it was not possible to provide meals.

Bodhi went to sleep hungry. He was up early the following morning. He decided that this arrangement wasn't working. He had just enough money for the bus to Balapitiya. So he went to work. No, not to the advertising agency. The temple.

He picked up an *idala* (ekel broom) and started sweeping the temple premises. As he was finishing, he noticed the *loku hamuduruwo* watching him. When he was done, he kept the *idala* aside, went up to the *loku hamuduruwo*, worshipped him, thanked him for allowing him to stay and told him that he had decided to give up on his job and return home.

The *loku hamuduruwo* understood Bodhi's predicament. He dissuaded the young man: '*thiyena vidihakata kaala imu; yanna ona naha* (you don't have to go; let's manage with what we have).'

Years later Bodhi said that in retrospect the exercise of sweeping the temple compound was like an advertising campaign.

It was a simple act. An act of gratitude for something simple that he received — a roof over his head for one night. It led to a career in advertising that saw him become a creative director at a top agency and then starting off on his own.

Two things reminded me of Bodhi's story, a poem and a photograph. First, the poem.

Essentially: the ekel broom sweeps around or close to the feet, but it is an entire compound that has got swept.

The poet throws soft light on the simple and commonplace and makes visible profound truths, as is evidenced in most of the poems in the collection, Suminda Kithsiri Gunaratne's sixth, *Prisma* (Prisms).

And the photo: that of a *hamuduruwo*, *idala* in hand, sweeping the compound of the Buddhanga Monastery in Ampara, apparently belonging to the Digamulla Kingdom, 4th Century BC. Buddhanga, although located deep in the jungles around Ampara, was brought back to life, so to speak, by a brave young *hamuduruwo* in 1964. Ven. Kalutara Dhammananda Thera. I am not sure if it is this *hamuduruwo* who is captured in the photograph, but most certainly the complex developing to what it is now owes much to the fact that the Thera had focused on sweeping close to his feet.

On a tree close to where the *hamuduruwo* is sweeping there's a board with the following line from the Dhammapada: '*Appamado amatha padang — nopa-maava nivanata hethu ve*,' which can be loosely translated as 'timely action, i.e. without delay, paves the way to nirvana.'

That which needs to be done right now, then, needs to be done with absolute integrity of the faculties, with composure, dedication and unwavering resolve. Large and complex extents, physical and otherwise, get cleared thereby.

Bodhi was sweeping the area close to his feet; the entire compound got swept. Ven. Kalutara Dhammananda Thera was sweeping the area close to his feet; and now people know there's a place called Buddhanga in Ampara. The *hamuduruwo* in the photograph is sweeping the area closest to his feet; it's an example, a study in concentration that throws a lot of light on right conduct.

Tharindu, in his photographic endeavours, is essentially covering or rather clearing nearby-ground; he ends up clearing vast areas of the mind, his and (at least) mine. Suminda uses pen as an *idala*. He removes clutter, keeps things tidy. He is in fact casting a thin ray of light on the mind's prisms which duly disperses and shows things in their true colours.

All sweepers. Focusing on that which needs to be sorted in the here and now. The rest follows.

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Flight diverted to Mattala due to bad weather

T.K.G.KAPILA

A flight which was scheduled to land at Bandaranaike International Airport was diverted to Mattala International Airport due to inclement weather condition in the area. Airport sources said that a Fits Air

flight that came from Chennai at around 4.10 pm was diverted to Mattala airport. 143 passengers with 15 crew were on board and the flight will be directed to Katunayake airport, after the weather condition favoured, an official said.

kidney patient seeks urgent help

P. A. Nirupa of Hingalgoda, Hiniduma at the Cardiology unit of the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital has been diagnosed with renal failure. Dr. Iresha Hettiarachchi, Consultant, Nephrologist of the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, has recommended an urgent kidney transplant, which is estimated to cost

Rs. 2 million. She says she is unable to pay this bill due to her economic constraints and requests the public and philanthropists to assist her by sending any amount of contributions to the Account Number 84471373 of the Bank of Ceylon, Thawalama Branch. She can be contacted on 0717292652.

'Down Memory Lane' at Grand Bolgoda Resort today

'Down Memory Lane' (DML) by Moratuwa Arts Forum (MAF) will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee with a concert today at 6pm at the Grand Bolgoda Resort, Moratuwa.

Goonawardene, Jagath Devapriya Peiris, Neelsh Silva and Suranga Fernando.

The Band 'Echo Steel' led by Pathum Gunawardene will provide music. There will also be a raffle draw of tickets.

Tickets priced at Rs. 1,500 and reservations are now available by contacting Treasurer Laksiri Fernando on 0773762275.

Organizing Committee comprises Sarath Goonawardene, Brian Coorey, Priya Peiris, Lincoln de Silva, Pathum

Education College enrollments to finish by May

IRANGIKA RANGE

Education Minister Susil Premajayantha told Parliament yesterday that the new enrollment for National Colleges of Education will be completed before end of May.

He said that these students will be granted a monthly stipend of Rs.5,000 provided by the Education Ministry and a loan amount of Rs.15,000 provided through banks on the basis of recovery after getting the job.

The Minister said this while answering a question raised by Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa regarding the enrollment of students for the National Colleges of Education. He said that there is only 40 percent of

teachers produced by the National Colleges of Education in the Teacher Service and that sufficient enrollment will be done soon.

The Minister further said that interviews to enroll students based on the Z-Score of the G.C.E A-L Examination were conducted by January. However, some have filed appeals. That is why there is some delay. But, new students will be enrolled in National Colleges of Education soon.



Pera PGIMS inaugural ceremony today

ASELA KURULUWANSA

The inaugural ceremony for the first batch of students of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) of the University of Peradeniya will be held today (29) under the patronage of the Chairman of the University Grants Commis-

sion, Professor Sampath Samarantunga. The Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Peradeniya has been established in the old police station building. Peradeniya University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Terence Madujith said that the proposal to estab-

lish a post-graduate medical science institute affiliated to the University of Peradeniya was presented many years ago and after the establishment systematically, of staff, buildings and other facilities, it was possible to open this institution.

