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Ahead of General Election 2024

SJB-UNP ALLIANCE TALKS COLLAPSE



Several defections in the offing

By **BUWANAKA S. PERERA**

The potential alliance between the Samagi Jatha Bahawegaya (SJB) and the United National Party (UNP) has collapsed following the first round of discussions, which concluded yesterday (22) regarding a coalition ahead of the upcoming General Election in November.

Sources from both parties informed Ceylon Today that numerous of possible inconcessions between the SJB and UNP have crippled further talks within the upper ranks of both parties.

Former UNP MP Saman Rathnayaka told Ceylon Today that the UNP, along with its affiliated political parties and groups, is still willing to offer the Prime Ministerial candidacy to SJB leader Saptha Prasadadas, provided he agrees to form a united opposition alliance for the upcoming election.

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Upcoming General Election 37 independent groups place cash deposits - EC



A total of 37 independent groups have placed cash deposits for the upcoming General Election, scheduled for 14 November 2024, according to the Election Commission.

Continued on Page 2

200 illegally imported luxury vehicles Magistrate orders to produce suspects in Court

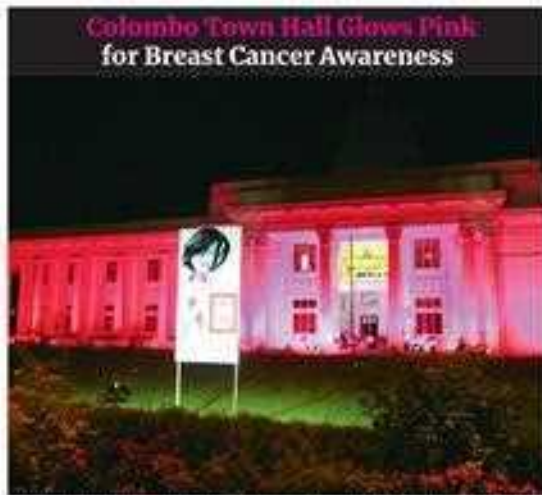
Colombo Chief Magistrate Thilina Gamage ordered the Sireby's Commission to immediately arrest and produce in Court the suspects who illegally imported 200 luxury vehicles to Sri Lanka, depriving the Government of over \$100 million in tax revenue.

Continued on Page 2

Bus passengers say they were overcharged

Passengers alleged they were charged the old bus fares even though the Government has taken steps to reduce them in view of recent fuel price reduction. They also said that the conductors are charging the usual amount, citing not receiving the documents informing them about the price reduction yet as an excuse.

Continued on Page 2



Colombo Town Hall Glows Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

As part of the global observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Colombo Town Hall was bathed in pink light. The event was led by Colombo Municipal Commissioner Sabina Jayawardene, with former cabinet member Mahipala and Union Council Chairperson Lanka Jayawardene among the attendees. The initiative sees several prominent figures coming together to support this vital cause.

(Pic by Sarah Ranasinghe)

Grade 5 Scholarship Exam fiasco CID investigations still underway - HRCSL

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) Commissioner, Jeyaraj P. Prathibha, told Ceylon Today that it has been revealed that the investigations initiated by the Criminal Investigation Department regarding the Scholarship Examination fiasco have not been completed as yet.

Accordingly, he also mentioned that the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission has involved the Criminal Investigation Department to complete these investigations as soon as possible.

Continued on Page 2

Luxury vehicle controversy Rosy says President's office gave unmaintained Porsche

Former Colombo Mayor Rosy Samarasinghe, who is now entangled in a luxury vehicle controversy regarding to claims that she had been provided with a Porsche Cayenne during former President Basil Dissanayake's regime, said the vehicle in question was not driving again until they her from time to time.

Samarasinghe, yesterday (22) briefed the media on the various vehicles she had been provided by the President's Office during her tenure.



Continued on Page 2

China pledges support to achieve economic stability



Chinese Ambassador Q-Zhongxing, who met President Anura Kumara Dissanayake yesterday (22) at the Presidential Secretariat, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the President on his recent election victory and expressed China's continued commitment to supporting Sri Lanka in its future endeavours.

Continued on Page 2

Indian HC meets President



Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Sandesh Jha, met President Anura Kumara Dissanayake yesterday (22) to congratulate him on his recent election victory. The meeting took place at the Presidential Secretariat.

During the meeting, the Indian High Commissioner emphasised the long standing friendship and close proximity between India and Sri Lanka, highlighting the importance of maintaining strong bilateral ties.

Continued on Page 2

ITAK, DTNA hold talks to form alliance

As Tamil political parties strive to form various alliances to face the general election, the Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK) is in discussions with the Dhanabala party, the Democratic Tamil National Alliance (DTNA), which includes members such as Suresh Premachandran and G. Subbathan.

Subbathan stated that they are advocating for ITAK members to join the DTNA instead of remaining under ITAK's dominance, emphasising their desire for equal footing.

Continued on Page 2

Namal challenges President 'Prove corruption claims against Rajapaksas now'

Former MP Namal Rajapaksa has publicly challenged President Anura Kumara Dissanayake to substantiate claims that the Rajapaksa family has hidden billions of dollars in Singapore and other countries.

Rajapaksa, in a statement on X (formerly Twitter), said, "President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and his team have been silencing for years that we have started away billions of dollars in Uganda and various countries. It is now time for President ANC to prove his allegations."

Continued on Page 2

Dengue cases surpass 39000 - NDCU

A total of 10 MOH areas identified as 'high risk'

By 30 September 2024, the number of dengue cases reported in the country reached a total of 39,411. The National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU) said.

The dengue death toll from 1 January to 30 September 2024 was 19, the Unit said on Tuesday (1). According to statistics given by the NDCU's surveillance system NaDiSys, 2,749 dengue cases were recorded from 1 to 30 September 2024.

Continued on Page 2

In meeting with PM US Envoy discusses advancing justice, reconciliation

BY SILDACHANA KEMMIAH MCHAM

Following the meeting between US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung and President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on 1 October, where they discussed the evolving US-Sri Lanka partnership, the US Ambassador met Prime Minister Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Foreign Minister Nishantha Mahipala on 2 October and encouraged efforts to advance justice and reconciliation, enhance food security, and expand access to education.

