



## WHO DECLARES END TO MPOX PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

SWITZERLAND: The World Health Organization (WHO) has said it is ending a 10-month-long global health emergency for mpox, a viral disease that led to confirmed cases in more than 100 countries. **TO PAGE 02**

# Daily News

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**MINISTER PROPOSES COUNTRY'S INCOME, EXPENDITURE CASH FLOW DETAILS BE GIVEN TO HOUSE MONTHLY**

IRANGIKA RANGE

Transport, Highways and Mass Media Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena told Parliament yesterday that he will propose to the Finance State Minister to reveal the monthly income and expenditure of the government to the House for the knowledge of the Members by the end of every particular month. He said then everyone will have the opportunity to know the income, expenses, and how much more money is needed in a month by the country. **TO PAGE 02**

## SRI LANKA SKILLS EXPO 2023 EXHIBITION FOR JOB SEEKERS AT BMICH TILL SUNDAY

DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE

The 'Sri Lanka "Skills Expo 2023" exhibition' for job seekers, knowledge seekers and job providers began in Colombo yesterday. **TO PAGE 03**

## SC TO INFORM DECISION ON PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

NELKA MEDAGEDARA

The Supreme Court yesterday decided (12) to inform the Speaker of its decision on the constitutionality of the Provincial Council Elections (Amendment) Bill submitted for Parliamentary approval. **TO PAGE 03**

## MAN WHO FORGED BRITISHER'S LOST PASSPORT ARRESTED AT BIA

HAD GONE TO INDIA ON HIS SRI LANKAN PASSPORT

T. K. G. KAPILA

A Sri Lankan passenger who came to the Katunayake Airport to flee to Britain using a misplaced passport belonging to a British national was arrested by Immigration officers at the arrival terminal of Katunayake Airport in the afternoon of May 11. He is a 38-year-old labourer residing in Pudukudirippu area. **TO PAGE 03**

## BOOK A TIME FOR PASSPORT COLLECTION

- DEPARTMENT

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE

The Immigration and Emigration Department advised applicants to arrive for passport collection only after booking a date and time.

Those who are suffering from illnesses or are going abroad and those who have come to Sri Lanka for a short vacation **TO PAGE 03**

## Aswasuma scheme must not be politicised like Samurdhi - NPP

IRANGIKA RANGE

National People's Power (NPP) MP Dr. Harini Amarasuriya told Parliament yesterday (12) that all welfare programmes launched in this country have been politicised. **TO PAGE 02**



## TAMIL PARTIES DISCUSS SPECIFIC ISSUES WITH PRESIDENT

CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE ON RECURRING ISSUES TO CONTINUE

RASULA DILHARA GAMAGE

Jaffna District MP and People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) leader Dharmalingam Siddharthan yesterday said the discussions held between President Ranil Wickremesinghe and the Tamil political parties in

the North were very fruitful and the Tamil politicians believe that the problems of the Tamil people will be resolved in the coming days.

A discussion started in Colombo between the leaders of seven Tamil political parties and the President on Thursday **TO PAGE 02**

## HOUSE APPROVES 'ASWESUMA' SCHEME

Parliament yesterday approved the New Aswasuma Social Welfare benefit scheme and allowed beneficiaries to enter and exit depending on the change in their incomes. The proposal was approved by the Parliament without a vote.

# COMPREHENSIVE MODERNIZATION OF EDUCATION SECTOR IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

- PRESIDENT

IF MONEY SPENT ON CORPORATIONS WAS INVESTED ON EDUCATION, SRI LANKA WOULD HAVE THE BEST EDUCATION IN ASIA

President Ranil Wickremesinghe pledged to modernise the education sector to create a young generation equipped with knowledge and nourished with abilities within the next 10 years.

Pointing out that a Cabinet committee has already been appointed for the modernization of education; the Presi-

dent also stated that he will work on immediate reforms.

The President also pointed out that if the money spent on corporations during the past 10 years was invested on education, Sri Lanka would have the best education in Asia.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe stated this while

attending the opening ceremony of Sri Lanka's first skills and job exhibition Skills Expo 2023, under the theme 'An ability for Life - A job for Ability' at the BMICH, Colombo yesterday (12).

The exhibition will be held at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike hall, at BMICH Premises on May 12, 13 and 14 **TO PAGE 02**



PRESIDENT AT "SKILLS EXPO 2023"

President Ranil Wickremesinghe in conversation with the group of schoolchildren after inaugurating the country's first skills and job exhibition "Skills Expo 2023", under the theme "An ability for Life - A job for Ability", at the BMICH, yesterday. Education Minister Dr. Susil Premajayantha was also present. (Picture by PMD)

## Suspect escapes from Police custody in Pugoda, surrenders at Aluthkade

GAYAN KUMARA WEERASINGHE

The Kirindiwela Police said that a suspect who was arrested in a case related to a violation of traffic laws and was being taken to the Pugoda Magistrate's Court had escaped after taking off his handcuffs and then surrendered to the Aluthkade Magistrate's Court. **TO PAGE 02**

## ICC officials say SLC must be independent

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

ICC Deputy Chairman Imran Khwaja said they will not take sides either for Sri Lanka Cricket or the Sports Ministry and will submit a report to the ICC after their tour of Sri Lanka is done. **TO PAGE 03**

## Parliament should enact laws to establish Independent Commission to achieve long-term goals - MP Narmal

IRANGIKA RANGE

Even though there are many good policies in many institutions, those policies also change when ministers change, SLPP

MP Narmal Rajapaksa told Parliament yesterday. Even the Commissions are appointed to find solutions, they also change when Presidents, **TO PAGE 03**



## Former Ragala Sathosa Assistant Manager arrested over Rs.15.1 Mn fraud

GAYAN KUMARA WEERASINGHE

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested a former Ragala Lanka Sathosa Assistant Manager on Thursday (11) in

connection with a fraud of more than Rs.15.1 million in stocks of goods. The CID Special Investigations Unit took into custody K. A. B. Dissanayake (47), **TO PAGE 03**

## KALUTARA TUITION MASTER IN SEXUAL ABUSE CASE REMANDED TILL MAY 26

SUMITH PREMATHILAKE

The tuition master who was arrested by the Kalutara Child and Women Abuse Prevention Bureau

on the charge of sexually abusing female students were ordered to be remanded till May 26 by Kalutara Chief Magistrate **TO PAGE 02**

TO BE REFERRED TO A PSYCHIATRIST ON MAY 15

## MAIN SUSPECT IN KALUTARA GIRL'S DEATH REMANDED TILL MAY 26

FORENSIC DOCTOR TO CHECK ON TEETH MARKS

SUMITH PREMATHILAKE

Kalutara Chief Magistrate Hemamalee Halpandeniya ordered yesterday (12) to remand the main suspect who was arrested by the Kalutara South Police and presented to the court in connection with the death of the 16-year-old schoolgirl who fell from a five-storey building in Kalutara until May 26. **TO PAGE 03**

## National Council Sub Committee first interim report presented

The first Interim Report of the Sub Committee on Identifying the Priorities in Formulation of Short, Medium and Long-Term National Policies of the National Council was presented to Parliament by its Chair MP Narmal Rajapaksa yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**

## PSC to probe New Diamond, X-Press Pearl disasters

IRANGIKA RANGE

Parliament yesterday approved the appointment of a Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) to investigate into and make suitable recommendations relating to the disasters caused by the New Diamond and X-Press Pearl Vessels in the Maritime Zone of Sri Lanka. **TO PAGE 02**

## Temple pinnacle stolen in Giriulla, found in forest

GAYAN KUMARA WEERASINGHE

The Pinnacle (Chuda Manikya) attached to the chaitiya at the Shailatharama in Giriulla Mewellewa, has been stolen by someone in the early hours of Thursday (11). **TO PAGE 03**

## Opposition Leader wants legitimate Chairman for Finance Committee

IRANGIKA RANGE

In the absence of the proper Chairman for the Finance Committee, all the decisions and approvals granted by the Committee are legally and constitutionally invalid, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa told Parliament yesterday. **TO PAGE 03**



## Duminda, Dayasiri in verbal duel

SLFP National Organizer Duminda Dissanayake in letter to SLFP Chairman and former President Maithripala Sirisena condemned the actions by SLFP General Secretary Dayasiri Jayasekera. **TO PAGE 03**



## KALUTARA GIRL'S DEATH NAVY DIVERS SEARCH FOR GIRL'S PHONE

Navy and police divers were deployed to find the mobile phone of the 16 year old Tihara Nirmani which was said to have been thrown into the Kalu Ganga. The suspects in remand custody had given a statement to the police that the relevant phone had been thrown into the river.

## Cyclone Mocha sees heavy rains

Red notice for fishing community

UPALI KARUNARATNE

A spokesperson of the Meteorological Department yesterday said heavy rains can be expected throughout the country as the Cyclone Mocha is developing in southeast Bay of Bengal. Due to this cyclone, the Department has issued a red notice **TO PAGE 02**

## X-Press case in Singapore

Maximum compensation we can claim is

Pounds 19.8 Mn - Minister

Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms Minister Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe yesterday said that the Attorney General's Department had filed a case claiming compensation for the damage to marine environment by the X-Press Pearl disaster in Singapore. **TO PAGE 03**



## Elephant attacks camping couple in Koslanda

Girl succumbs, boy hospitalised

Koslanda Police yesterday said a couple who were camping near Diyuluma waterfall in Koslanda was attacked by a wild elephant yesterday morning and the girl died on the spot and the young man **TO PAGE 02**

## Bright future for nursing with decision to make the Nursing College, a university - PM

Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said that with the government's decision to upgrade the nursing college into a university, an opportunity has arisen to make a revolutionary transformation in nursing service of the country. He said this on the occasion of International Nurses Day at the celebration event organized by Public Service United Nurses Union at Temple Trees yesterday (12). **TO PAGE 02**



## Missing Gampola girl strangled to death, buried

SURANGA DILHAN, Gampola group corr.

The Gampola Police yesterday said that the 22-year-old girl who had been

missing for the past seven days was found murdered and buried in the Alpitaya area of Weigalla in Gampola. **TO PAGE 03**



## Accused files case for release of suspects in Vass Gunawardena case

SIRANJANI KUMARI

An accused in the case filed under the Oppressive Weapons Act against former DIG Vass Gunawardena said in open court yesterday (12) that the case **TO PAGE 02**

## National programme needed to empower low-income earners - State Minister

IRANGIKA RANGE

Technology State Minister Kanaka Herath told Parliament yesterday that a national pro-

gramme for social empowerment should be started simultaneously with the "Aswasuma" Welfare Benefit Payment Scheme. **TO PAGE 02**



President at Environment Pioneer Awards Ceremony

World's first Int'l Environmental University to be established in Sri Lanka

"Efforts made thus far have been insufficient in preventing Climate Change"

During the 10th Environment Pioneer President's Medal Awarding Ceremony 2020-2021 held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, President Ranil Wickremesinghe announced that Sri Lanka is establishing the world's first International Environmental University to support the global effort in addressing Climate Change.

The President acknowledged that although Climate Change is a significant challenge for the world, there is no central research hub to study it, and invited multiple countries to join Sri Lanka in the effort.

President Wickremesinghe also stressed that the actions taken so far have only delayed Climate Change and not stopped it. The ceremony recognized the excellent service of teachers, schools, regional environmental officials and offices, with 129 environmental pioneers being awarded Presidential Medals.

The Environment Pioneer President's Medal is the highest accolade under the National Environment Pioneer President's Medal, and the winners receive an additional four points in university entrance.