Sri Lanka will take the lead in ensuring...

which are the primary contributors to polluting the environment, should also contribute to the cause through funding.

The President noted that Sri Lanka will take the lead in ensuring that the developing economies receive the resources to mitigate climate change.

Furthermore, President Wickremesinghe acknowledged the need for new laws to establish Sri Lanka as a green economy. He announced that several new laws would be introduced in the coming years to address this issue.

At the ceremony, organized by the Central Environmental Authority, 90 individuals received awards under the main sectors of industries, businesses and projects, institutions, media, and society. President Ranil Wickremesinghe presented the gold awards, and Environment Minister Naser Ahmed presented the President with a plaque. After the award presentation, President Ranil Wickremesinghe also posed for a group photograph with the gold award winners.

Following is the full speech delivered by President Ranil Wickremesinghe at the Presidential Environment Awards: "I must commend all those who are among the award winners for the contribution you have made to improve the environment of this country. To them I say thank you."

The previous speakers before me have outlined to you what Sri Lanka is doing in respect of environment and I do not wish to deal with those issues. I would like to mention to you during the debate on the IMF and earlier, I mentioned the need for a new economy, a highly competitive economy which is also a digital economy and a green economy. So as the economic reforms and the restructuring begins, it also involves Sri Lanka becoming a green economy. So that's a start and there is a lot more work that has to be done. So as we become a green economy, we also need the legislation and there will be a lot of new legislation in the coming years such as a new Environmental Act, because our environmental act was passed in the 80's and there have been far more advances thereafter. A Climate Change Act, Living Entities Act, we would like to have Sinharaja, Horton Plains, Peak Wilderness, Knuckles and Mahaweli as living entities and we will have to look at the Forest Act and bring in a new one will also cater for reforestation law to protect the Muthurajawela Swamp and one on protecting scenic beauties. So there is a large number of laws that have to be drafted and presented in the coming year.

In addition to it, Sri Lanka intends to play a role in the global campaign for climate change mitigation and that is going to be the Climate Change University which we proposed here and that will be used by officials, NGO's and others for training in climate change and also for post graduate awards.

So this is our scheme in going ahead and giving priority to climate change mitigation, environment and a green economy. What we are faced with and a lot of developing countries are faced with is a lack of resources. How do we access them? Are we getting the carbon credits? There are many financial schemes and instruments available. How can all of us in all the countries attempt to get the benefit of these schemes? Sri Lanka as a country is certainly

looking at how we can benefit and how we can apply for the schemes. But the question is that Sri Lanka alone cannot change the climate change in the world. We alone cannot do it, the whole world has to do it, and there the question comes up, is there enough funding for all this? How do you

find the money, the financial resources for these especially for climate change mitigation and protecting the environment?

Now, this is a question we have to ask because the actual damage was not done by us. The damage was done by the West and the other countries that decided to develop. So the developed countries through the process of industrialization, a number of wars, especially the two World Wars and even the Vietnam War have all contributed to bringing about the climate change. Now, we have to suffer the consequences. So, what we say is that funding has to come. In addition to what we have and what we can raise, there has to be funding available from those who are responsible for it. As far as we are concerned, we cannot put all the money into climate change. We have to fund education; we have to look at health, infrastructure and all those have to be met with. Then, where does the money come from?

Some in the developed world says there is not enough money. To me that is not an answer at all. The last conference of parties adopted the loss and damage principle. Again this means, for the loss and damage there must be money, but if the financial resources can't come, well, it's like a judgment that cannot be executed because one party hasn't got the money. So we have to ask because it's not like the world hasn't got the money.

If you look at the money that has been spent on the Ukraine war, on one side, Russia is spending a lot of money and on the other side it is the West. USA alone has given a 100 billion dollars to Ukraine. Then you have the Indo-Pacific and the rising tensions and how all sides are building more aircraft carriers, they are building more planes, they are strengthening their defenses. There is over 100 billion there alone over the next few years.

So you have America on one side, China on the other side and India on one side, there is Japan and Australia and others who are spending money. So look at the amount of money spent on armament and various other purposes. So, there is money and that money has to be made available.

The other problem that we have in the developing world is that most countries are reeling under the debt. Sri Lanka is one of the first countries and has taken steps to get out of it, but that alone is not enough. A large number of countries that are reeling under debt will have no resources for climate change mitigation. So, these are two sides of the coin. Funding for climate change mitigation projects and access for that funding and secondly, the debt issues of the developing economies. These are two issues that are actually joined. So this is what we have to raise and discuss.

Sri Lanka certainly, will take this position as we go in for the next round of conferences regarding the environment and the climate. I thought I would outline for you what we are planning to do, both locally and internationally. The Environment Minister will be leading the international efforts supported by the Foreign Affairs Ministry but this will be one of the key plans of our foreign policy. We have no doubt that Sri Lanka will take the lead in ensuring that the developing economies have the resources certainly to mitigate climate change in their areas."

Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Chairman of the Central Environment Authority Supun S.Pathirage, Director General P.B. Hemantha Jayasinghe, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau Chairman R.Sanjeevan, Director General Ajith Prem and many others were present on this occasion.

Colombo Additional Coroner hospitalised

as she was about to open her office. Upon her arrival at the workplace, the coroner noticed a suspicious person roaming around and focused on him. At the same time, she said that she had thought he was going to urinate and when she called out to prevent it, he came in front of her and continuously hit her with his umbrella. She has sustained injuries and is currently receiving treatment at Ward 73 of the Colombo National Hospital. Colombo Coroner

Ashraf Rumi also said that two other female coroners also work in the Colombo National Hospital's post-mortem office. "I have been working in this place for about 22 years. But this is the first time something like this happened. This place is insecure as anyone can enter the premises without being checked through the gate. The authorities are requested to install a CCTV camera system at the relevant place and ensure security," he said.