During her meeting with President Dissanayake, Ambassador Chung discussed the shared goals of the two countries in building stronger, more inclusive communities and thriving local economies.

She stressed that US assistance and programmes empower Sri Lankans to achieve their own goals and aspirations, while enhancing the country's capabilities in transparency, accountability, civic participation, and good governance.

She assured that as Sri Lanka embarks on a new chapter, the US remains a strong partner in supporting unity, good governance, prosperity, and human rights.

After her meeting with Prime Minister Anura Kumara Dissanayake, yesterday (2), Ambassador Chung pointed to X (formerly Twitter) saying, "We met to discuss our strong US-Sri Lanka partnership and how we can work together on key priorities. From advancing justice and reconciliation to enhancing food security and expanding access to education, our US-Sri Lanka partnership is focused on improving lives and fostering economic growth and prosperity."

Following her discussions with Foreign Minister Nishantha Mahipala, Ambassador Chung shared an X that she looked forward to strengthening the US-Sri Lanka partnership, working together on shared priorities such as security, trade, and upholding human rights.

She reaffirmed the United States' commitment to supporting Sri Lanka's progress towards national unity, justice, and transparent governance.

HRCSL ESTABLISHES GENDER FOCAL POINT

BY MITHUN JAYAWARDHANA

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) has announced the establishment of a Gender Focal Point (GFP) at its Head Office in Colombo, aiming to address the widespread violations committed

against women and gender minorities in the country. Acknowledging the high prevalence of unreported cases, the HRCSL seeks to create a more accessible avenue for justice. The GFP located at No. 14, P.A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 4, will focus on providing targeted

support for women and gender minorities who face various forms of discrimination and human rights violations based on their gender. The new service, aimed at bridging the gap in access to justice, will be operational from 1 October 2024, at both the HRCSL

Head Office and its regional offices. By establishing this focal point, the HRCSL underscores its commitment to prohibiting gender equality and ensuring that victims of gender-based violence and discrimination have the support needed to seek justice.

Cuba ready to help SL combat dengue

The Cuban Government reaffirmed its continuous support for Sri Lanka's efforts in combating dengue, when Cuban Ambassador Andres Martely Gonzalez recently visited President Anura Kumara Dissanayake at the Presidential Secretariat. The President's Media Division, yesterday (2), said that Ambassador Gonzalez had highlighted his country's success in dengue control while conveying Cuba's willingness to "share its expertise" with Sri Lanka. The Ambassador had also pledged to collaborate on public health initiatives that were aimed at eradicating the

mosquito-borne disease that had claimed 18 lives this year while infecting over 59,000 people. In 2023, the health ministry brought in two experts from Cuba to help in releasing a biological agent *Spizelia thomasiensis* (ST) which destroyed mosquito larvae. However, the initiative did not succeed at the time. Meanwhile, the PMO said that the Cuban Ambassador had met President Dissanayake and held discussions with her pledging his government's readiness to enhance cooperation with Sri Lanka.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SJB-UNP ALLIANCE...

"We wanted Gajith Premadasa as the Prime Ministerial candidate given his position as the runner-up in the last Presidential Election. However, he wants no changes in the UNP leadership and wants the alliance to control under the respective symbols. These are unrealistic expectations and should not concern him," stated Rathnayake.

The potential SJB-UNP alliance was set to control the General Election under the common symbol of a gas cylinder. However, Rathnayake noted that despite the open offer, talks between UNP representatives, Deputy Leader Ranura Wijewardene, and former Member Akila Jayawardene, and the SJB delegation ended without success. He also emphasised that, additionally, political alliances cannot be based on a common symbol, not the symbol of a specific party within the coalition.

On Tuesday (21), former Sri Lanka Postgraduate Institute (PGPI) MP Sima Samarasinghe announced to the media that although he had considered staying from active politics, his supporters have urged him to stay. Sima was revealed to Ceylon Today that he still has been a key advocate for forming a UNP-SJB alliance under the elephant symbol. Reports also suggest that he still may cross over to the UNP in the coming days.

A reliable source within the UNP disclosed that regardless of whether an alliance forms or not, if the UNP considers the upcoming election under the elephant symbol, two UNP members are expected to defect to the SJB, while two prominent SJB members will likely join the UNP led by former President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Magistrate orders to produce...

The Magistrate informed the Bribery Commission that it is the commissioner's responsibility to base the vehicle and when all the aspects involved and produce them in Court.

The Court order was issued after the judge had studied the facts presented by the Bribery Commission, which claimed that of the 200 illegally imported vehicles, only 10 had been returned.

A Mitsubishi jeep valued at Rs 60 million, which had been

seized by Bribery Commission officials, had also been produced in Court.

The Court was ordered to base the vehicle that was restricted by the judiciary to hand over the vehicle to the Government on 18 September, he had allowed.

Bribery Commission officials had only been able to seize the vehicle after having obtained a Court order for its return.

Considering the facts, the

Colombo Chief Magistrate pointed out that it was the responsibility of the Bribery Commission to arrest those who intentionally evaded duties to the Government and ordered that such individuals be arrested immediately.

The Bribery Commission launched a probe into 200 luxury vehicles illegally imported after 2015 and which were registered as ordinary vehicles imported before 2015 by providing false data to the Department of Motor Traffic.

Rosy says President's...

The former revealed that she had used eight vehicles during her stint as a Presidential advisor, with the Porsche Cayenne being the last vehicle used before the regime change.

"All vehicles that were provided during 2023 were exchanged after it had broken down. I had used a total of eight vehicles. Once my final vehicle broke down, the President's Office provided me with an unregistered Porsche Cayenne. I immediately contacted the person in charge of vehicle distribution and requested a different vehicle. He advised me to use the vehicle until they could obtain another vehicle in exchange. The Porsche Cayenne broke down soon after it was used and was sent for exchange," she explained.

Revealing that the Porsche Cayenne that was offered to her was breaking down, with doors not opening and water leaking through the window, the former having experienced heavy rain during her tenure.