Aralaganwila Wilayaya National School was awarded as the best school, producing 14 Environment Pioneer President's Medal winners, while the Central Provincial Office of the Central Environment Authority received the award for the best office, guiding the most significant number of Environment Pioneer President's Medal winners (25).

The Environment Pioneer President's Medal recipients took a group photo with President Wickremesinghe, who urged them to spread the

message of environmental protection in schools as environmental pilots.

The President emphasized that being an environmental pilot is a significant sacrifice and is dedicated to the betterment of future generations.

The President further expressed his views and said, "As the President of Sri Lanka, I would like to begin by congratulating all the environmental pioneers who have received medals today. This is a commitment that they have made voluntarily, since the establishment of the Central Environment Authority in 1984.

"All of us who are part of this movement are making a great sacrifice for the benefit of future generations. The environmental problems in the world today are well known to everyone.

"Our challenge today is not just to stop Climate Change, but to slow it down, and we must be successful in this effort.

Over the last two centuries, the world has undergone great changes. When the British arrived in Sri Lanka and signed the Upcountry Treaty in 1815, the population of our country was only two million or less. When we got universal suffrage in 1931, that number had grown to five million. By the time we gained independence, it was seven million. Today, our population has tripled, but our land has not increased, and the amount of forests has decreased.

"As a former Government Minister in 1970, I remember allocating 150,000-200,000 acres on the side of Polonnaruwa to start the Mahaweli movement. Today, people are living in those areas, and we have become



President Ranil Wickremesinghe with a recipient at the 10th Environment Pioneer President's Medal Awarding Ceremony 2020-2021 held at the BMICH.

self-sufficient in rice as a result. If that land had not been allocated then, we would not be self-sufficient in rice today.

"The world has changed drastically since the time of our ancestors. The consumption patterns of households have increased with the availability of modern amenities like air conditioners, different types of food, and other consumables. The industrial revolution has also led to increased industrialization worldwide, with its attendant environmental impacts. Two major wars broke out during this period, including the dropping of atomic bombs, leading to environ-

mental destruction and changes in our climate.

"By 2050, the world's population is expected to increase even more, and we must be prepared to face the challenges of Climate Change. As a country, we have taken many steps to address these issues, including the creation of a Climate Change hub, and the introduction of new rules to protect the Sinharaja forest, Horton plains, Siripada site, and the Knuckles range.

"While the environmental laws that we introduced in the past were modern back then, they have become out-dated now, and we need new and

more effective Environmental and Climate Change laws to ensure the sustainable development of our country. "As the Minister of Environment, I am proud to announce that we are bringing new laws to protect nature reserves like Muthurajawela and creating new forests. We have taken steps to create the necessary laws for this.

But we didn't stop there. Recognizing the importance of addressing Climate Change, we believe it should be included in school and university curricula. That's why we are planning to establish the International University of Climate Change, which

will be the world's first international environmental university. We expect it to provide opportunities for post-graduation and research work.

"Currently, there is no centre in the world dedicated to conducting research on climate change. Therefore, we are taking steps to start the International University on Climate Change by establishing that centre in Sri Lanka. We hope to carry out this work with the participation of many countries and give membership of the governing board to those countries and organisations.

"We believe that 2,000-3,000 people will enrol in this university every year, get the necessary training, and build a great relationship with the world. We hope this will be a support that Sri Lanka can provide to face Climate Change. Therefore, we have discussed this with a number of Governments and will be presenting information on this at the conference on Climate Change in Dubai this year.

"As the Minister of Environment, I request all environmental pioneers to convey this message of protecting the environment to their schools. It is your responsibility to provide the necessary guidance for that."

Environment Minister Nasir Ahmed, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment Consultant Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary of the Ministry of Education M. N. Ranasinghe, Central Environment Authority Chairman Supun S. Pathiraja, Acting Director General Dr. R. M. S. K. Rathnayake, Environment Pioneer Presidential award winners, their parents, principals, teachers and others participated in this event.

Third Volume of 'Parliamentu Sara Samhita' Refereed Academic Journal launched

The Third Volume of the "Parliamentu Sara Samhita" Refereed Academic Journal edited and published by the Department of Communications of the Parliament was launched on Thursday (11) under the patronage of Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana.

The first copy of the third volume of the "Parliamentu Sara Samhita" Refereed Academic Journal was presented to the Chief Guest Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana by the Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake.

The Secretary General also presented copies of the academic journal to Opposition Leader of Parliament Sajith Premadasa and the Minister of Transport and Highways and Mass Media (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana.

Under the guidance of the Secretary General of the Parliament of Sri Lanka Dhammika Dasanayake, articles were called for the "Parliamentu Sara Samhita" academic journal last year.

Accordingly, articles were called for under the following subtopics, Social media, community participation and community perception of



Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake presenting a copy of the academic journal 'Parliamentu Sara Samhita' to Minister of Transport, Highways and Mass Media Dr. Bandula Gunawardana.

Parliament, globalization and international relations, legislative power of Parliament and Democracy, Information Society, Communication, Legislative Process and Parliamentary Democracy, Representative Democracy under the new normal, women and

youth in politics, political culture, socialization, democracy and education, Parliamentary Communication and Parliamentary Process.

The review panel consisting of Prof. Ratnasiri Arangala, Senior Professor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof.

Jayadeva Uyagoda, University of Colombo, Prof. Ajantha Hapuarachchi, University of Colombo, Dr S. J. Yogarajah, University of Kelaniya, Prof. Tudor Weerasinghe, Sri Palee Campus, Senior. Lec. Wijayananda Rupasinghe University of Kelaniya were present at the launch held. The third volume of the referred academic journal "Parliamentu Sara Samhita" is scheduled to be given to the libraries across the island and other interested parties in the near future.

The Director of Legislative Services and Director of Communications (Acting) H.E. Janakantha Silva officially announced that articles have been called for the fourth volume of the "Parliamentu Sara Samhita" referred academic journal.

Accordingly, articles have been called for under 07 sub-themes under the key theme of "The Present and Future of Parliamentary Democracy in the Post-Globalization Context".

The launch was attended by academics representing the university sector, members of Parliament and academics representing a number of other fields and Heads of Departments of Parliament.

Series of religious activities at Sanchi Chethiyagiri Viharaya to mark Vesak Poya



A Dansasa was held at the Sanchi Chethiyagiri Viharaya in Gopal, India on Vesak Poya Day.

DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE

A series of Buddhist religious activities were carried out on Vesak Poya Day at the Sanchi Chethiyagiri Viharaya in Gopal, central India which has been named as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

On Vesak Poya Day, the Sanchi shrine was thronged with Buddhist devotees and devotees belonging to various other religions who come to the Sanchi Chethiyagiri Viharaya to worship the Sacred Relics of The Buddha and Sariputha - Moggalana Theras and to invoke blessings every year. Chief Incumbent of the

Sanchi Chethiyagiri Temple Ven. Banagala Wimalathissa Thera said a large number of devotees from Sri Lanka and other countries had come to participate in the religious activities for the Vesak festival this year.

These religious observances including a Sil programme were carried out on the advice of the Sri Lanka Maha Bodhi Society Chairman and Chief Sanghanayake of Japan Ven. Banagala Upatissa Thera. In line with these religious activities, a Dansasa has also been held with the assistance of Sri Lankan and Indian devotees.

FAO and China launch project to strengthen Fruit Value Chains

**COLOMBO:** - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) initiated a 1.5 million USD project via funding from China as part of the South-South Cooperation (SSC) programme to improve the quality and value of Sri Lankan fruits in the global market by improving the production and commercialization of fruit value-chains in Sri Lanka.

The project initiation was marked with a workshop held in Colombo.

The interventions, implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, will focus on practical field-based training programmes including the establishment of model fruit farms, and improving post-harvest handling, marketing, and commercialization of the selected fruit varieties.

The project which will be implemented in Kalutara, Gampaha, Monaragala, Anuradhapura, and Kilinochchi districts will focus on productivity, production, and commercialization of the fruit value-chains of three main Sri Lankan fruit crops - banana, mango and pineapple.

Director of FAO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division, Anping Ye appreciated the strong support by the Chinese Government and the concerted efforts made by all stakeholders in the project preparation and



From Left: Chen Xiangyuan, Political Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Sri Lanka, Ms. P. Malathi, Director-General of Agriculture, Dr. Shiromani Edirimanne, Additional Secretary (Agri-technology), Ministry of Agriculture, Vimlendra Sharan, FAO Representative for Sri Lanka and the Maldives and Dr. Dequan Sun, Team Leader, South-South Cooperation experts at the inception of the project to strengthen fruit value chains in Sri Lanka.

implementation. He also highlighted the important role of national ownership and strong leadership of the Government for the project success.

A team of nine Chinese technical experts have begun working alongside their counterparts from the Fruit Research Development Institute (FRDI) and the National Institute of Post-Harvest Management (NIPHM) of Sri Lanka to implement the programme over the next two and a half years.

Deputy Director General of the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center (FECC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) Lin Huifang said the South-South Cooperation provides a fantastic approach to build partnerships. She asked the expert team to comply with the Tripartite Agreement (TPA) and give their best performance in providing technical support to Sri Lanka.

Dr. Shiromani Edirimanne, Additional Secretary (Agri-technology) of

the Ministry of Agriculture said, "This project has been designed to address the present issues of Sri Lanka's fruit value chains through consultations with all relevant partners. This programme represents a significant milestone in the development of Sri Lanka's fruit production sector and is a testament to the strong partnership between Sri Lanka and China through FAO Sri Lanka."

"All stakeholders including farmers, processors and traders have a shared interest in improving the quality of fruit produced in Sri Lanka. Prioritizing interventions such as these will lead to more efficient, resilient, and sustainable fruit value chains that are able to withstand not only environmental shocks but market uncertainties as well," said the FAO's Representative for Sri Lanka and the Maldives Vimlendra Sharan.

Sri Lanka has a rich diversity of fruits with approximately 100 edible fruit crops. However, the fruit sector remains underdeveloped. As a result, the sector suffers from poor cultivation and high post-harvest losses leading to low yield and inadequate adherence to international quality standards. This project aims to address such concerns and strengthen the fruit value chains in the domestic as well as export markets.

**THURSDAY 2023.05.11 OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
**MAHAJANA SAMPATHA**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 5111  
 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: Rs. 10,000,000.00  
 WINNING LETTER: J  
 WINNING NUMBERS: 6 4 1 5 9 5

**Dhana Nidhanaya**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 1141  
 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: Rs. 89,528,686.80  
 ENGLISH LETTER: Y  
 WINNING NUMBERS: 05 48 60 63

**INDHIKA SAMPATHA**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 1566  
 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: Rs. 10,887,040.40  
 WINNING ZODIAC: GEMINI  
 WINNING NUMBERS: 2 2 6 6 5 5

**HANDAHANA**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 420  
 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: Rs. 2,627,994.80  
 WINNING ZODIAC: GEMINI  
 WINNING NUMBERS: 03 09 24 47  
 SPECIAL ZODIAC: GEMINI

**Govisetha**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 3353  
 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: Rs. 102,312,227.84  
 WINNING LETTER: K  
 WINNING NUMBERS: 13 36 47 69

**Mega POWER**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 1459  
 NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE: Rs. 320,641,470.00  
 ENGLISH LETTER: V  
 WINNING NUMBERS: 12 42 61 63  
 NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE: Rs. 10,000,000.00

# Daily News



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## A shocking development

In the past, it was said that next to the parents it was the teachers who were responsible for the protection and upbringing of the children entrusted to their care, not to mention their discipline and character moulding. Parents on the way to their workplaces leave their children in the classroom in the full knowledge that their offspring are in safe hands and could come to no harm. This is no longer the case anymore if one is to go by the string of incidents of sexual abuse of schoolchildren - both male and female - by their so-called mentors and moral guides. This, indeed, is a shameful situation if one considers the sacred role of a school teacher.