Nearly 33% of the families...

who are not entitled to the Samurdhi benefit. According to a survey conducted covering the entire island from 2015 to 2017, this information was discovered and it was stated that 449,979 families should be removed from the Samurdhi subsidy.

Officials of the National Audit Office said that an informality is observed in the selection of Samurdhi beneficiaries. This was disclosed when the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) chaired by Lasantha Alagiyawanna, met recently in Parliament to review the matters included in the reports of the Auditor General for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 and the current performance of the Department of Samurdhi Development.

Accordingly, it was also disclosed that some of the Samurdhi beneficiaries who received the monthly benefits remitted to the Prajamula Banks, kept them in their bank accounts for a long period of time and according to the surveys, the amount kept in the savings accounts of 2,433 beneficiaries in 41 domains of 10 Prajamula Banks amounted to Rs.59,951,537. Moreover, the empowerment of the beneficiaries was also discussed at the Committee meeting and the COPA Chair was of the view that it was observed that there has been no proper programme regarding the empower-

ment of the beneficiaries. Furthermore, The Committee inquired about the inclusion of the number of employees there when the Samurdhi Authority was made a department, and since the correct data was not submitted, it was recommended to recall this department before COPA on May 26, and the Chair further said that all the correct information about this would be required on that day.

Also, the financial subsidies received in the year 2022 under the assistance of the World Bank were also discussed here and the future plans of this department were also inquired about according to the updates planned to be done from the coming July. As no successful program was presented regarding the future plans, when the Samurdhi Development Department comes before this committee on May 26, COPA also recommended that a successful programme be presented.

State Ministers Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Prasanna Ranaweera and MPs Tissa Attanayake, Isuru Dodangoda, Dr.Harini Amarasinghe, Muditha Prishanthi, Dr.Major Pradeep Undugoda, Dr.Sarath Weerasekera, Manjula Disanayake, Wimalaweera Dissanayake, Weerasumana Weerasinghe, D. Weerasingha, Ashok Abeysinghe, Kader Masathan, A. L. M. Athaullah were present at this Committee meeting held.

Gangster 'Kudu Anju' arrested...

Sources said that Sri Lankan security agencies have received information of the arrest of Kudu Anju two days ago.

Sri Lanka Police are presently exploring the possibility of bringing him back to the country as Interpol has issued a red notice on him.



Sapphire cluster worth only

The value of the gem was originally speculated to US\$ 100 million then.

A massive sapphire cluster which was valued at US\$100 million was unearthed by workers digging a well in the backyard of a house in Ratnapura district in

2021. Committee Chairman MP Ajith Mannapperuma asked the officials whether they declared the value of the gem cluster without the valuation report from the National Gem and Jewellery Authority.

China ready to establish crude...

The Chinese Ambassador held discussion with Mahanayake of Asgiriya Chapter Most Venerable Warakagoda Sri Gnanarathana Thera, and the Mahanayake of the Malwatte Chapter, Most Venerable Thibbatuwawe Sri Siddhartha Sumangala Thera.

He said that the existing crude oil refinery in Sri Lanka has been built in the sixties and after the opening of the new oil refinery proposed to be built as a Chinese investment, there will be many big changes in the fuel distribution sector in Sri Lanka.

The Ambassador also stated that China has planned to start the opera-

tion of 150 fuel filling stations in Sri Lanka. The Ambassador also said that China has planned to invest US\$ 120-140 million in Sri Lanka this year and that many new job opportunities will be created for Sri Lankans. He also emphasized that they can work together with the emerging industries through those projects. He said that by now China has surpassed the American economy.

Chinese Ambassador in conversation with the Mahanayake Thera of Malwatte Chapter Most Venerable Thibbatuwawe Sri Siddhartha Sumangala Thera.

Magistrate visits shooter 'Buru Muna'

of the Hanwella restaurant owner. The suspect is identified as the shooter in several murder cases and is being held in a special cell of the Mirihana Headquarters Police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act by the Western Province Southern Crime Division.

This suspect was arrested by Immigration officials and handed over to the Katunayake Airport Police when he arrived in Dubai under a false name on February 24. He escaped from police custody and the police arrested him on March 17 in Avissawella area, and handed over him to the Western Province Southern Crime Division.

According to the information revealed during the long interrogation, the police found 650 grams of high-powered explosives of the C4 type hidden in the Hanwella, Wanahagoda area.

The suspect has been detained for a

period of three months under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for further questioning.

The magistrate observed the Mirihana headquarters police to ascertain matters such as whether the suspect has enough protection, ventilation in the holding cell, sanitary facilities, food provided properly and the close relatives have been allowed to visit him.

This criminal has been operating under the direction of Kannangara Lalith Kannangara, who is hiding in Dubai and leading drug trafficking and organized crime in the country. Mirihana Police Chief Inspector Thushara Manjula, IP Sumith Jayasinghe, Officer-in-charge of Western Province Southern Crime Division, IP Hemantha Kumara and Officer-in-charge of Case Operations Division Sub Inspector Shantha Lakshman were present during the magistrate's visit.

Inflation drops by ...

significantly eased to 35.3% in April 2023, in comparison to March 2023, the department said.

The CCPI-based inflation was calculated as 50.3% for March.

Infants in peril as

of the ward has been impeded due to this situation. Patients from Sabaragamuwa, Southern and Uva Provinces are seeking treatment from this hospital.

SJB files CIABOC

to the bank account of a person as a bribe to prevent the Sri Lanka government from securing damages over the X-Press Pearl ship disaster caused off the Colombo Port from its operator.

Former MP Mujibur Rahaman and MP Harshana Rajakaruna made this complaint to the Commission.

Addressing the media after making the complaint to the commission MP Harshana Rajakaruna urged the authorities concerned to investigate these report thoroughly and bring the culprits to book without delay.

Food poisoning at

Hospital Director said that the condition of the children are not serious and they are receiving treatment at the hospital.