Her identification comes after the new administration had faced her return of a Porsche Cayenne among the State vehicles that were returned by former Parliamentarians and government officials, which had made rounds in social media.



37 independent...

These deposits were made between 25 September and 1 October, with key districts such as Battaramulla, Jaffna, Dambulla, Colombo, and Trincomalee recording the highest number of deposits.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission stated that the Electoral Local Government postal vote circular will be issued on 7 October, and Electoral Regional Council postal vote marking activities for all postal vote applicants can be done on 14 October.

It also stated that postal voters who could not mark their postal votes on 14 October due to valid reasons will be given a special opportunity to mark their postal votes on 18 October at the District election office in the district where they work/live in.

It was stated in the announcement that the postal ballot boxes will be opened and divided into divisions on 24 October and the distribution of official ballot papers will be completed before 30 October.

ITAK, DTNA hold talks...

However, talks regarding the upcoming General Election have focused on the possibility of the DTNA and ITAK collaborating specifically to contest in the Ampara and Trincomalee districts, as both parties recognise the vote base in these areas.

On 4 October (Friday), ITAK's Central Steering Committee will convene, and the DTNA will be informed about the outcomes, according to Suran. Premadasa. Subsequently, the DTNA will hold its own meeting on 8 October.

Additionally, ITAK's M.A. Suranjan has extended an invitation for the DTNA to join them in contesting the General Election, leading to a discussion between the two parties on 2 October.

CID investigations still...

He said the HRCSL has commenced its inquiry into the alleged leak of the Grade 8 Scholarship Examination paper, which has caused public outrage.

On 7 October 2024, representatives from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the complainant party were present at the inquiry.

He also said during the inquiry, it was revealed that the CID's investigations into the

incident remain incomplete. In response, the HRCSL instructed the CID to expedite its investigations and the CID has agreed to collect evidence from the complainant party on 2 October 2024, he said.

Further, he said the Secretary of the Ministry of Education was notified through a formal letter to refrain from making any decisions related to the matter until the CID's investigation is fully concluded.

'Prove corruption...

The former MP's challenge comes in response to allegations made by Dissanayake during the Presidential Election campaign.

In a campaign video, President Dissanayake alleged that the Rajapaksa regime had stolen public funds and stolen them overseas.

The Rajapaksa family has

long been at the centre of controversy regarding accusations of corruption and misuse of public funds during their time in power, but they have consistently denied any wrongdoing.

Namal Rajapaksa's statement re-opens the spotlight on President Dissanayake to produce evidence supporting his claims.

China pledges...

Ambassador Qi reaffirmed the Chinese Government's continued commitment to enhancing bilateral relations with Sri Lanka, emphasising the significance of ongoing collaborative projects.

He highlighted the active engagement of the China Development Bank (CDB) and EXIM Bank in supporting Sri Lanka's development initiatives.

Moreover, Ambassador Qi assured that both institutions, as key financial and financial creditors, will provide comprehensive assistance in the debt restructuring process, underscoring China's dedication to supporting Sri Lanka's economic stability and growth.

Indian HC meets...

He expressed India's readiness to support Sri Lanka's development process in all possible ways and wished to see Sri Lanka emerge as a peaceful and stable nation in the region.

The High Commissioner also praised the President's anti-corruption initiatives unveiled

in the manifesto, particularly praising the importance of digitalisation in government systems to effectively combat corruption. He reaffirmed India's willingness to assist Sri Lanka in implementing digitalisation measures, while underscoring the continuous trade flourishing between the two neighbouring nations.

Bus passengers say they...

They also alleged that the minimum bus fare is still Rs 30, as they do not get the balance Rs 5. Meanwhile, Director General of the National Transport Commission, Nalin Jayawardena said legal action will be taken against buses that charge more than the national revised bus fare.

She requested passengers to inform the authorities about buses that charge more than the published fare.

She also said passengers can lodge complaints through MTC's hotline 1955 or WhatsApp number 077 25 95 558 regarding inter-provincial or long-distance private buses charging more than the approved fare.

She also mentioned that complaints can be made through hotline 1958 regarding buses of the Sri Lanka Transport Board and to the relevant provincial authority regarding provincial bus service providers.

Dengue cases surpass...

The NDCU said that 4,888 (25 per cent) cases of the mosquito-borne disease were from the Colombo District. Gampaha District recorded 4,579 (11.6 per cent) cases, while Jaffna District recorded 4,197 (10.4 per cent) cases in the island. According to the data given by the Dmrs Surveillance System, 3,388 (8.8 per cent) cases were recorded from the Kandy District. Rathnapura and Kalutara districts recorded 2,300 and

2,193 cases, respectively. The NDCU Surveillance showed that there were 15,602 (24.1 per cent) cases of the mosquito-borne viral infection, also known as dengue fever, in the Western Province whereas the Northern, Central and Sabaragamuwa provinces had 4,787, 4,056 and 1,985 cases, respectively.

A total of 10 Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas had been identified as 'high risk' by the 30th week of the year.

SOME COPS IN CONSPIRACY TO INCONVENIENCE GOVT

BY MITHUN JAYAWARDHANA

Minister of Public Security Vijitha Herath alleged that certain policemen are part of artificial conspiracies and are trying to inconvenience the new government. He also said that it is reported that certain raids have been carried out on the Sri Lanka's gem businesses in the last few days causing

inconvenience and embarrassment to them.

"According to information we received these personnel had carried out so-called investigations claiming those were my (Minister's) orders. I have never given instructions to carry out such investigations and exert undue pressure on the businessmen and will not interfere in any investigation

— VIJITHA HERATH

conducted according to the law," the Minister said. He also stated that he would request all these officers to refrain from doing such illegal activities that would cause inconvenience to the government.

However, he said that the law will be implemented after the election about these officials and various corrupt officials who are acting in a way that causes inconvenience to the government and there is no possibility to conduct investigations against them when there is an election.

Over 167 Acts passed between 20-24 August

BY SUWANARA S. PERERA

Over 167 Acts have been passed in the Parliament between 20 August 2023 and 24 September 2024. Director of Parliament Legislative Services Jayashank Perera said.