It was only the other day that a school Principal, no less, was arrested for the alleged molestation of a female student in a remote school following a complaint made by her parents. There was also an incident, sometime ago, where a female schoolteacher was alleged to have had sexual contact with a male student of a junior class. Such incidents continue to be reported in the media but nobody knows what action is being taken to stem the rot.

Yesterday's newspapers gave prominence to a story where a 30-year-old math tuition master had been arrested over the sexual abuse of 16 girls who were his pupils. On a complaint made by the wife of the suspect, Police found 16 video recordings filmed by him while he was sexually assaulting the girls. Police said the suspect had conducted classes in small groups in other places too and they were investigating to find out whether the girls in those classes had also been abused by the suspect.

Can parents any longer feel assured of the safety of their children in the hands of their teachers? Have we ever heard of such incidents in the past where school teachers occupied an exalted position in society and engaged in a noble profession with little reward? In contrast, there was a recent account where a school Principal had been carrying out a moonshine business in his home premises. To what depths has this noble profession fallen to?

The Department of Probation and Child Care should play a more proactive role in protecting minors, especially schoolchildren from these wolves in sheep's clothing. This is because there is currently an alarming increase in the incidents of sexual abuse of schoolgoers by sadists and perverts in the guise of teachers. Particularly the incidents of sexual abuse involving schoolgirls are on the rise. The incident in Kalutara where a 16-years-old schoolgirl was taken to a hotel before meeting with her death under mysterious circumstances is just one in a string of such incidents. Parents too should exercise more vigilance over their offspring. Their whereabouts should be closely followed and the company they keep must be kept under surveillance. This is because the element of drug abuse too had crept into the equation with even schoolgirls of leading educational institutions falling prey to the menace.

All tuition centres too should be kept under constant probe since it is widely suspected that drug use is being encouraged in these centres. Facebook and social media too are playing a major hand in the widespread incidents of sexual abuse of minors. More stringent controls, therefore, should be imposed on the use of these media.

The sexual abuse of schoolgirls by a tuition master also brings up the whole issue of private tuition. Today, parents are forced to send their children for private tuition classes due to poor teaching standards in schools. The highly competitive nature of examinations is also another reason. Free education today is only in name going by the steady mushrooming of private tutorials even in remote villages to cater to the demand. Today hardly any wall in a public place is spared by the rash of posters advertising private tuition classes conducted by 'experts' flaunting long lists of scholarly achievements. They even have film-star-like pictures on these posters.

There is no attempt made by the Education Ministry to verify the *bona fides* of such claims. Gullible parents keep sending their children to these private tuition classes spending large sums of money in the expectation that they will come out with flying colours. Tabs should be kept on all private tutorials to ensure they are up to the mark and the instructors living up to their claims. All bogus tutorials should be shut down and parents spared from being fleeced.

School education should meanwhile be brought up to standard and teachers made to do more for their charges in the classroom, than merely go through the motions, which, as already mentioned, is the prime reason for parents seeking private tuition for their children. The education set-up too needs to be changed and upgraded to fit into the times. The current learning material, particularly in the tertiary education sphere, certainly needs a thorough overhaul and subjects tailored to meet the current job market introduced in their place. Discipline is needed not only for students, but also for teachers.

## How Shakespeare inspired Google's latest technology

# From Bard to AI



SACHITRA MAHENDRA

Did you hear that Google has launched their very own version of Chat GPT? The tool reminds us of a century-old writer. His name is William Shakespeare. He continues to be well revered in English literature to this date. And so he is also called Bard.

Let's be real - Shakespeare is a total icon in the world of English literature. His plays and sonnets have stood the test of time, and his words have inspired countless generations of writers and readers. It's no wonder that Google wanted to name their AI tool after him.

If you were wondering why I've suddenly brought up Shakespeare and linked it to Google, now you know why. Google has this peculiar tradition of naming all its updates after beloved animals such as penguins, pandas, and possums. By naming their updates after animals, Google has created a sense of familiarity and endearment with their users. It's a way to humanize the technology and make it more approachable.

However, with the recent introduction of its new natural language processing tool to compete with Chat GPT, Google has taken a different approach by naming it after Shakespeare - Google Bard. This move imbues the update with a sense of gravity and significance beyond its technical functionality. The name suggests that they are taking it to a whole new level. The name evokes a sense of artistry and mastery, paying homage to one of the greatest writers in the English language.

Google's recent tribute is a testament to Shakespeare's enduring influence. It serves as a reminder of his impact on the world and his ability to transcend time and cultural barriers with his words. Through this tribute, Google has ensured that Shakespeare's legacy will continue to be celebrated for years to come.

Those of us interested about the Chat GPT had our fair share of worry. You may have heard concerns about its potential to replace human jobs. This fear is not new and has been present since the dawn of technological advancements. On the other hand, this fear is not unfounded. Chat GPT is an incredible technological advancement, arguably second only to the introduction of the internet. It has the ability to code a programme in seconds and write an article in minutes.

There was a rumour mill that the Chat GPT will replace many jobs, and many will be jobless over time. Now that conception and contention has been there ever since technological advancements came to stay with us. We still seem to be obsessed with that notion and find it hard to get away from it. Having said that, we cannot shrug off that fear. True, Chat GPT is the most remarkable invention maybe second only to the Internet introduction. Ask him to code a programme, it will do the job for you within a few seconds. Ask him to write an article, it will do the job within a few minutes.

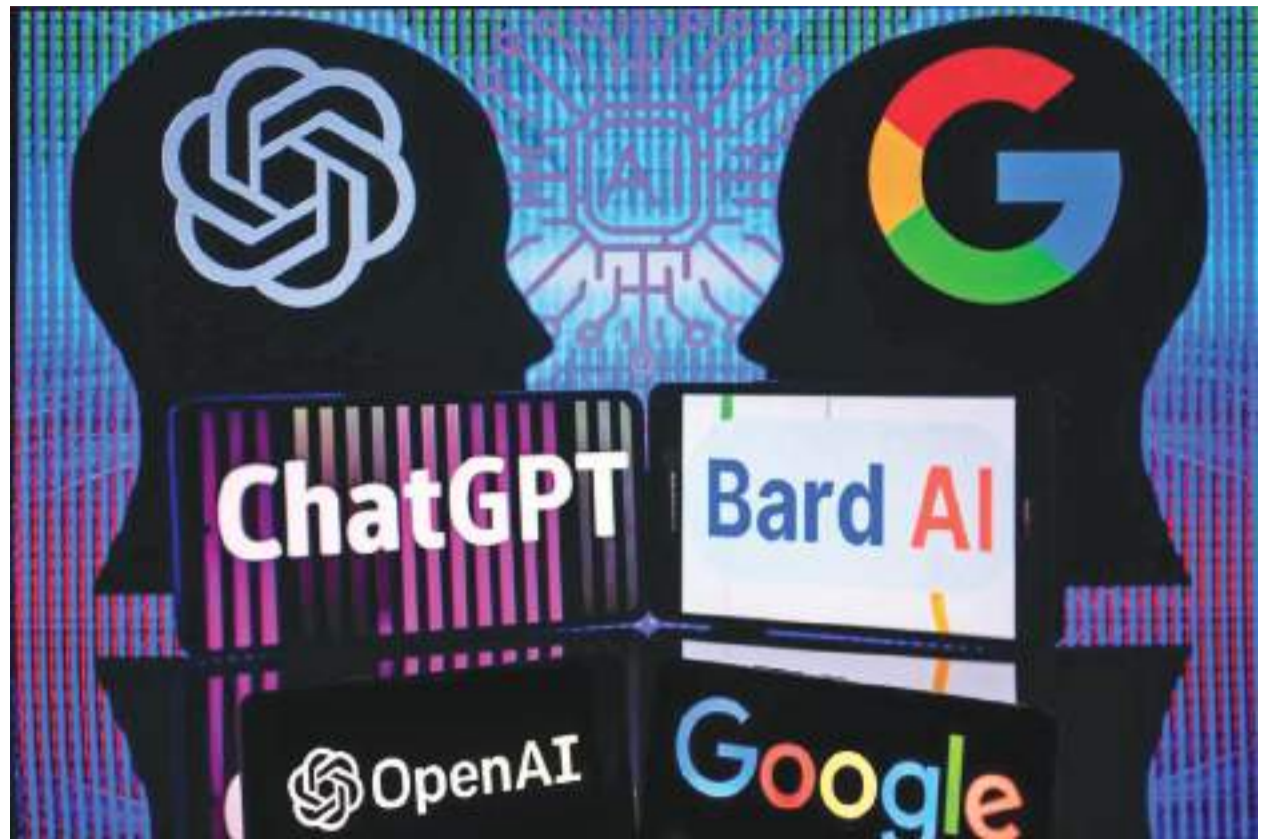
Wait, hold up. Am I telling you that Chat GPT can actually write articles? Yes, that's right! This AI technology has been programmed to write articles. But here's the thing - it's not quite the same as how we humans do it. This is where things get interesting. While AI can certainly do a decent job of assisting with article writing, it will never be able to replace us humans when it comes to the more subtle skills involved.

From my experience working with Chat GPT, I've found that it's great at producing generic information. You can definitely get it to write an article on a given topic. But what it lacks are the human insights and nuances that make an article truly exceptional. There's something about the human touch that can't be replicated by a machine.

Chat GPT can certainly be a valuable tool for article writing. It's a tool. It can help us with the heavy lifting, but it's up to us to add that special something that makes an article truly unique and insightful. In other words, AI can never replace the creative spark and intuition that only a human writer can bring to the table.

So, writers, if you're worried about your job as a writer being replaced by Chat GPT, take heart. AI may be able to assist us in certain ways, but it can never fully replace the skills and insights that make us truly unique. Let's embrace this new technology and use it to enhance our writing skills, rather than fear it as a threat to our livelihoods.

A lot of us have this fear that the written word is on its way out. I mean, with all the fancy technology and visual media out there these days, it's easy to see why we might think that. But here's the thing - even the most sophisticated elements still rely on text!



**Chat GPT can certainly be a valuable tool for article writing. It's a tool. It can help us with the heavy lifting, but it's up to us to add that special something that makes an article truly unique and insightful. In other words, AI can never replace the creative spark and intuition that only a human writer can bring to the table.**

Take Search Engine Optimization, for example. If you know anything about SEO, you'll know that even pictures need to be renamed using keywords in order for Google to find them. So, it's pretty clear that text still matters, even in this age of Instagram and TikTok.

Sure, there's no denying that visual media has its perks. I mean, who doesn't love a good cat video or a stunning sunset shot? But at the end of the day, it's the written word that really has the power to convey complex ideas and emotions. And that's something that no amount of flashy graphics or fancy filters can replicate.

So - I repeat - if you're worried that the written word is on its way out, take heart. There will always be a place for text in our world, even as technology continues to evolve and change. Whether you're writing a blog post, a novel, or a tweet, remember that words have the power to inspire, inform, and connect us in ways that nothing else can.