Principal S.Seetha said that the school provides lunch to the children studying at Primary School and 29 schoolchildren fell unconscious and vomited after the lunch was served.

Nuwara Eliya Education Director Lasantha Abeyratne said that it was discovered that this happened due to the provision of unhygienic food and a special team has been appointed to carry out a full scale investigation into this incident

Former Katana PS...

in the Vanathavilluwa in Puttalam. Hapuarachchi, a resident of Kochchikade, Negombo, had gone to his coconut estate in Vanathavilluwa yesterday morning to pluck coconuts. Police said that a part of the stock of coconuts that had been plucked had been sold to a coconut dealer and the said coconut dealer had come to the estate yesterday to take the remaining coconuts. Since Hapuarachchi was not to be seen, he had found the body tied up and in the guard room and he reported it to the police.

Police also stated that the man who was the watcher on the coconut estate and his wife are missing after the murder of Peter Hapuarachchi.

It is said that the coconut dealer had told the police that the husband and wife had been in the guardhouse when he had come to pick up the coconuts, previously.

Tabling of Anti-Terrorism...

The Minister said the indefinite delay would pave the way for various factions to present their concerns and recommendations.

Minister Rajapakse further said that the Anti-Terrorism Bill will be tabled in Parliament only after obtaining the views of all concerned factions and by making the necessary amendments.

"There is public opinion that the Anti-Terrorism Bill is being introduced to suppress the people as they could oppose the implementation of the IMF proposals," he said.

The Minister said the government would never introduce any legislation that would inconvenience the public and legislation needs to be prepared for the requirements of the masses.

IMF's EFF agreement...

A total of 120 MPs voted in favour of the Resolution while 25 voted against it.

Members of Parliament voted for the resolution on the implementation of the IMF-supported program following a three-day debate from April 26 to 28.

The main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), and Sri Lanka Freedom Party voted against the resolution.

Except for SJB MP A.H.M. Fowzie, all other members of Samagi Jana Balawegaya and members of Tamil National Alliance were not present in the Chamber at the time of voting. MP A.H.M. Fowzie also voted in favour of the resolution.

The Supreme Lanka Coalition also voted against the resolution.

Ven. Athuraliyeh Rathana Thera and Ahila Ilankai Tamil Congress (AITC) MP G. G. Ponnambalam, also voted against the resolution.

This resolution was presented to Parliament by President Ranil Wickremesinghe. This proposal provides the necessary support to the Ministry of Finance to work with the International Monetary Fund.

Court orders genetic

The former Polonnaruwa District parliamentarian Amarakeerthi Athukoralala and his security officer, Police sergeant Jayantha Gunawardena were killed in Nittambuwa town on May 9 last year following the incident that took place at Galle Face on May 9.

The Crime Investigation Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department conducted investigations and arrested forty suspects.

One of the suspects who fell sick died in the prison. Six suspects have been released on bail while 30 suspects are in remand over the murder.

DIPLOMAT fetes...

The Awards Ceremony recognises outstanding work and achievements of London's diplomatic community who are trying to better their nations' well-being and is in its thirteenth year. The DIPLOMAT magazine identified 10 categories that recognise different levels of diplomacy, and winners were nominated by their fellow diplomats. Sirisena previously served as Ambassador to Austria and Consul General in Mumbai and in Sri Lanka's Missions in Paris, Brussels and Geneva. Over 150 guests including Heads of Mission and diplomats from over 80 countries attended the Awards Ceremony.

Sri Lanka's first potato chips factory to begin operations soon

Sri Lanka's first export oriented Potato Chips processing factory built by a young farmer company at Kahattewela in Bandarawela. The Kahattewela Young Farmer Company is run by a group of young farmers from Kahattewela village.

The Small-scale Agribusiness Participation Programme (SAPP) under the Ministry of Agriculture has also provided financial support for this factory.

The Kahattewela Young Farmers Company says that all arrangements have been made to start operations of the Kahattewela Potato Chips factory soon.

Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera went on a recent inspection tour of the factory, which was built with SAPP support at a cost of Rs.20 million

along with the financial contribution of the Kahattewela Young Farmers Company.

"The private sector of our country is currently exporting potato chips to several foreign countries. In 2021, one ton of potato chips produced in Sri Lanka was exported at US\$6314. Currently, the demand for Potato Chips in our country has increased to 11 percent.

There is a huge demand for Potato Chips in Sri Lanka from the Maldives, Canada, United Kingdom, Luxembourg and South Korea too," the Minister said.

"Potato cultivation is currently in progress in Welimada and Nuwara Eliya as well as the Badulla areas which enabled the setting up of the Potato Chips Factory in the Bandarawela



Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera during a recent inspection tour of the Potato Chips processing factory at Kahattewela in Bandarawela.

Kahattewela area and the availability of the required raw materials. Around 180 farmer families who grow potatoes can sell their harvest through this factory," Minister Amaraweera said.

Delegation of Tamil MPs call on Indian High Commissioner

A delegation of Tamil MPs comprising Selvam Adaikalanathan, MP, President of Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), G Karunakaran, MP, Member of TELO, D. Sithardhan, MP, President of People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), Suresh Premachandran, President of

Liberation Front (EPRLF), G. Surendhiran, Spokesperson of TELO and Venthan, President of Democratic Crusader's Party (DCP) called on Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay to convey their New Year greetings and held discussions on the current situation in Sri Lanka.

The delegation apprised the High Commissioner on the aspirations of Tamil people in Sri Lanka and progress on the related matters.

The High Commissioner reciprocated the New Year greetings and reiterated India's commitment towards the full implementation of the 13th Amendment and early conduct of Provincial Council Elections in Sri Lanka.

Inaugural Colombo University Alumni Pinnacle Awards and Alumni Night 2023

The Inaugural University of Colombo Alumni Pinnacle Awards and Alumni Night 2023 hosted by the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo will be held on Friday, May 12 from 7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Galadari Hotel, Colombo.