Approximately, 146 of the Acts have been government Bills and the remaining 21 Bills have been private member Bills. The highest number of Acts during this period has been passed in 2023.

Some of the significant Acts that have been passed by the 9th Parliament are: Regulation of Election (Amendment) Act No. 3 of 2023, Parliamentary Budget Office Act No. 6 of 2023, Anti-Corruption Act No. 9 of 2023, Central Bank of Sri Lanka Act No. 15 of 2023, Elections (Special Provisions) Act No. 21 of 2023, Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 2023, Online Security Act No. 36 of 2024, Modern Employment Act No. 37 of 2024, Public Financial Management Act No. 44 of 2024 and the Commerce, Trade and Investment Act No. 45.

Liquidity down 44.50%

BY PANEETHA AMERESKERE

Money market's net excess liquidity (NEL) decreased sharply for the second consecutive market day to Saturday (01/10) by Rs. 44,50 per cent (Rs. 4,274 million) to Rs. 7,574 million, thereby causing interest rate pressure.

In the two market days to Tuesday (30/09), NEL was declined by 72.36 per cent (Rs. 18,868 million) to Rs. 5,324 million, thereby to cause yield pressure at yesterday's Wednesday's (01/10) Rs. 142,306 million Treasury (T)-98 auction.

However, during the course of Tuesday's trading, the money market, led by swap settlements between the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) and banks, where CBSL swapped rupee for foreign exchange (FX), that saw liquidity been upsurge by Rs. 23,201 million (USD 77.55 million). Come-hops are back on the offer side of the benchmark 90-day bill (90D) (27 September) which was Rs. 299.20 to the 90D bill.

Meanwhile, Government of Sri Lanka's (GoSL) face value money printing (FVMP) debt decreased by 1.11 per cent (Rs. 29,277 million) to Rs. 2,617,120.62 million on Tuesday, thereby marginally defraying demand pull inflationary pressure.

However, year on year (YoY) to Tuesday (01/10), FVMP debt fell sharply by Rs. 477,136 million (5.42 per cent) to Rs. 8,177,202 million, thereby sharply reducing demand pull inflationary pressure. A year ago GoSL's FVMP debt was recorded at least at Rs. 3,094,315.63 million (Rs. 3.09 billion), data showed.

Such steep YoY falls in GoSL's FVMP debt are possible because of record high taxes and utility rates charged on the public side due to IMF demand. The kind of such falls never (NAT) been equal from 19 to 19 per cent since the

beginning of this year. Meanwhile, Tuesday was also the fourth consecutive market day that the market was not liquid. Prior to last Thursday (26 September) the market was shut for six consecutive market days, thereby causing interest rate pressure. Also, prior to Thursday, the last time the market was not liquid was on 18 September 2024, when it was led by Rs. 58,582 million.

The value of GoSL's FVMP debt is equivalent to the FY of CBSL's Treasury (T)-98 and T-98 holdings at the end of Tuesday's trading. Banks and/or their customers like GoSL, and/or its agents suffering from rupee deposits have to surrender in such instances only GoSL, their T-98 T-bill holdings to CBSL, which in turn prints money and lends to those banks, equivalent to the face value of those surrendered T-98 T-bill holdings, thus meeting their 90D's. It is noted its agents and banks' liquidity needs.

GoSL's and/or its agents foreign debt servicing commitments are met by the country's foreign reserves and not by banks for fear of start by the latter, that that would cause depressive pressure on the rupee as Sri Lanka is an export dependent economy. CBSL, the steward of GoSL debt and also of its foreign reserves, in its FX transactions, deals in 'spot', 'near' (short) and 'long' (long) bills are settled after two market days from the date of trading.

Selling T-bills and T-bonds to the market is a mechanism adopted by the CBSL to raise money locally to meet its normal financial needs. Investment in T-bonds and T-bills are usually risk free because in the event GoSL is unable to honour such commitments, CBSL generally prints through pull inflationary money and repay such creditors. Money printing is the sole prerogative of the CBSL.

ADB commits USD 636.4M

Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed USD 636.4 million to Sri Lanka (SL) last year (2023), despite the country's economic crisis, the ADB said on Tuesday (01/10).

The bank included a special support package of USD 300 million as part of the comprehensive economic reform programme led by the IMF to support fiscal consolidation, restore price stability and enhance financial stability while securing social protection, it said.

The ADB also committed USD 636.4 million to Sri Lanka (SL) last year (2023), despite the country's economic crisis, the ADB said on Tuesday (01/10).

The bank included a special support package of USD 300 million as part of the comprehensive economic reform programme led by the IMF to support fiscal consolidation, restore price stability and enhance financial stability while securing social protection, it said. The ADB also committed USD 636.4 million to Sri Lanka (SL) last year (2023), despite the country's economic crisis, the ADB said on Tuesday (01/10).

also committed funds of the Second Integrated Road Investment Programme to complete critical works to improve road networks and enhance road safety, it added.

"Eight technical assistance projects were approved in 2023 to support public financial management and governance, insurances and water-related enterprises investments in energy, health, artificial intelligence, green buildings and capacity building for the national agency for public-private partnerships," ADB further said.

Additional funding was provided to ten technical assistance projects focused on knowledge solutions and improving project readiness and portfolio management. **Key message:** Total outstanding balances and unutilized commitments of the ADB in Sri Lanka are USD 636.4 million, comprising of USD 300 million for special support package and USD 336.4 million for other projects.

Auction Sale of Unredeemed Jewellery Mortgaged

UB Finance is holding an auction sale of unredeemed jewellery mortgaged on 01 October 2024 at 10.00 AM. The auction will be held at the premises of UB Finance, 10, De Sola Place, Colombo 10.

Branch	Type of Auction	Bank
Colombo	Jewellery	UB Finance
Kandy	Jewellery	UB Finance
Nuwara-Eliya	Jewellery	UB Finance
Peradeniya	Jewellery	UB Finance
Trincomalee	Jewellery	UB Finance
Wundwinna	Jewellery	UB Finance
Yakkalamulla	Jewellery	UB Finance
Yakkalamulla	Jewellery	UB Finance

For further information, please call 011 250 0000 or visit our website at www.ubfinance.lk. The auction will be held at the premises of UB Finance, 10, De Sola Place, Colombo 10.