Think about it - even the most complex technological innovations need to be explained in words. Without language, we wouldn't be able to communicate ideas, share knowledge, or collaborate on projects. And while it's true that technology has certainly changed the way we use language (think emojis, texting abbreviations, etc.), the written word remains a critical part of our daily lives.

But it's not just about using language to explain technology - there's also a deep connection between the humanities and technological innovation. For example, many of the world's most successful tech entrepreneurs have backgrounds in the humanities, such as philosophy, literature, and history. These disciplines help develop critical thinking skills, creativity, and an ability

to connect seemingly disparate ideas - all of which are crucial for innovation in the tech world.

Technology may seem like it's taking over everything. But we shouldn't discount the importance of language and the humanities. After all, they are the foundation upon which all our technological advancements are built.

Back to our original topic: Bard from Google. Shakespeare was a true master of language. He had an incredible ability to craft words and phrases that still resonate with us today, hundreds of years later. Whether it was a clever pun, a poignant soliloquy, or a bawdy joke, Shakespeare had a way with words that was truly unparalleled.

And that's exactly the kind of skill you want in an AI component like Google Bard. Just like Shakespeare, this technology has the ability to take raw data and turn it into something meaningful and impactful. With its language processing capabilities, Google Bard can analyse vast amounts of information and generate insights that would be impossible for humans to discover on their own.

The fact that Google named its AI component after Shakespeare shows just how important language and the humanities are in the world of technology. While we may think of these disciplines as being at odds with the cutting-edge world of AI and machine learning, the truth is that they are essential components of it.

After all, technology is ultimately about making our lives easier and more meaningful, and language is a critical tool in that endeavour. Whether we're using AI to analyse data, communicate with one another, or explore new ideas and concepts, we need the power of words to help us make sense of it all.

We may never see a machine that can truly replace human creativity and insight. Yet, we can certainly look to the power of AI and the written word to help us achieve new heights of innovation and understanding. Who knows - maybe one day we'll even see an AI component named after the likes of Chaucer, Austen, or Hemingway. The possibilities are truly endless!

## IMF happy about the economic reforms of Sri Lanka - News



### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

There is only one sort of discipline, perfect discipline. - George S. Patton



# TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY

Dr. JAYALATH EDIRISINGHE

In today's fast-paced world, adopting new technologies is vital for a nation's progress. While Sri Lanka has made progress in various sectors, it is crucial to recognize the untapped potential of embracing innovative technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT) and smart cities. By understanding the benefits of these advancements and taking proactive steps, Sri Lanka can unlock opportunities, transform key sectors, and improve citizens' lives. This article explores the potential of embracing new technologies, showcases success stories from other countries, and emphasizes the need for Sri Lanka to prioritize technology-driven initiatives.

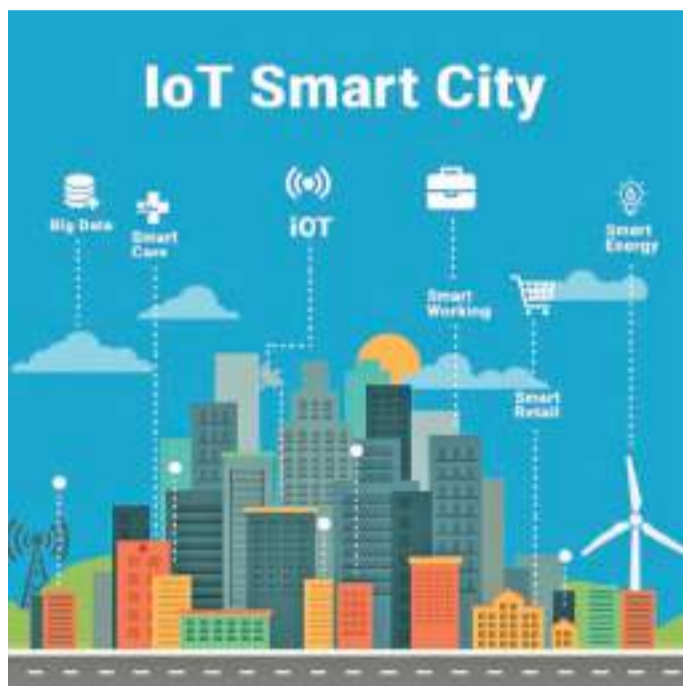
IoT is the network of interconnected devices, objects, and systems that communicate and share information through the internet. These devices, equipped with sensors and connectivity, collect and exchange data, enabling them to make intelligent decisions and perform tasks autonomously. This technology allows us to connect everyday objects, such as appliances, vehicles, and infrastructure, to enhance efficiency, convenience, and safety.

IoT devices rely on sensors to gather data about their surroundings. These sensors can detect various parameters like temperature, humidity, motion, and more. The collected data is then transmitted through networks, such as Wi-Fi or cellular, to a central system for processing and analysis. Using advanced algorithms and artificial intelligence, this system interprets the data and triggers appropriate actions or provides valuable insights for decision-making.

Smart cities leverage IoT technology to create intelligent urban environments that improve the quality of life for residents.

Have you ever imagined everyday objects, like your fridge, car, or even streetlights, being connected to the internet? That's the Internet of Things, or IoT for short. It's like giving things a special power to communicate with each other and with us. This connectivity allows them to share important information and work together to make our lives more convenient and efficient. For example, smart home devices can control the temperature, lighting, and security of our houses, all through our smartphones. IoT is all about making our world smarter and more connected.

Imagine living in a city where everything is designed to make your life easier and safer. That's the idea behind smart cities. In a smart city, technology is used to improve various aspects of urban life. For instance, traffic lights can be connected to sensors that monitor traffic flow in real-time. This means they can adjust the timing of lights to reduce con-



gestion and make our journeys faster. Smart cities also focus on energy efficiency, using technology to manage electricity usage in buildings and streetlights, saving resources and reducing costs. Moreover, public services like waste management and emergency response can be improved through smart systems that collect data and respond quickly to citizens' needs.

Understanding IoT and smart cities is important for the general public as these technologies have the potential to transform our lives and communities. However, it is essential to address the concerns that some uneducated individuals may have regarding these advancements.

IoT and smart cities are designed to empower individuals by making their lives easier, safer, and more convenient. By understanding these technologies, the public can actively participate in shaping their communities and benefit from the opportunities they offer. From improved transportation systems to energy efficiency, education, and governance, embracing IoT and smart cities can enhance our quality of life.

Resistance to IoT may stem from a fear of personal importance being diminished. However, it is crucial to understand that these technologies are not meant to replace individuals but to enhance their capabilities. By embracing IoT and smart cities, individuals can gain access to tools and resources that help them perform tasks more efficiently and effectively.

Some individuals may

worry about the potential loss of overtime payments as a result of increased efficiency through IoT and smart city technologies. However, it is important to recognize that these technologies create new avenues for employment and economic growth. As industries adapt to technological advancements, new job opportunities arise, requiring individuals to acquire new skills and become valuable contributors to the evolving workforce.

The concern that decisions related to IoT and smart cities are not made by educated and professionally qualified individuals is valid. However, addressing this issue requires a collaborative approach. It is crucial to involve experts, academia, and industry professionals in decision-making processes, ensuring that technological advancements are evaluated and implemented with knowledge and expertise. By advocating for inclusive decision-making, we can ensure that the public's interests are represented and their concerns addressed.

IoT and smart cities hold immense potential for improving our lives and communities. The general public should be aware of these technologies and their benefits. Addressing concerns related to personal importance, overtime payments, and decision-making processes is crucial for fostering a positive and inclusive approach towards embracing these advancements. By working together, we can ensure that IoT and smart cities empower individuals, create new opportunities, and prioritize the interests of the public while fostering progress and innovation in Sri Lanka.

By embracing IoT and smart cities, we can enjoy a host of benefits. For instance, traffic congestion can be reduced, making our daily commutes smoother and less stressful. Energy consumption can be optimized, saving money and protecting our environment. Education can be revolutionized, with interactive classrooms and online learning tools. Governance can become more transparent and efficient, with improved public services and better communication between citizens and authorities. Additionally, our cultural heritage can be preserved and our natural resources protected through smart monitoring systems.

Embracing technology like IoT and smart cities can make our lives smarter, safer, and more convenient. It's about connecting our everyday objects and using them to improve our communities. By understanding these concepts and supporting their implementation, we can build a brighter future for Sri Lanka, where technology works hand-in-hand with our needs and aspirations. Let's embrace the power of technology and make our lives better together.

By embracing IoT and smart city technologies, Sri Lanka can achieve economic growth and enhance its global competitiveness. Implementing smart infrastructure in transportation systems can reduce traffic congestion, improve efficiency, and attract investments, boosting economic activity and tourism.

Integrating IoT into energy management can optimize energy consumption, reduce costs, and contribute to a sustainable future. Smart grids, energy-efficient buildings, and intelligent monitoring systems can minimize energy wastage and enhance energy security.

By focusing on developing a skilled workforce in emerging technology fields, Sri Lanka can drive innovation and attract foreign investment. Collaborations between academia, industry, and the Government can establish training programmes, incubators, and innovation centres, fostering an ecosystem that supports technological advancement.

IoT and smart city technologies offer great potential for improving governance and citizen engagement. By leveraging data analytics and IoT sensors, Sri Lanka can enhance public service delivery, optimize resource allocation, and streamline administrative processes. Smart parking systems can

reduce traffic congestion, and smart governance platforms can facilitate real-time communication between citizens and Government authorities.

Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage and natural landscapes can be preserved and enhanced through technology. IoT-enabled monitoring systems can protect historical sites, monuments, and natural reserves from damage and degradation. Smart city initiatives can also promote sustainable development by integrating renewable energy sources, waste management systems, and environmentally friendly practices.

Countries like Sweden have successfully transitioned to cashless transactions and online activities, achieving higher efficiency, productivity, and convenience for citizens. Sri Lanka can learn from these examples and embrace technological advancements to unlock economic growth, enhance education, improve governance, preserve cultural heritage, and foster sustainable development.

Fear of the latest technology is often observed among uneducated individuals and politically motivated individuals who may perceive it as a threat to their personal importance and livelihood. For example, some may fear that the automation enabled by IoT could lead to job losses and diminished relevance in the workforce. Similarly, those who lack understanding about the potential benefits of smart cities may resist their implementation due to concerns about relinquishing control or decision-making power to technology.

To overcome the drawbacks of technological backwardness, Sri Lanka must adopt a holistic approach that prioritizes knowledge-driven decision-making. Involving experts, academia, and industry professionals in the decision-making process is essential to evaluate and strategically implement technological advancements. By embracing technologies like IoT and smart cities, Sri Lanka can enhance infrastructure, improve efficiency, and seize opportunities for rapid development and improved quality of life.

(Dr. Jayalath Edirisinghe is attached to Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya)



Malinda  
The Morning Inspection

## The day I won a Pulitzer



One of the pictures taken during the Aragalaya period.

It must have been in the year 2001 that all this happened. No, before we get ahead of ourselves, I didn't win a Pulitzer back then. And not after. This is about Eranga Jayawardena the photojournalist working for the Associated Press who was among three photojournalists shortlisted for a Pulitzer Prize.

I met Eranga in the year 2000. That's when I formally entered the field of journalism, joining the editorial staff of the 'Sunday Island.' Eranga was comparatively a veteran, having joined Upali Newspapers some years before. Our friendship is almost a quarter of a century old and obviously we have many stories to tell about each other. I will stick to the photography-related story.

There were many photojournalists at Upali Newspapers, some of them truly veterans in the trade. Eranga was probably the youngest. He was good friends with Saman Indrajith, one of my closest friends at the Island. That's probably how we became friends.