Formed in 1982, the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo is an apex body of the alumni of various faculties of the University, forming a link between its membership and the University. The Association was formed by the University of Colombo during the tenure of the late Prof. Stanley Wijesundera, Vice Chancellor with Tissa Devendra as the founder President of the Association.

The Association has several key objectives including Student Welfare, Student Development, Member Engagement and Fellowship. The Members of the Association as Thought Leaders of the



College House, University of Colombo

Country have played many roles at strategic and policy levels.

After having completed over 40 years, the Association is launching its Inaugural Alumni Pinnacle Awards to recognize a select group of Alumni of the University of Colombo who have immensely contributed to the

country, society and the University of Colombo which will be followed by the Alumni Night 2023, an evening of music, dance and rekindling of memories at the University of Colombo.

This event is open to all Alumni of the University of Colombo and their guests.

Tickets can be reserved on a First Come First Served Basis by calling Ayeshah on 0777208372 or Delanie on 077 3868159 or Visiting the Alumni Association Office at College House between 9:30 A.M. and 2.30 P.M. on any weekday.

ACEMA requests CAA to wave off control price of eggs

ANANDA KANNANGARA

The All Ceylon Egg Manufacturers Association (ACEMA) on Tuesday while expressing concern over the current egg shortage in the market and requested the Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) to wave off the control price of eggs which are currently being sold at Rs.44 and Rs. 46 respectively, since the price of locally manufactured eggs will be reduced up to Rs.40 or less considering the forthcoming Vesak, Posen and Esala religious festival periods.

ACEMA Chairman Sarath Ratnayaka also asked the Government

to stop importing eggs from India since even health experts in the country are not aware of the correct nutritious value of these eggs.

He said anybody does not know that the already imported eggs were dispatched to Sri Lanka from areas in India where the bird flu had been spreading.

He said in addition even bakery owners, especially cake manufacturers, complain that already manufactured cakes during the New Year season were not in the expected standard due to using imported eggs. "As a result many bakery product manufacturers are in the

habit of visiting local poultry farms and purchase eggs between Rs. 50 to Rs.60 from them," he said.

Ratnayaka said there is a massive shortage of eggs because poultry farm owners are reluctant to sell their eggs to ordinary markets at low prices.

He said due to the Government's decision of importing eggs, over 50,000 small and medium scale poultry farmers countrywide have stopped breeding birds while some farms are breeding chickens for meat. It is said over 300,000 large, medium and small poultry farms are currently in the country with

nearly 200,000 people depending on them for their livelihood.

He said the authorities imposed a controlled price for local eggs without knowing the actual price of poultry foods and vitamins in the open market.

He said the production cost of each egg in our country exceeds over Rs. 40 when considering the high price of poultry foods and vitamins. Ratnayaka requested the authorities to intervene in this matter since a large number of poultry farms will have to be closed down before long if measures are not taken to stop egg imports.

Sri Lanka's Ambassador meets UAE's Minister of Tolerance

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Udaya Indrarathna met the Minister of Tolerance of the UAE HH Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and his family, as well as the UAE leadership and friendly people of the UAE.

In the spirit of unity that the holy month of Ramadan has brought, the people of the United Arab Emirates joyfully celebrated the auspicious Eid al-Fitr, a delightful occasion that marks the end of a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection.

It is a time for families, friends and communities to come together

and celebrate the blessings of the past month. The UAE has become a role model nation for many countries around the world, including Sri Lanka, where over 300,000 Sri Lankan citizens live in peace and harmony.

His Highness's leadership, along with the values and principles he represents, have created a profound impact on these communities. His Highness's commitment to promoting tolerance, understanding and coexistence among all the communities in the

UAE is truly inspiring. On behalf of the people of Sri Lanka in the UAE, the Embassy of Sri Lanka extended heartfelt wishes for a joyous and peaceful Eid

al-Fitr to Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and his family, as well as the UAE leadership and friendly people of the UAE.

Rev. Sister Sandamali Kurera bids adieu to St Marys Convent, Matara

Text and picture by PRIYAN DE SILVA

Rev. Sister Sandamali Kurera who guided St. Mary's Convent, Matara for over two decades as its Principal has bid adieu to the school to take up duties as Treasurer of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary.

Rev. Sister Sandamali who hails from Chilaw had her primary education at St. Benedict's College, Kanjukkuliya and was half way through her secondary education at Carmel Girls National College in Chilaw when she decided to dedicate her life to serve God as a Sister of Charity of Jesus and Mary and was admitted to St. Mary's Convent, Matara to fulfill her dream.

It was Sister Sandamali that gained entrance to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura to com-

plete her tertiary education and took up teaching Economics at her Alma Mater immediately after graduation.

In addition to her teaching duties, Sister Sandamali was entrusted to help then Principal of St. Mary's Convent Sister Marie Ann in her administrative duties.

In 2002, Sister Sandamali succeeded Sister Marie Ann as Principal and guided the school for over two decades. Her capabilities were put to the test when the 2004 tsunami devastated the Southern coast including St. Mary's Convent.

It was Sister Sandamali's determination, dedication and diplomacy that helped rebuild St. Mary's to its present status.



THURSDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS
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MAHAJANA SAMPATHA The super prize of next draw
DRAW NUMBER: 5099 Rs. 15,154,303.00

WINNING LETTER: N WINNING NUMBERS: 2 8 7 0 5 2

HANDAHANA THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
DRAW NUMBER: 408 Rs. 2,947,722.20

WINNING ZODIAC: ♈️ WINNING NUMBERS: 07 09 27 32 SPECIAL ZODIAC: ♉️

Dhana Nidhanaya THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
DRAW NUMBER: 1129 Rs. 87,784,012.00

ENGLISH LETTER: F WINNING NUMBERS: 26 35 42 60

JATHIKA SAMPATHA THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
DRAW NUMBER: 1554 Rs. 10,262,195.20

WINNING ZODIAC: ♋️ WINNING NUMBERS: 0 7 8 2 0 4

Govisetha THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
DRAW NUMBER: 3341 Rs. 98,958,510.64

WINNING LETTER: Q WINNING NUMBERS: 03 17 21 66

Mega POWER NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE
DRAW NUMBER: 1447 Rs. 317,471,246.00

ENGLISH LETTER: Y WINNING NUMBERS: 04 11 45 56 64

WEEKLY GRAND SUPER PRIZE: Rs. 10,000,000.00
WEEKLY GRAND SUPER PRIZE: Rs. 10,000,000.00

Construction Guarantee Fund (CGF)
EMPLOYMENT
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

CGF is a Trust provide financial facilities to construction contractors seek a person with academic qualification in the field/s either in Civil Engineering, Construction Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Building Economics or Architecture. Professional Membership will be an added qualification. Minimum Experience of 10 years or more is expected with thorough knowledge in;

- Activities of the Regulatory Authority (CIDA)
- Local Construction Industry & Contractor Behaviour
- Conditions of Contract (Local and International)
- Contract Management & RISK Mitigation
- Corporate Credit Ratings (CCR)
- ADR and Litigation
- Banks attitude towards Construction
- General Administration, HR and Procurement
- Knowledge and working in Tamil medium will have an advantage

Recruitment initially on Assignment Basis with average remuneration of Rs: 200,000/- per month. If you are confident please apply with your terms and curriculum vitae with Two (2) non-related referees together with copies of all certificates of Academic, Professional Qualifications & Experience etc.

All documents should be sent initially by email admin@cgf.gov.lk followed by Courier to **Manager Administration, Construction Guarantee Fund, Level I, "Savsiripaya", 123, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07** on or before 12.00 noon on **08th May 2023**.

UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA
INVITATION FOR BIDS

Supply of Skilled, Semiskilled and Unskilled Workers to the University of Jaffna-2023/2024

1. The Chairman, Procurement Committee, University of Jaffna invites sealed Bids for the above contract up to 2.00 p.m. on **19th May 2023**
2. Period of contract should be 365/6 days subject to a performance evaluation period of 60 days.
3. Expected project cost per annum

Total expected cost (annual)	45.6 Million
Jaffna premises	24 Million
Ariviyalnagar premises	21.6 Million
4. Firms which satisfy the following conditions are eligible to submit Bids. Documentary evidences should be provided with Bids.
 - 4.1 Must be registered in Sri Lanka under the Company's Acts or Business Name Registration Ordinance.
 - 4.2 Average of annual volume of supply of skilled, semiskilled and unskilled workers contracts performed in the last 3 years should be at least **Rs. 60 Million**.
 - 4.3 Must have satisfactorily carried out at least one supply of skilled, semiskilled and unskilled workers contract to a Government Department/ Corporation/ University during the last 3 years for not less than **Rs. 20 Million**.
 - 4.4 Availability of trained and experienced Sri Lankan staff during the last 3 years should be at least 30.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Assistant Registrar, General Administration, University of Jaffna, and inspect the bidding documents at the same address on any working day during working hours.
Contact numbers: - Tele: 021 2226517, Fax:- 021 2226517.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language could be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Assistant Registrar, General Administration, University of Jaffna, Thirunelvely from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on any working day up to **15th May 2023** upon submission of receipt for the payment of non-refundable Tender Fee of **Rs. 5000.00**. The payment should be made in cash to the Shroff, University of Jaffna or the payment shall be deposited in favour of Bursar, University of Jaffna at the **People's Bank, University of Jaffna Branch Account Number 970000060000276** at any Branch of People's Bank in Islandwide.
7. Bidders are strongly advised to attend the **Pre-bid meeting on 10th May 2023 at 10.00 a.m.** in the boardroom of the University of Jaffna and visit each location before pricing.
8. Bids shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the Assistant Registrar, General Administration, University of Jaffna, Thirunelvely, Jaffna, P.O. Box 57, to reach on or before **14.00 hrs on or before 19th May 2023** or be deposited in the tender box kept in the Office of the Registrar on or before the above date and time. Bids will be opened soon after closing the Bids in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Bids shall be valid for a period of 91 Days (should be as at 18th August 2023) from the date fixed for closing of bids or any extended period.
10. All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security for and which shall be;
 - In the form included with the Bidding document
 - In favour of Vice-Chancellor, University of Jaffna
 - For an amount of Rs. 50,000.00 Valid up to 15th September 2023 (120 days from the date of closing of bid)
 - Issued by one of the agencies
 - a. A bank operating in Sri Lanka;
 - b. A bank based in another country but the guarantee "confirmed" by a bank operating in Sri Lanka;

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
University of Jaffna.
29.04.2023

Ramesh and Prabath bowl Sri Lanka to an innings win

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA
reporting from Galle

Off spinner Ramesh Mendis had a superb spell to finish with 5 for 64 while leg spinner Prabath Jayasuriya took two wickets to become fastest Sri Lankan bowler to reach 50 test wickets as Sri Lanka recorded an innings and ten run victory over Ireland in the second Test match to clinch 2-0 series win at the Galle International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

It was very good display by Sri Lankan bowlers and fielders while they were able to dismiss Irish team before the tea break to seal the victory and win the series in grand style. Ireland who scored 492 all out in the first innings while Sri Lanka made bold reply to score 704 for 3 wickets declared with 212 runs lead. However Ireland 54 for 2 wickets continued from fourth day were bowled out for 202 and Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne and his team celebrated the 100th Sri Lanka victory in grand style.

Harry Tector was the only successful Irish batsman made a

fighting knock of 85 in 189 balls struck 8 fours and 3 sixes while skipper Andy Balbirnie scored 46. Tector who came to bat at number four was 9 th out and that prize wicket was taken by paceman Asitha Fernando who took two wickets in two consecutive balls of the last over to finish the game. Tector was clean bowled by Asitha Fernando followed by last man Ben White in the same way. Asitha Fernando played a good supporting role by taking 3 for 30.