WIS Accountancy Launches AI-Driven Mortgage Platform 'MortgagX' and Announces Major Job Expansion



Team at WIS (left to right) WIS Managing Director - Colombo and Director WIS (Sri Lanka) Director - Kandy, WIS Managing Director - Nuwara-Eliya.

WIS Accountancy, a leading provider of digital accounting, tax, and advisory services, has launched its AI-driven mortgage platform 'MortgagX' and announced a major job expansion. The platform is designed to streamline the mortgage process, offering a seamless and efficient experience for both borrowers and lenders. The expansion includes the recruitment of 200 new staff members across various branches, reflecting the company's commitment to growth and excellence in the financial services sector.

The platform is designed to streamline the mortgage process, offering a seamless and efficient experience for both borrowers and lenders. The expansion includes the recruitment of 200 new staff members across various branches, reflecting the company's commitment to growth and excellence in the financial services sector.

HRW reminds new President Dissanayake to address Rights issue in Sri Lanka

Calls on UNHRC to adopt a resolution on Sri Lanka to enable continued UN monitoring and reporting

BY SULOCHANA RAMIAH MOHON

The Human Rights Watch (HRW) has urged the UN Human Rights Council to adopt a new resolution on Sri Lanka to ensure continued UN monitoring, reporting, and evidence collection of human rights violations. They also called on President Dissanayake's government to reinstate the Online Safety Act, which restricts freedom of expression and report proposed laws that

would further suppress non-governmental organizations. The UN report highlights ongoing police abuses, impunity for past crimes, and threats to fundamental freedoms, they noted.

President Dissanayake, elected in September 2024, is urged to cooperate with UN investigations, end repressive laws, and protect activists and victims. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, criticized the lack of reforms and warned of continued violations.

He also urged that cooperation and government failures were key factors of Sri Lanka's recent economic crisis.

Sri Lanka has a long history of human rights abuses, particularly against Tamils and Muslims, and past governments have failed to hold perpetrators accountable. Human Rights Watch stressed the importance of human rights Council resolutions to maintain accountability and offer hope for justice. The UN law found that previous government leaders have not

addressed accountability, with mass graves left uninvestigated and families of victims facing obstacles to justice.

Human Rights Watch further highlighted the repression of religious minorities, particularly Hindus, in the North and East, as well as Sri Lanka's high rate of enforced disappearances.

The UN mandate for investigating and accountability should be renewed for another two years to address these violations.

Children's Day: Relatives of the missing protest in Jaffna

PHOTO TEXT BY T. PRATHEEPAN

While marking Children's Day, a protest was held in front of the International Organization for Migration office in Jaffna. The protesters, holding photos of their disappeared children, demanded the government to investigate the disappearance of the disappeared and demand

justice for the missing children, shouting slogans to voice their concerns.



TENDERING PUBLIC APOLOGY

Mrs. Tanya Medical (Pvt) Ltd, a registered Private Limited Liability Company, incorporated under Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 with the registration number P23212, located at No. 174-175, Mohamed Zain Mawatha, Colombo 12, has been ordered by the Chief Magistrate Court of Colombo under case No. 97762/05/23 to put out a public apology for violating Clause No. 82(1) of National Medicine Regulations Authority Act No. 25 of 2005 for importing medical devices without an import licence and appeared and so such tender our unreserved apology to the general public of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for committing the said offence and assure not to repeat such an offence in the future.

Director
Tanya Medical (Pvt) Ltd.



With new showroom at Town Hall DSI revolutionises footwear retail experience

DSI, Sri Lanka's number one footwear brand, recently announced the opening of its newly revamped showroom at Town Hall, Colombo 7, marking a significant milestone in DSI's journey to redefine the footwear shopping experience in Sri Lanka.

The redesigned showroom features a modern, inviting interior that seamlessly blends style and functionality, offering a more immersive and engaging atmosphere for customers. With a focus on enhanced customer engagement and product visibility, the revamped showroom is set to enhance the overall shopping experience for customers while showcasing DSI's commitment to unparalleled quality.

The new showroom was opened on 12 September. Ravi Group Managing Director of DSI Samson Group Dr. Kuththunga Rajapaksa, Group Managing Director of DSI Samson Group Karim Rajapaksa, Chairman of D Samson & Sons (Pvt) Ltd, Navaratne Rajapaksa, Managing Director of D Samson & Sons (Pvt) Ltd, Thushya Rajapaksa, Director of D Samson & Sons (Pvt) Ltd, Anura Kumara, General Manager of D Samson & Sons (Pvt) Ltd, Pradeep Samarasinghe, Head of Marketing of D Samson & Sons (Pvt) Ltd, Haritha Indrasena, National Sales Manager (Retail Sector) of D Samson & Sons (Pvt) Ltd, Nimesh Weerawandana and the company's senior management, customers and well-wishers were present. DSI has been an

aggressive expansion drive over the past few years, and this is the latest in a series of new outlets and showrooms established by the company around the island. "We are excited to unveil our new showroom at Town Hall, which represents a major step forward in our mission to redefine the footwear retail experience in Sri Lanka," said Rajapaksa, MD and added, "The revamped showroom offers a more inviting and customer-centric environment, and we believe it will set a new standard for footwear retail in the country."

To celebrate the occasion, DSI is offering a range of exclusive promotions and offers for customers visiting the new showroom. Additionally, the first 100 customers will receive a complimentary national retail pass as a token of appreciation.

DSI invites all footwear enthusiasts to visit the newly revamped showroom at 525, Green Place, Colombo 7 and experience how DSI is revolutionising every step with a new look.

The repeat leader in manufacturing and retailing footwear in Sri Lanka, D Samson & Sons (Pvt) Ltd, serves as the sole distributor of a number of local footwear brands, including D Swifts, Sanga, Simons, CSC Super Sport, Best, Swift, Prolite, Port Souls, Tark, Waves, Jessica, Melissa and AFI, as well as popular international brands such as Clarks, Reebok, Reebok, Puma, Fit, U.S. Polo, Adidas, Armani, V. Modaro, bc 5, Aurelia, Aera and Vin Vello.