I think it was in 2001 that I got involved in the features section of the newspaper. With the permission of the Editor, Manik de Silva, and the Features Editor, Zanita Careem, I took over a page of what was then called the 'Lifestyle' section. It was for a photo essay. Eranga provided the photographs, I gave a headline and wrote a paragraph or two. It was made prettier subsequently when Shantha K Herath of the Divina, an artist, cartoonist, layout designer, teacher and friend, helped design the page.

Eranga faithfully provided photographs. The page was done on Thursday because that section went to print on Thursday night. This went on for a few months. I enjoyed producing this page. It all depended on Eranga delivering photographs that Shantha Aiyi could play with.

One Thursday Eranga didn't deliver. This I had forgotten until yesterday.

I called Eranga to congratulate him on being shortlisted for a Pulitzer. I had thought that the winner hadn't been announced. Eranga told me otherwise. Then he told me that when we were both at Upali Newspapers I had written him a formal letter.

"It is with regret that I inform you about the fate that has befallen Page 3 of the 'Lifestyle' supplement of the Sunday Island. As you are aware, in the midst of all kind of problems, we have managed to carry a photo essay on this page for a whole year. Among these difficulties is the strange truth that category of persons who have expended the least effort in maintaining quality and continuity of this page are the photographers themselves. As you are aware, this has probably been the best opportunity offered to photographers in the entire history of newspapers in this country to express themselves and improve their craft. This week I am extremely sorry to have to inform you that Page 3 of the Lifestyle section will not carry a photo essay. I do not know who is to blame, and in any case 'blaming' will not take any of us anywhere. I only want to say this: I tried. And failed."

I had forgotten all about this. But for all the seriousness, it was essentially a joke. Friend to friend and for the pleasure and joy of other friends. Newspapers are like that. Journalists are like that. We enjoy teasing each other. Shamindra Ferdinando and Rex Clementine, still at 'The Island,' are grandmasters at it.

Eranga informed me that I had gone further. I had, he says, put up something on the notice board near the canteen. It was in the form of a 'missing person' notice with a not so flattering picture of Eranga. He said he has it somewhere and will look for it. The gist: 'This person, Eranga Jayawardena, has gone missing. He promised to deliver some pictures and left the office. He has not been seen since. He was last seen wearing a blue checked shirt.' It might have contained information of who should be informed should the missing photojournalist be spotted.

It touched me, though, that Eranga had bothered to hold on to these pieces of paper for more than twenty years. He said that it mattered to him: 'even something in which you've scolded me was important to me.' He's like that. Modest. Soft. Self-effacing even. Never forgets a face. People know, companies may not. A pity, that.

So, anyway, that, ladies and gentleman, is as close I could get to a Pulitzer Prize. Indeed, all things considered, far more precious. So thank you, Eranga. And congrats again.

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## PARLIAMENT GOVERNMENT

CHANDRA EDIRISURIYA

President Ranil Wickremesinghe proposing, recently, that the whole Parliament must comprise the Government is most appropriate, prudent and timely, in the present context. The formation of a Parliament Government when the country is treading on a grueling path to economic recovery, after having been once declared bankrupt, is the need of the hour.

The President said that there is economic stability in the country and it is no longer bankrupt consequent upon the materializing of the IMF credit facility. A Parliament Government is one better than a National Government because it can make use of the expertise and experience of a varied team of veterans spread across all political parties.

Sir John Kotelawala said a mouthful when he said that a family's wealth will last for only three generations, the prodigal sons of the third generation wantonly wasting and recklessly destroying all of it. President Ranil Wickremesinghe can be compared, *mutatis mutandis*, to as one playing the role of the fourth generation son dutifully earning wealth afresh. He is performing the task admirably well.

It is significant that Dr. Harsha de Silva and Dr. Harini Amarasuriya who are from opposite sides of the political spectrum acknowledge that there is economic stability resulting from the receipt of the IMF

loan. It is indicative of their suitability to hold portfolios in a Parliament Government. The former added that it is only politics that prevents others from accepting the fact and it should not take time till 2048 for the country to develop.

What the President had meant by setting 2048 as the benchmark is the need for the implementation of a long term plan. He has improved the ground situation to an extent which no other person currently in politics could have achieved. The Opposition Leader saying he can put things right in three months is sheer bunkum and poppycock.

Patali Champika Ranawaka whose pet project as a minister in the last Government the Light Rail Transit (LRT) has been got back by the President and Ranawaka can hope to be the minister in charge of the project in a Parliament Government.

Members of the Parliament Government with proven ability and honesty can be appointed Cabinet and other ministers giving the riff-raff a wide berth.

Dr. Chandra Fernando said in 1990 or thereabouts that the Deshapremi Janatha Vyaparaya (DJV) did not kill a single good man. He said that only undesirable types such as rapists and cattle lifters in the villages were their target. He was a very good family physician of sterling qualities, who would never have been telling a lie. Then who killed Harsha Abeywardena,



Lionel Jayatilake who proposed in Parliament that President J.R. Jayawardena should stay on for a third term and Meryl Kariyawasam who seconded the proposal?

Dr. Chandra Fernando had also been called around that time, synchronous with some LTTE leaders being invited for talks with five-star hotel comforts, and was asked to tell Rohana Wijeweera that whatever he wants would be given to which he had replied that nothing need be given and they know how to get it.

The LTTE's targets being only members of the Sinhala Army in active service, military administrators and traitors to their cause belonging to their own community such as A. Amirthalingam, Neelan Thiruchelvam, Lakshman Kadirgamar. Then who killed Lalith Athulathmudali and Vijaya Kumaratunga?

An underworld character was nurtured giving him earth sod contracts. A lot of

money was wasted on projects like Gam Udawa: some houses, with cashew wood doors and door frames that rot in no time and floors of those houses being cemented not laying engineer's bricks, being built.

Quite in contrast the Mahapola Scholarship Scheme begun by Lalith Athulathmudali as the Trade Minister has benefited an enormous number of university and other higher education institute students in need of help and before long all the students would be covered, as it was revealed at his recent commemoration ceremony. President Ranil Wickremesinghe was the UNP's political equal of Lalith Athulathmudali the former being in charge of Gampaha District and the latter of Colombo District, in the 1980s.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe wanted a peaceful settlement with the LTTE by entering into a Ceasefire Agreement arranged by Norway. The LTTE took into the jungle dozens of unsuspecting businessmen from the South, going to the North for purchasing paddy etc. and shot them at point blank range also relieving them of their money even while the ceasefire was on, and returned to hostilities reneging on the Ceasefire Agreement.

Tamil National Alliance's M. A. Sumanthiran, while criticizing the Anti-Terrorism Bill, recently, was taking pride in saying that not a single terrorist was caught under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (1979)!

# International Vesak Day celebrated at UNESCO HQ

The Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka held a symposium to commemorate the International Day of Vesak in collaboration with UNESCO on Vesak Day, May 5 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The symposium which acknowledged the contribution of Buddhism to spiritual wellbeing of humanity over two-and-a-half millennia as well as its relevance to date, was chaired by Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Sri Lanka to UNESCO Manisha Gunasekera.

UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Assistant Director-General Gabriela Ramos attended the symposium as Chief Guest and delivered Vesak Day message of UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. The Director-General acknowledged and appreciated the contribution of the Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka in hosting a symposium on Vesak Day and for bringing people together "to enjoy this moment of reflection and celebration". She also highlighted Buddha's message of "wisdom, compassion, mutual understanding," which is still of great relevance. She observed that the values celebrated

on this day also underpin UNESCO's mandate of intellectual and moral solidarity and a culture of peace.

The opening segment of the symposium included remarks by Permanent Delegate of India Ambassador Vishal Sharma and Permanent Delegate of Nepal Ambassador Dipak Adhikari, who referred to Buddha's message of peace and compassion, the important Buddhist sites in their countries, as well as to rich civilizational and cultural heritage that embodies the region. International Buddhist Centre in Paris Chief Incumbent Ven. Parawahera Chandaratna, in Thera's capacity as the Chief Sangha Nayaka of France also addressed the gathering observing that Buddha's teachings encourage investigation and are open to all without discrimination.

Remarks were also delivered by Permanent Delegate of Pakistan Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, who referred to the ancient Buddhist sites in the country.

The discourse themed "The Relevance of Buddhism and Mindfulness Practices for Health and Well-being in the Modern World" was

delivered by renowned Buddhist scholar Ven. Prof. Mahinda Deegalle, Visiting Scholar at the University of Cambridge and Professor Emeritus in Religions, Philosophies and Ethics, Bath Spa, University, the United Kingdom. Ven. Prof. Deegalle elaborated on the significance of Vesak, the essence of the Dhamma and its philosophical contributions, Buddha's message of loving kindness, and the commonalities of Buddhist culture and civilization that connect communities across the globe. The Thera also discussed the relevance of Buddhism and Buddhist practices of meditation to modern day life, how Buddhist teachings can enhance one's wellbeing, and help address contemporary challenges.

The symposium also included a brief Mindfulness Meditation session by Ven. Parawahera Chandaratna Thera, providing an opportunity to the attendees to experience how the tools and techniques of the teachings can help them in their daily lives. The symposium also included a Q&A session, which was followed by a reception with the serving of Sri Lankan and Indian food and Ceylon tea.

The Permanent Delegate of Sri Lanka highlighted the pivotal role played by Sri Lanka in the United Nations in gaining recognition internationally for the Day of Vesak with specific reference to the UN General Assembly resolution 54/115 of 1999. She also referred to the celebration of Vesak in UNESCO over the years as far back as 1978 or earlier, under the aegis of the Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka. She reflected on the civilizational linkages and similarities binding countries across the Asian region and beyond through the celebration of Vesak and on the significance of Buddha's message in promoting inter-cultural harmony and inter-faith dialogue today.

The symposium was attended by the UNESCO Permanent Delegates, members of Permanent Delegations, staff of the UNESCO Secretariat, religious leaders, scholars, as well as devotees representing various Buddhist and faith communities in France. The event was a moment of reflection and celebration as well as a reminder of the importance of preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the world.

## Ven. Prof. Agalakada Sirisumana Thera to be felicitated today

A ceremony of appreciation of the appointment of Professor in Sinhala Language at the University of Colombo Ven. Prof. Agalakada Sirisumana Thera, Viharadhipathi of Sri Bodhirajaramaya, Lunawa, Moratuwa and Ruwakanda Rajamahaviharaya, Morawaka to the position of the Chief Judicial Prelate of the Western Province will be held today (13) at 2.30 pm at the New Arts Theater (NAT) of the University of Colombo.

The Thera will also be honoured with the distinguished title of *Saahithya Pravachana Keerthi Sri Dharmarakshitha* by the

Executive Committee of Chief Prelates led by the most Ven. Thibbatuwawe Sri Siddhartha Thera of Malwathu Maha Viharaya and the book, *Anuradhapura Sahithya* (Literature of Anuradhapura) will also be launched at the ceremony.

Distinguished dignitaries including Deputy Chief Prelate of the Malwathu Sector Most Ven. Niyangoda Vijithasiri Abhidhan Thera, Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Diyawadana Nilame Pradeep Nilanga Dela, former Speaker Dheshabandu Karu Jayasuriya, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to



India Milinda Moragoda, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo Senior Prof. H. D. Karunaratne and Commissioner of Buddhist Affairs Sumanda Kariyapperuma will be present.