The second innings here undoubtedly off spinner Ramesh Mendis who finished with 5 for 64 in his 27 overs spell while leg spinner Prabath Jayasuriya took the wicket of Paul Stirling to complete the milestone of fastest test 50 wickets with Kusal Mendis taking the catch at extra cover to give Prabath Jayasuriya his 50 th wicket.

In fact Jayasuriya's 50 th test wicket is joint second fastest wickets in world and his effort in seven test matches gave big boost to his test career.

SCORECARD	
IRELAND	
FIRST INNINGS 494	
SRI LANKA	
FIRST INNINGS 703/4D	
IRELAND	
SECOND INNINGS	
James McCollum b R. Mendis 10	Peter Moor c Mathews b Jayasuriya ... 19
Andy Balbirnie c Mathews b R. Mendis ... 46	Harry Tector b A. Fernando 85
Paul Stirling c K. Mendis b Jayasuriya ... 1	Lorcan Tucker b A. Fernando 13
Curtis Campher c K. Mendis b R. Mendis ... 12	Andy McBrine c de Silva b R. Mendis ... 10
Graham Hume c Samarawickrama b R. Mendis 0	Matthew Humphreys not out 4
Ben White b A. Fernando 0	Extras (lb 2) 2
Total (77.3 overs) 202	Fall of wickets: 1-10 (McCollum), 2-38 (Moor), 3-61 (Stirling), 4-78 (Tucker), 5-103 (Campher), 6-143 (Balbirnie), 7-159 (McBrine), 8-161 (Hume), 9-202 (Tector), 10-202 (White)
Bowling: Vishwa Fernando 6-1-15-0, Prabath Jayasuriya 32-9-88-2, Ramesh Mendis 27-6-64-5, Asitha Fernando 11.3-3-30-3, Dhananjaya de Silva 1-0-3-0.	

Kusal Mendis who stroked 245 runs was named man of the series while Prabath Jayasuriya who took match bag of seven wickets was adjudged man of the match and received his trophy from Sri Lanka Cricket Head of Administration Aruna de Silva

Kusal Mendis the man of the series said his batting dis-

play gave much needed boost while he always played for the team and really enjoyed playing long innings to build up the innings. Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne, Nishan Madushka and Angelo Mathews gave good support and we played really well to outclass them said Mendis.



Prabath Jayasuriya who took a match bag of 7 wickets became the fastest-ever spinner to 50 Test wickets is receiving the Man of the Match award from Sri Lanka Cricket Head of Administration Aruna de Silva (left) at the presentation ceremony held at Galle yesterday. (Pic courtesy SLC)

Rusanda and Chamindu rescue Peterites after paceman Chamod makes early inroads



St Joseph's paceman Gagan Chamod in action. (Pic by Sudath Nishantha)

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA
reporting from Galle

Paceman Gagan Chamod had a superb bowling spell to capture 5 for 69 as St Peters were all out for 214 while St Joseph's scored 29 for no loss when bad weather halted the first day of the 89 th Battle of the Saints which began at SSC grounds yesterday.

Peterites had a very poor start losing two early wickets with out addition to the total and paceman Gagan Chamod was the main destroyer for St Joseph's having first three wickets to have the Peterites struggling but Rusanda Gamage scored 55 in 71 balls with 7 fours and Chamindu Perera hit 66 in 125 balls with 6 fours repaired the innings enabling the Peterites to pass the 200 run mark.

In fact Gagan Chamod bowling spell posed a huge challenge for St Peters top order and skipper Nimuthu Gunawardena had a bad day and he was out for a duck after facing just five balls while Chamod entered the record books to pick five wickets well supported by deputy skipper Lahiru Amarasekara who took 3 for 36.

St Joseph's openers Skipper Sadeesh Jayawardena (16) and young Naren Muralidaran (11) were at the wickets adding 29 runs before the match was stopped due to rain.

The match will be continued today at 9.45 a.m.



St. Peter's Chamindu Perera plays a shot.

SCORECARD	
ST. PETER'S	
FIRST INNINGS	
Oween Salgado lbw b G. Chamod 0	Vishen Helambage c Shevon Fonseka b G. Chamod 18
Nimuthu Gunawardena c Sadeesh Jayawardana b G. Chamod 0	Rusanda Gamage c Yenula Dewthusa b G. Chamod 55
Chamindu Perera run out 66	Shanshay Gunathilaka & b L. Amarasekara 18
Kavika Jayasundara & b L. Amarasekara 1	Shenon Rodrigo & b L. Amarasekara 19
Nathen David & b M. Dissanayake 15	Lakindu Sachin b G. Chamod 14
Sean Roberts not out 1	Extras (b-5, lb-0, nb-0, w-2, pen-0) Total: (57.3 Overs) 214
Bowling: Gagan Chamod 14.3-2-69-5, Maanasa Madubashana 3-0-17-0, Muditha Dissanayake 15-1-33-1, Yenula Dewthusa 8-1-37-0, Lahiru Amarasekara 14-0-36-3, Shevon Daniel 3-0-17-0.	
ST. JOSEPH'S	
FIRST INNINGS	
Sadeesh Jayawardena not out 16	Naren Muralidaran not out 11
Extras (w-2) 02	Total (no loss in 6.2 overs) ... 29
To bat: Shevon Daniel, Gagan Chamod, Hiran Jayasundara, Lahiru Amarasekara, Hiran Kapurubandara, Yenula Dewthusa, Maanasa Madubashana, Avintha de Alwis, Muditha Dissanayake	Bowling: Lakindu Sachin 3.2-0-13-0, Sean Roberts 3-0-16-0

Our aim was to win the game not to go for records, says Dimuth

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA
reporting from Galle

We never thought about records and our aim was to win the game said Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne. After the match we discuss about other matters and make plans and during the game we are always focused to win the match.