PM, IHC CELEBRATE 155TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Commemorating 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister, Dr. Mahinda Amarasinghe and the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Sanjeev, the participants to Mahatma Gandhi by gathering his bust at the Prime Minister's Office in Colombo on the morning of 2 October 2024.

Following the ceremony, the High Commissioner

Sanjeev was a gift from India in 2013 commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The 42 inch bronze bust of Gandhi in meditative pose was sculpted by Padma Bhushan Awarded Artist Veng Sutar. Sutar also has to his credit of sculpting the world's tallest bronze statue of Sarda Vallabhbhai Patel in Kovvady, Gujarat.



Kegalle St. Mary's Church annual feast

172nd annual feast of Kegalle St. Mary's Church on Sunday 29 September



SLT-MOBITEL offers unparalleled benefits with eSim services

SLT-MOBITEL is offering an easy and seamless way to join the network with its cutting-edge eSIM service. Powered by SLT-MOBITEL's unparalleled 4G connectivity and extensive global coverage, this proposition empowers customers to get connected with their relatives wherever they are.

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SLT-MOBITEL eSIM service is a key initiative under its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments, reducing dependencies on traditional plastic SIM cards and making customers part of its true towards building a greener future.



BY HASANNA PERERA



In today's digital landscape, where first impressions are often shaped by Google searches and social media profiles, developing a strong and cohesive personal brand is essential. With the rise of online networking, creating a distinctive presence that sets you apart from the competition is crucial. Your personal brand extends more than logos and taglines; it embodies your values, skills, and unique perspective.

A well-crafted personal brand allows you to effectively communicate who you are and what you stand for, in a crowded online environment, leading your voice and creating a brand that resonates with your target audience. It is vital for differentiating yourself in your field but also opens the door to valuable networking opportunities. Engaging with professionals in your industry through meaningful conversations can significantly expand your professional network and enhance your career prospects.

Consistency Across Platforms - Establishing consistent branding across all online platforms is essential for presenting a dependable and professional image to your audience. Whether individuals encounter you on LinkedIn, Twitter, a personal blog or your official website, they should experience uniform messaging, visuals and tone that reflect your unique brand identity. This consistency not only reinforces your brand image but also makes it easier for people to recognise and remember you. It positions you as an expert or authority in your field, allowing you to stand out in a crowded digital landscape. A distinctive and cohesive brand identity creates a lasting impression, fostering trust among your audience. Individuals are more inclined to engage with and follow someone who maintains a reliable and professional online presence.

Building a Personal Website - A personal website serves as a centralised platform for showcasing your professional achievements, skills and expertise, consistently showcasing your personal brand. It provides visitors with a comprehensive overview of who you are and what you offer, making it easier for potential employers, clients, collaborators and industry peers to understand your value. Designing a personal website shows a serious commitment to your personal brand and reflects the time and effort you have invested in establishing a polished online presence. A well-designed website not only makes a strong and positive impression but also offers a venue for showcasing insights, blog posts and other content that highlights your expertise and thought leadership in your field.

In an increasingly digital landscape, having a personal website can be an invaluable asset, setting you apart and allowing you to effectively communicate your unique story and professional journey.

PERSONAL BRANDING IN THE DIGITAL AGE: CREATING AN ONLINE PRESENCE THAT STANDS OUT

A distinctive and cohesive brand identity creates a lasting impression

For potential employers, clients, collaborators and industry peers to understand your value.

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In an increasingly digital landscape, having a personal website can be an invaluable asset, setting you apart and allowing you to effectively communicate your unique story and professional journey.

Measuring Success and Adjusting Strategies - To foster a successful personal brand in the digital landscape, it is essential to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of your branding efforts through key metrics, such as website traffic, social media engagement and audience growth. Establish clear goals and track your progress over time, allowing you to make informed adjustments to your strategies based on performance data. Identifying what works well, as well as areas needing improvement, is crucial for ongoing refinement. By continuously analysing data and insights, you can ensure that your online presence remains relevant, impactful, and memorable. Engage tools such as Google Analytics for your website and the native analytics features on social media platforms to collect valuable information and better understand your audience's behaviour and preferences.

Optimising Your Online Presence for Search Engines - In today's digital landscape, optimising your online presence for search engines is essential for expanding visibility and engaging a broader audience. Effective search engine optimisation (SEO) enhances

your chances of appearing on the first page of search engine results, which can significantly drive organic traffic to your website or social media profiles.

A strategic approach to SEO involves the incorporation of relevant keywords, the creation of high-quality content and ensuring that your website is mobile-friendly and fast-loading. By securing a top position in search results, your position yourself to be discovered by potential clients, customers or employers actively seeking your products or services.

Utilising Visual Branding - Visual branding plays a pivotal role in shaping the perception of a personal brand through elements such as logos, colour schemes, typography and imagery. A consistent and strong visual identity across various online platforms not only establishes brand recognition but also reinforces your core messages. These visual elements can evoke emotions, convey personality and differentiate a personal brand from competitors in the digital space.

Effective visual branding serves as an essential tool that engages audiences to identify and connect with the brand, fostering trust and loyalty. Aesthetically appealing content is more likely to attract attention and enhance engagement, increasing the chance of capturing a robust social following and expanding reach. Incorporating strategic visual branding into your personal branding efforts is crucial to creating an impactful and memorable online presence that stands out in today's competitive digital landscape.

Emphasising Personal Branding in Job Search - In today's competitive job market, personal branding has become a crucial element in securing employment. Employers frequently conduct online research on candidates before making hiring decisions, making it essential for job seekers to effectively showcase their unique value proposition. By thoughtfully tailoring your resume, cover letter and

online profiles, you can create a consistent personal brand that resonates with your career goals and aspirations.

Strategically curating your digital footprint not only enhances your visibility among potential recruiters and hiring managers but also positions you as a thought leader and subject expert within your field. Highlighting your expertise, accomplishments and professional registration through your online presence can significantly improve your chances of attracting opportunities in specific industries, roles or companies of interest. By emphasising your personal branding in your job search, you leverage your individuality to stand out in a crowded marketplace, aligning your professional persona with your desired career trajectory.