## Environment Minister takes steps to prevent illegal mining

The Environment Ministry is taking steps to find ways to prevent and control illegal mining on the advice of Minister Naseer Ahmed. A range of meetings is being held for security officials and government officials in every district in this regard.

The first session was held in the Mannunai

North Region Secretariat Auditorium on May 10. Officials from the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau of Batticaloa and the Department of Mines (Safety) also attended the meeting.

During the field visits, the Police Special Task Force presented their opinions regarding the

practical challenges they face in preventing illegal mining.

Polonnaruwa District Regional Excavation Engineer H.A.C.K.W. Bandara, Assistant Director of the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau E.H.R. Priyantha and Geological Surveyor W.A. K. Wickremesinghe were present.

## Missing Gampola girl strangled to death, buried ... From page 01

The victim has been identified as Fathima Munawura of Alpitaya, Weligala. She had left her home last Sunday morning to go to her work place - a pharmacy in Geli-oya, and her relatives had stated that there was no sign of her after that, although she was recorded on the CCTV cameras of the Alpitaya Mosque, which is about a hundred meters away.

Since that day, no information was found about Fathima, the Gampola police and one of her brothers went to the head office of the telephone company

in Colombo yesterday morning in order to get the data analysis of her mobile phone with a court order.

Meanwhile, a phone call received from a foreign country to the Gampola Police said that this girl was in a house in Wela in Gampola. The police also went to the house, but as there was no such person, it was revealed that it was a fake call.

Meanwhile, Police questioned a 24 year old youth in the area based on information received to the police they succeeded in unearthing the details of

this murder after interrogating him.

Fathima has to walk two kilometers from her house to Weligalla to go to her working place. This young man appeared in front of her in a desolate place, took her by the hand and tried to take her to a coconut grove. When she objected and said that she would tell her father, the suspect had dragged the girl and strangled her to death.

After killing her, he buried her in the coconut grove and placed coconut branches on top of it

## Duminda, Dayasiri in verbal duel... From page 01

He was of the view that his conduct as the SLPF General Secretary has deterred the party's progress. He said that the SLPF General Secretary is in deliberate attempt to create divisions within the party.

The copies of this letter consisting eight pages have been sent to the Central Committee members and organizers of the party at district and electorate level

by Dissanayake. Dissanayake had requested the party leader to refer the issues raised by him in his letter to the Central Committee and the politburo. Meanwhile, SLPF General Secretary Dayasiri Jayasekera at a press conference yesterday said that MP Duminda Dissanayake was not aware of that what was happening within the Party during the past few months as he did not participate in the Cen-

tral Committee or politburo meetings.

"The allegations mentioned in the letter are fabricated and Duminda Dissanayake voted with the government in parliament during the IMF vote," he said.

Jayasekera added that the Duminda Dissanayake is neither in the Opposition nor Government. He is waiting for a ministerial portfolio, Jayasekera alleged.

## Former Ragala Sathosa... From page 01

a resident of Padiyapelella. According to the CID, this person has defrauded stocks of goods valued at Rs.15,113,012 over a long

period of time. He was arrested, subsequent to a lengthy investigation carried out based on a complaint that had been made.

## Main suspect in Kalutara girl's... From page 01

Dhanushka Gayan Saha-bandu, resident of No. 63, Isuru Uyana, Kalutara South, was remanded in this regard. The suspect was arrested in connection with the death of Tihara Nirmani, a resident of 115, Nagoda, Kalutara, who was found lying on the railway track behind the Sicilian Walk Hotel at No. 402, Main Street, Kalutara, and he was produced before the Kalutara Chief Magistrate on the 10th and remanded for 48 hours. After questioning, he was presented to the court.

Attorney Sarath Karavita told Court that the police had taken into custody 94,000 rupees, bank cards and house keys belonging to the suspect. He further said that the dogs kept in the house are also in hunger. Therefore, he requested court to order the police to hand over the said items to the suspect.

Police Inspector Dhammi-

ka De Silva mentioned that before the suspect was produced before Court, he had handed over 94,000 rupees, bank cards and the house key to the suspect in front of his wife.

The defence lawyer told the court that the police had so far failed to find out who made the last phone call to the dead girl and requested that the suspect be given special security in the prison as he was suffering from heart disease.

The Chief Magistrate stated that it is the responsibility of the prison to provide security to the suspect, and it was not the responsibility of court.

Sub-inspector K.N.A.G.D. Bandara said that teeth marks were observed on the girl's leg and breast, and urged court to direct a forensic doctor to check if it was the teeth marks of the suspect. The magistrate further ordered that the sus-

pect be produced before a forensic doctor on May 16, 2023.

At the time of the hearing of the case, the Homicide Investigation Department of the Criminal Investigation Department was present in the courtroom, and it was stated in the court that further investigations regarding the girl's death will be conducted by the Criminal Investigation Department.

Police Inspector Dhammi-ka De Silva, Sub-Inspector K.N.A.G.D. Bandara and Sergeant Jagath Siriwardena (41055) reported the facts to the court regarding the incident. Police Inspectors Polwatta and Medagama of the Homicide Investigation Division appeared on behalf of the Criminal Investigation Department. The case is scheduled to be called again on May 26. A group of officers from the Kalutara South Police brought the suspect to court with strict security.

## ICC officials say SLC must be independent... From page 01

The three member ICC party met top SLC officials, Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe and his officials as well as President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Chief of Staff to the President Sagala Ratnayake.

The Daily News learns that the ICC officials had pointed out that majority membership decision at SLC is more important to change the Constitution of SLC and there was no need to make political influences for SLC activities. They also pointed out value of an independent selection poli-

cy at team selections while ICC officials pointed out that some unsuitable officials are among the committees of the Sports Ministry and they are not happy about that.

However the Sports Minister explained about officials' clearance and also said he always respects ICC law and will work according to the Government law to uplift sport. The Minister has told "as the Sports Minister I have responsibility to work for the sport and we have to work together and do the

right thing" The Minister appointed a three member special committee on Thursday with former Sri Lanka cricketer Sidath Wettimuny and two senior lawyers Dinal Phillips and Panduka Keerthinanda to work with sports related International matters and all three members met the ICC officials with the Sport Minister on Thursday.

Caption: President's Chief of Staff Sagala Ratnayake with ICC Deputy Chairman Imran Khwaja and official.

## Sri Lanka Skills Expo 2023 exhibition for... From page 01

The 'Sri Lanka Skills Expo 2023' exhibition is being held till Sunday (14) at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Exhibition Complex of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) Colombo. The exhibition, which consists of various awareness conferences for job seekers, is open to the public from 9 am to 8 pm and is free.

This national level conference and exhibition is expected to bring together national and international stakeholders related to skills and talents on one platform.

"This is being organized as a skill exhibition held for the first time in Sri Lanka. This event is a national-level conference and exhibition with the objective of providing a platform to bring together skills and skills-related national and international stakeholders. The event will serve as an ideal opportunity to educate the public on the industrial training programmes available, share data related to available job vacancies within these sectors, and provide opportunities for job seekers to apply," Education Minister Dr. Premajayantha said.

Sri Lanka Skills Expo 2023 will be held jointly by the Education Ministry and several other institu-

tions in various other fields aiming to discover the broadest horizons for career development of Sri Lankans of all ages and to make dreams of job seekers come true.

A number of career guidance programmes will be available to educate individuals about the present trends within these five key industries, and career paths available to them. The Expo will also be an excellent platform for students and job seekers to meet industry experts and employers and learn about the various opportunities available in these sectors.

Through this event, the organizers hope to build the image of the five involved sectors and provide consultancy and advisory services related to technology adoption and competency development. Moreover it will share information and data about the labour market, individuals who represent the five councils said.

Several sectorial councils take part in the exhibition as skill Councils including Construction Industry Council (CISC), Information and Communication Technology Industry Council (ICTISC), Manufacturing and Engineering Sector Council (MESSCO), Tourism Industry Council (TISC) and Agriculture Sector Council (ASC).

This exhibition will be an ideal place to inform the people about the existing industrial training programs in these industries, to exchange data related to job vacancies and to direct job seekers to apply for those jobs. Another objective is to create awareness about the skills and labour needs of the private sector.

A series of special career guidance programmes will also be organized in conjunction with this exhibition to inform the people about the current trends related to the above mentioned five fields and the career opportunities available in those fields. This will be a valuable opportunity for students and employers to meet experts and employers in the desired fields and also to be informed about the various career opportunities available in the respective sectors. Through this, it is hoped to further develop the image of the relevant fields, to provide consultancy services on the use of technology and skill development, and to exchange information and data about the job market.

The Sri Lanka Skills Expo 2023, a significant event that will have a positive impact on the country's economic development, Education Minister Premajayantha said.

## Parliament should enact laws to ... From page 01

governments and Ministers are change. The MP said this while presenting the Interim Report of the National Council Sub-Committee on Identifying Priorities in Formulating Short-, Medium- and Long-Term Policies to Parliament yesterday.

He said that a question arises as to how government officers work properly in their institutions when they are repeatedly called to the Parliamentary Committees. Therefore, a

specific programme should be prepared for that, he said. He requested that laws should be compiled and submitted to Parliament to establish an Independent Commission to implement the long-term goals.

The MP further said every Ministry and every institution makes policies. However, all these policies will be limited to Parliament unless a long-term statutory office is established. Similar proposals

will come even to the Tenth Parliament. But, there is no agency to implement them. Every time when ministers change, those policies also change. Appointing a commission to find solutions for this will not lead to a sustainable solution.

When Presidents, governments, and ministers change, the Commissions too change. If we go this way, long and medium-term policies will never be implemented.

## Temple pinnacle ... From page 01

The villagers had been informed about this theft by the Chief Incumbent of the temple and during an investigation, the Chuda Manikya, which had been stolen was found from a forest area

near the Chaitnya. A motorcycle, an iron bar and two ropes were also found. It has been revealed that the person who brought this motorcycle there is related to the theft of the Chuda Man-

ikya. Accordingly, a suspect has also been arrested by the Giriulla Police. The police have identified two others involved in this theft. The police said that investigations are underway to arrest them.

# We must put aside our differences and work together

- MP Tissa Kuttiarachchi

**DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE**

SLPP MP Tissa Kuttiarachchi said the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) is not ready to talk about the Presidential candidate until the Presidential election is announced.

"After the date for the Presidential election is announced, the Party will announce the SLPP candidate. It is not possible to elect a President without the 'Pohottuwa' and without the Rajapaksa," Kuttiarachchi said.

He stated this while attending the media conference held on Thursday (11) at the SLPP party headquarters. He said that the quality of politicians has gone down and they always dream of how to take power.

"What we have seen in politics in recent times is that the main goal of the politician is how to grab power politically. But unfortunately, some

politicians forget that they are in the governing party when they take power," he added.

Kuttiarachchi further said that now the time has arisen to change the mind-set of politicians. If only the political parties change, political leaders will change. Unless the politicians change, this country will not be benefited. Now political parties, political leaders and politicians have come to an era where they need to change.

"Who will govern the people now? The people are now waiting to see which group will give the country a programme. I have to say that if the people of the country and the youth community change. In the end, what was expected from the struggle happened? Now where the actors and actresses who led the

struggle, the social activists are not found today," he added.

Speaking of the people who were with the struggle, Kuttiarachchi said groups active in that struggle took the law of the country into their own hands. The politician's eyes were opened through the struggle.

"Therefore, the struggle has to be considered as an opportunity situation that came out of a certain period of unpleasant experience in this country. So now we have come to a situation where we all have to put these struggles aside and work together," he added.