Any way this is 100 Test win for Sri Lanka and I am really proud of my leadership for this 100th test win. Actually there are several positives especially our batters and bowlers really played well and good team commitment to win the game and win the series.

Especially when Ireland got 492 our aim was to score 700 runs and our top order batting clicked to go for a big innings. Our batters scored heavily two hundreds bymy self and Angelo and two double centuries by Kusal and Nishan Madush-

ka I always like to see consistent batting and that is very important and that is very good for test cricket said skipper Dimuth Karunaratne.

Actually Prabath Jayasuriya the leg spinner really bowled well while Ramesh Mendis came back strongly to get five wicket haul. The two pacemen Asitha Fernando and Vishwa Fernando did really well to pick wickets and Asitha bowled with good length and bounce to make good challenge against Irish batters.

We saw our players displayed their skills and gained confidence added Skipper Dimuth. I always wanted to give permanent batting position to all players and establish their places. Kusal Mendis has good potential to bat at number three while new opener Nishan Madushka has good techniques and his simple approach helped him and

got match exposure Madushka can be a good stroke maker in the top order says skipper Dimuth I have discussed about my captaincy but never finalized and wanted to discuss more. Actually I like to see new test captain being groomed. We have four senior players and one of them can be the captain

Meanwhile Ireland skipper Andy Balbirnie said Sri Lankan bowlers did a good job to get their victory. First time we played five full days of test cricket and got more lessons from this test series. Especially we really enjoyed well at Galle but wanted to improve our skills in test cricket.

Sri Lankan pitches are favourable for spinners but we did well to score 492 runs which was our highest test innings but disappointed for losing after fighting all five days said Ireland skipper Andy

Thushen wins silver medal at Asian Youth Meet

Thushen Silva of Maris Stella College Negombo performed well when he won the Silver medal clearing 4.70m in the Pole Vault event at the Asian Youth Under 18 Athletics Championship 2023 held in Uzbekistan yesterday. Lian Chauvin of China won the Gold with 5.11m.

Sri Lanka team comprised seven Youth Athletes and few of them were scheduled to take part in their events yesterday evening. We hope to win a few more medals said team Manager Chandana Ekanayake who is the Vice president of the Sri Lanka Athletics. SLA President Major General Palitha Fernando also was present at this meet as a delegate.



Thushen de Silva poses for a picture with SLA President Major General Palitha Fernando (left) and Chandana Ekanayake the Manager of the Sri Lanka team

Former Royal cricket captain Heshan de Silva is no more

Former Royal College cricket captain Heshan de Silva passed away in Dubai after suffering a heart attack on Thursday. He was 57 at the time of his death.

An outstanding left hand batsman, he represented Royal College from 1982 to 1985 scoring over 450 runs in his final season. Royal enjoyed an unbeaten record including a seven wicket win

over Ananda College and innings wins over Isipathana and Trinity during his final season as captain.

A nephew of former Prince of Wales, SSC and Sri Lanka cricketer Lasantha Rodrigo, Heshan played first class cricket in Sri Lanka and the UAE where he worked at Emirates Islamic Bank. He was a stalwart of Lanka Lions' becoming its

president and leading figure among the Sri Lankan community in the UAE. He is survived by his loving wife Pradeepa, and sons Prashan and Romesh.

His funeral will take place on Sunday April 30 at 4.00 pm at General Cemetery, Borella (Anglican Section). His remains will lie at Jayaratne 'Respect' Funeral parlour from April 29 to 30.

An Island's Eleven" book launch today

"An Island's Eleven" A history of cricket in Sri Lanka Book written by Nicolas Brookes will be launched today (29) at One Galle Face on 11am.

The colourful pictures of renowned Sri Lanka cricketers and their

details with more descriptions very well written by Nicholas Brookes which is published by Sarasavi Publications.

The author Nicholas Brookes will be present at the Sarasavi Book

shop, 4th Floor, One Galle Face between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm today. Leading Sri Lanka cricketers, officials and coaches are expected to grace this launching ceremony. (D. R)



Gurukula CH team became the champion of the Blue Diamonds' softball championship held at the Bandaranaik Stadium, in Hunupitiya, Kelaniya recently under the patronage of principal of Gurukula Vidyalaya Dr. Kusala Fernando. The tournament was organised by the 1999-2003 group of the Old Pupils' Association of Gurukula Vidyalaya Kelaniya with the objective of fostering camaraderie. All Viking team became the runner up Picture shows the winning team receiving the trophy from Principal Dr. Kusala Fernando .

Fifth Battle of the Sea Gulls Sebs, Katuneriya in command

St. Sebastian's College Katuneriya scored 63 runs for one wicket against St. Peter's College Negombo on day one in their 5th "Battle of the Sea Gulls" annual Cricket encounter for "Protus Tissera Memorial Challenge Trophy" at St. Sebastian's College ground Katuneriya yesterday.

St. Sebastian's College Katuneriya won the toss and elected to field first. St. Peter's College Negombo was bowled out for 92 runs in 32.3 overs. Akeel Shenes (24) and Naveen Athishta (21) helped to build their innings. Tharaka Manaram claimed 4 wickets for 19 runs. Chathumal Nimesh and Thisara Madushan claimed 3 wickets each.

Play was stopped early due to rain. Only 43 overs

bowled on day one. St. Sebastian's College Katuneriya scored 63 runs for one wicket in 8 overs. Nimesh Madusanka scored unbeaten 25 runs and Thisara Madushan scored unbeaten 21 runs. Nimesh Madusanka and Thisara Madushan made unbroken 50 runs stand for their second wicket partnership.

Match will continue today (29) on day two.

St. Peter's College Negombo: 92 (32.3) (Akeel Shenes 24, Naveen Athishta 21, Tharaka Manaram 4/19, Chathumal Nimesh 3/21, Thisara Madushan 3/33)

St. Sebastian's College Katuneriya: 63/1 (8) (Nimesh Madusanka 25 n.o., Thisara Madushan 21 n.o.) (YK)