Conclusion - Mastering personal branding in the digital age surpasses mere self-promotion; it entails cultivating a genuine online presence that authentically reflects your values and aspirations. By prioritising authenticity, consistency and strategic engagement, you can establish a distinctive niche within the digital landscape, positioning yourself as a thought leader and a trusted voice in your field.

To maintain a relevant and compelling online presence, it is essential to continuously evaluate and refine your branding strategies. With a thoughtful approach, you can create an identity that not only stands out but also facilitates the achievement of your personal and professional objectives. Recognise that personal branding is a dynamic process that necessitates ongoing effort and adaptation. Stay true to your core values, embrace continuous learning and remain receptive to new opportunities and goals.

About the Author
Hasanna Perera, Marketing and Management Consultant, Corporate Trainer and Senior Lecturer

BY CARMEN MORENO AND VIBHENDRA SHARAN

On 23 September, we celebrate the International Day of Awareness for Food Loss and Waste Reduction, a reminder of the urgent need to transition from an extractive, consume, and manage food.

Usually, we produce enough food to feed everyone. However, nearly a third of the food we produce is lost or wasted every year - 1.2 billion MT of food, costing the global economy nearly USD 342 billion. This represents a significant waste of precious resources such as land, water, energy, labour and capital. Today, the world uses 1.4 billion hectares of arable land and 24 per cent of available freshwater to grow food that will never be eaten. If there's a food waste in a country, it would be the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, contributing nearly 10 per cent to global emissions. Just to give some perspective, blowing away one burger takes the same amount of water as a 90-minute shower, and a head of wheat can take up to 25 years to decompose in a landfill.

Sri Lanka's agricultural sector is a major contributor to the economy of the country but it has suffered over the years due to climate change, economic instability, inflation and lack of investment, among other factors. The economic crisis has exacerbated existing problems and contributed to a sharp increase in food insecurity for the people of Sri Lanka. At the same time, significant numbers of food are lost and wasted at various points along the supply chain. Moreover, single-use plastics (SUPs) remain a growing environmental threat, particularly within the food sector. Addressing all these challenges requires a comprehensive policy shift towards a circular economy.

In Sri Lanka, Team Europe, including the European Union and its member states, is supporting a policy shift to improve waste and zero management in food systems. The European Union is providing 15 million euros, and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is providing 1 million euros for the "Circular Economy in the Food Sector" (CIRCULAR) Project, implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with Team

Joint Op-Ed Marking International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction Team Europe and UN in support of a circular food system in Sri Lanka

Reducing food waste is not just a moral imperative; it is an economic necessity, especially when millions around the world face food insecurity



Europe members, Expertise France (EF) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Food Economy. The Project aims to drive transformative change in the agri-food system by promoting circular economy principles.

Rethinking Food Systems: The Circular Economy Approach

The circular economy reimagines how we produce, distribute and consume our products, to minimise loss and waste, but also to regenerate our resources, land, water and energy, and to improve access to safe and healthy food for all consumers.

When we think of food systems, we can see how a linear economy has devastating effects on food security and safety, depletes resources, pollutes water and soil with a negative impact on yield and production. Inevitable use of chemicals in the cultivation and processing of food products provides a substantial loss of nutritious content,

increases the need for packaging and transport and the final cost to consumers. All this leads to an increased amount of waste and loss of food at different stages of the supply and distribution chain and contributes to increased food insecurity.

In a circular economy, products are consumed but also can be repaired, reused and recycled to minimise loss and waste. A circular economy seeks to create value in by-products, or waste, that otherwise will be discarded and lost. These by-products and waste can be used to regenerate the soil, deplete soils and regenerate the health of consumers. They can also be used to produce new innovative products, related to energy, packaging, or materials to supply to other industries. Through the CIRCULAR programme, we aim to harness this approach in the agricultural sector to reduce waste, improve food security and contribute to sustainable development goals, particularly SDG 12.3 and SDG 2.1.

The Project focuses on two key areas: First, recovery and redistribution of safe, edible food that would otherwise go to waste, benefiting vulnerable communities and enhancing the resilience of local food producers. Second, supporting the adoption of sustainable models of food production, distribution and consumption, while addressing the environmental challenges posed by single-use plastics in food packaging.

What This Means for Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka stands at a critical juncture. In the wake of recent economic crises and the devastating effects of climate

change, the country is in need of innovative solutions to build resilience in its food systems. The CIRCULAR initiative will focus on three districts - Colombo, Nuwara Eliya, and Galle - providing data-driven assessments of food loss and waste, to support its reduction and job social economic and technological innovations for the recovery of surplus food and conversion of bio-waste into valuable products like compost and bio-gas.

This Project is not just about stopping food loss and waste; it is about creating a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food system. It will support the adoption of digital tools to help all actors along the food chain to better identify, understand and address the root causes of waste. This will support authorities to design and enforce policies and govern in local communities to apply technical knowledge and innovative solutions to produce healthier and more nutritious food and regenerate and preserve resources while ensuring their safe addition, access to finance and markets. The Project will also contribute to the recovery and reuse of food waste to improve access to food and food security of the most vulnerable communities and to reduce the environmental impact of the food supply chain.

A Call to Action

As we celebrate the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, we must understand that this is a global challenge that affects all of us and we must all contribute to its solution. Whether we are policy-makers, consumers of food products, the choices we make can help shape a more

sustainable future. Reducing food waste is not just a moral imperative, it is an economic necessity, especially when millions around the world face food insecurity.

Team Europe and FAO are committed to supporting Sri Lanka citizens, food producers and policymakers on this journey to embrace a circular economy in the food and agriculture sector. However, this transformation requires the participation of all stakeholders - from farmers and businesses to consumers and local government. We invite everyone to contribute with their efforts to reduce food loss and waste while building a more resilient food system and ensuring that every Sri Lankan has access to safe and nutritious food.

Today's food insecurity and climate change make it imperative that we all understand the complexity and severity of the problems associated with food loss and waste. Reducing loss and waste is essential to ensure a sustainable future for all of us.