"Many people believed that the



SLPP could not go to the village today and the SLPP couldn't hold a political meeting. But we had to mark a new beginning by holding the May day rally successfully," he added.

He added that the SLPP wanted to show that the Party is still active in this political journey and to mark the beginning of the May Day rally in a very successful way. Speaking on the IMF loan facility he said that the country received a little stimulus from the IMF. "But even if we bring in dollars as aid, if we spend it with a dependency mindset and for consumption, the country will go into an abyss again.

Therefore, how can we find a process to generate another dollar in our

country by using even one dollar received from abroad, and if we can manage all this money, sitting on the fact that it is suitable for export, then the next generation will be able to build.

The public servant who used to accuse only the politician is being accused these days. But the public servants should keep in mind to discharge the maximum efficiency of the public service. Therefore, it is not good for government officials to do work that embarrasses the government. It is not good for politicians to do activities that embarrass public officials. Therefore, public servants are clearly reminded that it is difficult to do these things alone for the future of the country. Therefore, we all should understand the reality of this country and work together in this sacrifice.

## Death of Veteran Lyricist Anura Magalage



Veteran lyricist Anura Magalage (Gamini Lal Kumara) of 15/01 Carron Place, Kalubowila, Dehiwala passed away yesterday. Magalage, (67) is the youngest son of late Ariyadasa Magalage who was attached to the SLBC orchestra. He is an old boy of Ananda College, Colombo. His remains lie at the Jayaratne Funeral Parlour at Kalubowila and the funeral will take place on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Kohuwala Cemetery.

## FM meets Swedish counterpart



Foreign Minister Ali Sabry, PC held talks with his Swedish counterpart Tobias Billström in Stockholm on Thursday to further advance the decades old bilateral engagement. Discussions placed emphasis on bolstering all areas of bilateral interest especially economic engagement.



## JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND ORIENTATION TRAINING

Proprietor of the Nagai World Co. Ltd. Nagai Katsutoshi interviewing one of the 300 youths who underwent a six month Japanese language and orientation training in Dehiattakandiya under a project to provide 2,000 jobs in Japan annually for unemployed Lankans for period of three years. The trainees were referred to the NVQ Level 5 examination and 38 got through the examination. Of them 20 youths were selected to leave the country last week this month to commence their three year stints. National Democratic Front Leader Rukshan Malinda is also in the picture.

## Heart International donates USD 5.7 Mn worth medicines to Sri Lanka

Under the guidance of Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United States Mahinda Samarasinghe, Heart to Heart International has obtained all necessary Government approvals for the fifth in-kind donation of urgent medical aid, worth approximately US\$5,735,953 (i.e.LKR 1.87 billion), to the people of Sri Lanka, states a joint press release by the Embassy of Sri Lanka, Washington D.C., and Heart to Heart International, United States.



Facilitated by the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka and this Embassy, the fifth donation has arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka, via air on May 8, 2023.

The latest donation includes specialized medicines such as labetalol for high blood pressure; prednisone to treat several conditions, such as inflammation, severe allergies, and asthma etc.; and fluticasone salmet-

erol to treat symptoms of asthma and shortness of breathing.

The Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington, D.C. is immensely thankful to Heart to Heart International for the generous donations made to the people of Sri Lanka. Heart to Heart International has borne all expenses, and the donation will be received by the Ministry of Health for immediate distribution at no cost to the people of Sri Lanka.

Headquartered in Lenexa, Kansas, Heart to Heart Interna-

tional (HHI) is a global humanitarian organization focused on improving access to health. Since its inception in 1992, HHI has delivered medical aid and supplies worth US\$2.5 billion to more than 130 countries, including within the United States. HHI responds to natural disasters both domestically and internationally by supplying medical relief and mobilizing volunteers. The organization is a 4-star Charity Navigator charity, a BBB Accredited charity and is on the "Philanthropy 400."

## Canada supports 'Enabling Access to Justice for Victim Survivors of SGBV' project

**COLOMBO:** Despite national policy achievements, violence against women in Sri Lanka is pervasive and exists in the family, the workplace and the community. This is largely due to prevailing inequality between genders steeped in social norms and women being socially and economically disadvantaged. One in 5 (20.4%) women in Sri Lanka have experienced sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and 1 in 4 women (24.9%) have experienced sexual and/or physical violence since the age of 15 (UNFPA, 2019). But only over one third (37.3%) and one fifth (21.6%) of victims sought support respectively from the police and health care centres.



Justice Minister Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, PC in conversation with High Commissioner for Canada in Sri Lanka and The Maldives Eric Walsh.

To bring about a justice sector approach to addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women and girls, and gender minorities in the country, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Sri Lanka working together with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will design and implement the 'Enabling Access to Justice for Victim-Survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Sri Lanka' project with funding from the Government of Canada. The five-year project launched today will empower women, girls and gender minorities, including victim survivors of SGBV to access justice, demand and receive better services, and work towards a society free of SGBV.

The proposed interventions of the project aims at creating transformative change through a whole of country approach working together with key stakeholders in the formal justice system and law enforcement. These efforts will be supplemented by working with the health and medical sectors, and ministerial agencies on women's affairs, while also working closely with civil society organisations, primarily women's rights organisations (WROs) at national level, and ensuring outreach by working with WROs from across the country at a district, divisional and community level.

To mark the commencement of the project, a launch event took place this morning with the participation of high-level representatives from the partner organizations and multi-sectoral stakeholders that will be engaged through the project. Justice Minister Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakse PC said "Victims not only suffer by the offender, but also by society at large. Hence, if no equal and quick reparation is available under the justice sector starting from the initial complaint, it is a great shame. As the main stakeholder of the justice system, judiciary, legal counsel, investigators, quasi-judicial officers and family counsellors, we have a great responsibility cast upon our shoulders in ensuring these victims are safeguarded."

The project is designed and will be delivered

within the framework and guidance of the Government of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) which commits to contribute to global efforts to eradicate poverty around the world by addressing inequality, taking into special consideration empowerment of women and girls to reach their full potential to earn their own livelihoods, which will benefit families as well as the economic growth of their communities and countries.

High Commissioner for Canada in Sri Lanka and The Maldives Eric Walsh, noted that support to this initiative in Sri Lanka is part of Canada's broad policy commitment to addressing unacceptably high rates of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) globally.

Through partnerships and collaborations with multi sectoral stakeholders, the project will operationalise new and innovative approaches, engaging men and boys to prevent SGBV, while enabling gender responsive legal aid, a post-shelter economic support programme and breaking the bias on underlying behaviour and norms within the society. Sensitive and practical legal and support systems will set in place approaches that are proven effective, yet new to Sri Lanka.

Highlighting UNDP's lead role in pushing this agenda, Ms. Azusa Kubota, Resident Representative, UNDP in Sri Lanka stated, "This project will build on UNDP's global experience in addressing the SGBV and ongoing initiatives in supporting the justice sector in Sri Lanka. We are grateful for this multi stakeholder partnership that brings the Ministry of Justice, justice sector institutions, civil society actors and UNFPA, with the funding support of the Government of Canada. This project will allow us to apply a holistic set of tools. We must promote a collective responsibility to deliver better services for the most vulnerable and marginalized victims, and further build partnerships to comprehensively address SGBV through the overall empowerment of women."

## Declaration of commitment to protect civilians of Sudan

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America are pleased to announce that on May 11, 2023 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces signed a Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, said Saudi Arabia envoy in Colombo Khalid Hamoud Alkhatani in a release.

The Declaration of Commitment recognizes the obligations of both sides under international humanitarian and human rights law to facilitate humanitarian action to meet the emergency needs of civilians, the release said.

The Declaration of Commitment will guide the conduct of the two forces to enable the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, the restoration of essential services, the withdrawal of forces from hospitals and clinics, and the respectful burial of the dead. Following the

signing, the Jeddah Talks will focus on reaching agreement on an effective ceasefire of up to approximately ten days to facilitate these activities.

The security measures will include a U.S.-Saudi and international-supported ceasefire monitoring mechanism.

In line with the step-by-step approach agreed by the parties, the Jeddah Talks will address proposed arrangements for subsequent talks – with Sudanese civilians and regional and international partners – on a permanent cessation of hostilities.

## Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Limited, Mirigama

Public Auction for Sale of unredeemed Gold Articles

- ❖ Mirigama
- ❖ Kaleliya
- ❖ Pallewela
- ❖ Banduragoda
- ❖ Ganegoda
- ❖ Loluwegoda
- ❖ Keenadeniya
- ❖ Makkaniyoda
- ❖ Weweldeniya
- ❖ Delwala
- ❖ Kandalama
- ❖ Kota/Weragoda

Gold articles pawned in the Rural Bank Branches of the Mirigama M.P.C.S. Ltd. mentioned above up to 31.03.2022 and yet remain unredeemed as at 16.06.2023 will be sold by Public Auction at 9.30 a.m. on 17.06.2023 on the Upper Floor of the Mirigama Rural Bank.

**General Manager**  
Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd.,  
Mirigama.  
033-2273377 / 0332273236

## Classifieds

### Employment



Positions Vacant  
Garments/Textile

### Job vacancies:

Skilled tailors needed urgently, who know cutting and stitching of ladies garments for export factory. work area: Dehiwala. Type: ladies garments. Preferred: Males or females. If interested please call 0771281132. Salary Negotiable. 027830

**ADA KOTIPATHI - Saturday**  
Draw No. 1813 Colour Yellow  
Date: 13.05.2023  
**Today's Jackpot**  
**Rs. 50,115,962/-**  
Winning tickets are valid for 5 months.  
Development Lotteries Board  
380, Dr. Colan E. de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 2.  
Tel: 2 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk  
Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

**DLB DEVELOPMENT LOTTERIES BOARD OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
11.05.2023 - Thursday  
Draw Number 3797 Colour Brown  
Winning Numbers: 16 47 57 62  
Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 3,351,780/-

Draw Number 592 Colour Blue  
Winning Numbers: 0 22 24 50 09  
Next Super Jackpot Rs. 19,618,792.00

Draw Number 1281 Colour Orange  
Winning Numbers: A (35) 05 10 28 37  
Next Super Jackpot Rs. 328,971,729.40

Draw Number 4246 Colour Red  
Winning Numbers: 13 35 70 72  
Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 44,492,685.30

Draw Number 1911 Colour Light Blue  
Winning Numbers: 21 30 39 57  
Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 50,000,000/-

Draw Number 2085 Colour Green  
Winning Numbers: 26 29 31 44  
Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 98,366,587.60

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

# Lanka women clinch T20 series with 44-run win

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Harshitha Samarawickrama and Nilakshi de Silva hit half centuries and were involved in an unbroken 102-run fourth wicket stand as Sri Lanka women won by 44 runs over Bangladesh women to win the series 2-1 in the third and final T-20 game played at SSC grounds yesterday. It was a very good batting display by Harshitha and Nilakshi which was the highlight of the game to seal the victory in great fashion.

Sri Lankan skipper Chamari Atapattu won the toss and elected to bat first without any hesitation to make challenging total. However skipper Chamari and Vishmi Gunaratne added only 16 runs when Vishmi Gunaratne was out scoring only two runs with Rabeya Khan making an early breakthrough. Chamari Atapattu played her usual aggressive innings scoring 32 on 23 balls with 3 fours and 2 sixes but she was back in the pavilion with Nahida Akther taking the prize wicket in seventh over and Sri Lanka were 43 for 2 wickets at that stage. The wicket keeper batter Anushka Sanjeevani did not stay long scoring only 4 runs but 24 year old Harshitha Samarawickrama and experienced Nilakshi de Silva made a remarkable partnership to build up the total and both of them completed their half centuries in grand style.

Harshitha scored 51 in 42 balls with 6 fours while Nilakshi de Silva who was the more aggressive completed her maiden T-20 half century and Sri Lanka were 158 for 3 wickets in 20 overs. Nilakshi who hit 3 sixes and a four off fast bowler Jahanara Alam in the last over was the turning point of the game.

Bangladesh top order were in deep trouble from the beginning scoring only 32 runs in their first power play (first 6 overs) but Skipper Nigar Sultana 31 in 33 balls and Sobhana Mostary 30 in 25 balls with 2 fours and 2 sixes fought back but that was not enough to reach their target and they were restricted to 114 for 7 wickets in 20 overs to give the Sri Lankan lasses a 44-run win.

Two experienced bowlers fast bowler Udeshika Probadani and leg spinner Inoka Probadani ended up with the identical figures of 2 for 17 to contain the Bangladesh team.

Nilakshi de Silva who scored 63 in 39 balls with 4 fours and 4 sixes was adjudged Player of the Match while batter Harshitha Samarawickrama was named Player of the Series and received the awards from SLC Vice president Dr Jayantha Dhammadasa and Tournament Director Samantha Dodanwala.

**Chief scores**

**Sri Lanka women** 158 for 3 wickets in 20 overs Chamari Atapattu 32, Harshitha Samarawickrama 51\*, Nilakshi de Silva 63\*, Rabeya Khan 1/20

**Bangladesh women** 114 for 7 wickets in 20 overs Fargana Hoque 10, Sobhana Mostary 30, Nigar Sultana 31, Ritu Moni 11, Udeshika Probadani 2/17, Inoka Ranaweera 2/17, Kawya Kavindi 2/28, Sugandika Kumari 1/19



Nilakshi de Silva celebrating her fifty with Harshitha Samarawickrama. Both players added a 102-run unbroken fourth wicket stand (Pic courtesy: SLC)

## Jaiswal, Chahal smash records as Rajasthan beat Kolkata



Yashasvi Jaiswal (left) of Rajasthan Royals celebrate their victory

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal took a four-wicket haul and Yashasvi Jaiswal hammered a record-breaking half century as Rajasthan Royals cruised to a smashing nine-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the 56th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) played at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Thursday.

Chahal returned excellent figures of four for 25 from his four overs and became the leading IPL wicket-taker of all time as KKR were restricted to 149 for eight in 20 overs after they were invited to bat first. Rajasthan then made a mockery of the target as Jaiswal played a breathtaking 98 not out to help his team to overtake KKR's score with more than six overs and nine wickets to spare.

Chasing 150 to win, Rajasthan couldn't have got off to a better start. Jaiswal's batting had confidence written all over it as the in-form

opener hammered 26-runs off the very first over.

Andre Russell's excellent direct hit provided the opening breakthrough for KKR as Jos Buttler was out without scoring. However, Jaiswal was unstoppable with the bat and the Rajasthan opener notched up the fastest 50 ever in the history of IPL as he completed the milestone from just 13 deliveries.

Rajasthan were cruising in the chase as they moved to 78 for one after 6 overs and the 100 was up for Rajasthan in the 10th over as Jaiswal continued his dominant aggressive batting display.

Rajasthan Skipper Sanju Samson also jumped on the bandwagon and dealt in boundaries as the pair continued the onslaught to share a 121-run unbroken partnership to put their side back on winning ways and to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Earlier, Venkatesh Iyer's responsible half century en-

abled KKR to put up a modest total even as Chahal took four important wickets the KKR left-handed duo, of Captain Nitish Rana and Venkatesh, chose to rotate the strike and added 48 runs before Chahal broke the partnership in the 11th over.

Chahal trapped Shardul Thakur in front and had Rinku Singh caught at long-off to become the highest IPL wicket-takers with 187 scalps. Chahal, who showed great control and varied his pace, claimed three wickets in the last five overs as KKR managed only 33 runs losing four wickets during that phase.

**Chief scores**

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** 149/8 in 20 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 57, Nitish Rana 22, Trent Boult 2/15, Yuzvendra Chahal 4/25)

**Rajasthan Royals:** 151/1 in 13.1 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 98 n.o., Sanju Samson 48 n.o.) **C.D.**

## I gave of my best for the team, says Harshitha

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

I am really happy to receive the player of the series award said Sri Lankan promising batswoman Harshitha Samarawickrama after the Bangladesh T-20 series win at the SSC grounds yesterday.

My skipper Chamari Atapattu gave me the strength to play my innings while my coach advised me to stay at the wicket until the end of the innings and I did my best for the team said Harshitha Samarawickrama the 24 year old top order batter.

When I went to the wicket Nilakshi de Silva my senior player and I had chat to build up the innings yesterday while my responsibility was to occupy the crease to build a good partnership. I think Nilakshi made a superb knock of 39 ball 63 and her aggressive knock gave a big boost for us and put the opponents under pressure.

My dedication and commitment was always high and my consistent batting was the key to my success, said Harshitha.

Meanwhile Nilakshi de Silva the player of the match who scored her maiden T-20 half century said I had to get my runs quickly while our task was to build up a challenging total. I missed many opportunities to complete half centuries and most of the times I had to stay at the wicket with unbeaten knocks. However more than my maiden half



Harshitha Samarawickrama the Player of the Series receiving her trophy from SLC Tournament Director Samantha Dodanwala.

century we are happy to win the game and the series added Nilakshi de Silva.

Skipper Chamari Atapattu said after the first losing T-20 game my team came back strongly and especially we made some mistakes in the middle order batting and it was rectified to win the game.

I think my younger players really performed well and hope for their support with my seniors during the next matches. We have an uphill task to get T-20 and One Day qualification and all my team want to fulfil this task said skipper Chamari Atapattu.

## Colombo South Zone 3 and Colombo North Zone 3 emerge victorious

Colombo South Zone 3 and Colombo North Zone 3 won their matches in the Under 19 Provincial league Inter District Limited Overs Cricket tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) yesterday.

Colombo South Zone 3 beat Kalutara Zone 3 by 15 runs according to the Parabola Method in Maggona. Colombo North Zone 3 beat Gampaha Zone 1 by 34 runs

(Parabola Method) at Campbell place.

**At Maggona** (Colombo South Zone 3 won by 15 runs according parabola method) **Colombo South Zone 3:** 266 (44.1) (Tharindu Amarasinghe 90, Rivith Jayasooriya 77, Uneth Pieris 23, Sanesh Fernando 15, Sumalka Fernando 15, Dinuka Thisara 5/39, Hansaja Brian 2/40) **Kalutara**

**Zone 3:** 179/6 (27) (Yuthika Dilruk 56, Sanuka Cheran 38, Gayantha Nadeeshan 29, Thenushka Nanayakkara 16, Pasindu Wimsana 12, Uneth Pieris 3/38)

**At Campbell place** (Colombo North Zone 3 won by 34 runs according parabola method) **Colombo North Zone 3:** 195/9 (40) (Kavindu Amameth 81, Viranga Yehana 24, Yesith Kalupahana 23,

Praveen Maneesha 14, Shachira Welivatte 14, Thenuka Devapriya 11, Inuka Karannagoda 10, Ravindu Jayasanka 4/34, Sithum Nethsara 2/33, Sharith Sudeena 2/43) **Gampaha Zone 1:** 137/6 (32.4) (Nethmal De Zoysa 45, Uvindu Perera 29, Sithum Nethsara 12 n.o., Samindua Maduranga 10, Praveen Maneesha 2/12, Shan Viraj 2/26) **(YK)**

## Jaffna women record third win in Inter District Under 23 tourney

Unbeaten Jaffna Under 23 women recorded their third win in four games of the Inter District Women Under 23 T20 Cricket tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) yesterday. One match ended in a no decision.

Unbeaten Jaffna beat Mannar by 10 wickets. Kurunegala, Kegalle and Polonnaruwa won their

matches. At Jaffna (Jaffna won by 10 wickets) **Mannar:** 65 (19.5) (T. Reethana 26, Muralithasan Mathurika 4/13, Rathneshwaran Nitharshana 3/11) **Jaffna:** 69/0 (10.5) (Bhashkarana Shanu 31 n.o., Muruganathan Shamili 17 n.o.)

**At RDICS** (Polonnaruwa won by 7 runs) **Polonnaruwa:** 107/5 (20) (Hirushika Nimanthi 33,

Janani Mayurika 30 n.o., Imasha Sandaruwani 13 n.o., Dileema Nethmini 3/24) **Puttalam:** 94 (16.3) (Dileema Nethmini 21, Adithi Randini 16, Tharundi Akarsha 14)

**At RDICS** (Kurunegala won by 67 runs) **Kurunegala:** 131/4 (20) (Maneesha Sakunthala 37, Ashani Kuashalya 27, Chamodi Devindya 18, Hansika Nipuni 12

n.o., Imashi Nisansala 10 n.o.) **Matale:** 64/7 (20) (Buddhini Dissanayake 28 n.o., Sandya Kumarasiri 11, Hansika Nipuni 2/4, Ashani Kuashalya 2/14)

**At Pallekele** (Kegalle won by 9 wickets) **Trincomalee:** 47 (16.2) (Kavindya Prabashi 2/10, Nadeeshani Senevirathne 2/14) **Kegalle:** 48/1 (9.5) (Imasha Mihirangi 15 n.o.) **(YK)**

## IMC -AIC Campus boost for Royal College Badminton team

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

IMC-AIC Campus will be associated with Royal College Badminton for the year 2024 as the sponsor and this is the first time in history IMC-AIC Campus is collaborating with one of the leading National Schools in Sri Lanka in enriching a game. In fact this is also the first time Royal College received a sponsorship for Badminton.

Badminton has emerged as one of the most popular and keenly contested games among the schools today while Royal College has a proud Badminton history producing first Olympian Badminton player Niroshan Wijekoon while three times Olympians Nilu-

ka Karunaratne and his two brothers Diluka and Dinuka and at present the promising Badminton player Dumindu Abeywickrama also in National pool already in Indonesia for special training and also aiming to

get Olympic participation. Especially former Royal Principal B. Sooriyarachchi, late Lakshman Gomes also gave excellent support as Schools Badminton Association Presidents.

Badminton at Royal College started along with Table Tennis around 1945 as a "Lunch hour game". IMC-AIC Campus wanted to secure the value adding by being the one and only sponsor for Royal College Badminton.

Royal College and sponsors pledged to work together to uplift Badminton and their aim is to get shuttlers from the grassroots level. In addition Royal college

Badminton players are eligible for scholarships on placement fees for overseas medical students and course fee of AIC programme.

Dr Amila B. Kulatunga Deputy CEO IMC - AIC campus, CEO Dr Gishan Sumanasiri, Executive Director Dr Dharangan Bakthaseelan, COO Intikab Zufer from sponsors Royal College Principal R. M. M Ratnayake and Royal College chairman of Badminton Advisory and Management Committee Chavinka Sumanathilake graced this occasion.



Chairman of Royal Badminton Advisory and Management Committee Chavinka Sumanathilake, Principal of Royal College R. M. M Ratnayake, Executive Director of Finance Dr Dharangan Bakthaseelan Executive Director Chief Executive office Dr Gishan Sumanasiri with Royal College shuttlers pose for a picture at the sponsorship handing over ceremony (pix by Sudath Malaweeera)