CIRCULAR opens a new and exciting opportunity for Sri Lanka's sustainable development. By embracing a circular economy, Sri Lanka can reduce food waste, protect its environment and strengthen its food systems, while improving the health of consumers and protecting the most vulnerable in its population. Together, we can create a future where food is valued, resources are regenerated and preserved and no one is left behind.

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Will Justice Prevail for Political Prisoners?

In what may be seen as a defining moment in Sri Lanka's political landscape, the newly elected President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's administration made a bold announcement during its inaugural Cabinet media briefing. The government, led by the National People's Power (NPP), has pledged to take immediate steps towards releasing political prisoners after the forthcoming General Election, a promise that resonates with both hope and complexity.

Cabinet Spokesperson Minister Vijith Herath, who presented the government's position, professional that the legal framework required for such a move already exists. The Ministry of Justice will assess the facts of each case to ensure the process is carried out fairly. It is a decision taken with political, legal and moral implications. Releasing political prisoners is a pledge that could define the new administration's stance on justice and reconciliation in a country still healing from decades of internal conflict.

The issue of political prisoners in Sri Lanka has been a long-standing one, with roots tracing back to the country's 30 year civil war between the government and the LTTE. Although the war ended in 2009, many individuals remain in prison, accused of terrorism-related activities. These individuals include those detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), a law criticized by human rights organizations for its broad scope and potential for misuse. Human Rights Watch has described the PTA as having been used for arbitrary arrests, prolonged detentions without trial.

For years, human rights advocates have called for the release of these prisoners, arguing that many have been unfairly detained without formal charges or trials. Some have languished in prison for years; even decades, in legal limbo, raising questions about the ethical and legal justifications for their continued imprisonment. Families of the detainees have long decried the lack of due process, while civil society groups point to the violation of basic human rights.

However, implementing this policy is where the real challenge lies. While the government appears to have a clear position, the specifics of how these political prisoners will be assessed and released remain somewhat vague. How will the Ministry of Justice determine who qualifies for release, and what safeguards will be in place to prevent the misuse of this policy?

The legal machinery in Sri Lanka is often slow-moving, hindered by bureaucracy and delays. There will undoubtedly be concerns that it will prove to release political prisoners may become entangled in red tape or face opposition from various factions within the country. Indeed, the release of political prisoners is a polarizing issue. While some see it as an essential step towards healing old wounds, others argue it could undermine the country's national security.

While most numbers of political prisoners are civil society groups estimate that around 100 of those detained under PTA could be considered political prisoners - individuals held for their political beliefs, affiliations, or alleged involvement in political violence, often without substantial evidence.

The potential release of even a fraction of these detainees could have a significant impact on the prison system, alleviating overcrowding while addressing a long-standing grievance among human rights advocates. However, it will also be crucial to ensure that those released are reintegrated into society effectively, a process that will require substantial and support services.

The pledge by President Dissanayake's government to release political prisoners signals a new era for Sri Lanka. It is an opportunity to right the wrongs of the past, and perhaps more importantly, to start the process of national reconciliation. Yet, the success of this initiative will depend on its execution. How effectively the Ministry of Justice can review each case, the transparency of the process, and the potential backlash from political opponents are all factors that will determine whether this policy becomes a historical milestone or a missed opportunity.

It is also essential for the government to engage in open dialogue with all stakeholders, including human rights organizations, civil society groups, and the families of the detainees. By doing so, they can ensure that the release of political prisoners is not just a political gesture, but a genuine step towards justice and reconciliation.



PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

BY SUSEEWANA SENADHIRA.

Since the 1931 State Council elections, Sri Lanka followed the Westminster system of electing the parliament to elect the people's representatives. This changed under the Second Republican Constitution of 1978 by introducing the proportional representation (PR) system, which offers a compelling alternative to traditional majoritarian electoral systems. The PR system has established a more inclusive and representative political environment.

However, it comes with its own set of challenges. The potential for gerrymandering and representation can lead to a more engaged electorate and a healthier democracy. As countries continue to debate the merits of different electoral systems, the comparative and proportional representation remains a vital aspect of the quest for democratic reform.

The PR system is an electoral system designed to ensure that political parties gain seats in the legislature in proportion to the number of votes they receive. Unlike majoritarian systems, where winning a majority is crucial, PR aims to reflect the diverse political spectrum within a society.

When the principles of proportional representation, its advantages and disadvantages, and its implementation across various countries are examined, it becomes clear that the benefits of the system outweigh the drawbacks.

At its core, proportional representation is based on the idea that every vote should have equal weight in influencing legislative outcomes. This is often achieved through various electoral systems.

President J. R. Jayewardene's initial intention was to introduce a Party List System, where voters select a party rather than individual candidates. Parties are then allocated seats based on the proportion of votes they receive. He thought this would be advantageous to his United National Party (UNP). Interestingly, Pt. Jayaratne Weerasinghe Perumala (JWP) the head of the ruling alliance National People's Power (NPP)



also indirectly endorses the system when they call upon the people to vote for the party rather than individual candidates listed by the party.

The current system in operation is the Single Transferable Vote (STV) under which voters rank candidates in order of preference. Candidates are elected through a quota system and votes are redistributed based on preferences, allowing for more nuanced representation.

The most ideal system for Sri Lanka would be the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system, which has been proposed by the Parliamentary Select Committee headed by former Prime Minister Deshay Senewiratna, with the participation of all the parties represented in Parliament. It is a hybrid system that combines elements of both first past the post and proportional representation, allowing voters to cast two votes - one for a candidate and another for a party.

Some countries have adopted Greater Representation, whereby PR systems typically result in a legislature that mirrors the electorate's political diversity. Smaller parties and minority groups are more likely to gain representation, promoting inclusivity.

The main advantage of the PR system is that it fosters the development of multiple political parties, preventing the dominance of a single party and encouraging coalition governments. This can lead to more stable and representative political outcomes.

Some countries have adopted Greater Representation, whereby PR systems typically result in a legislature that mirrors the electorate's political diversity. Smaller parties and minority groups are more likely to gain representation, promoting inclusivity.

The PR system has broadened people's representation, as fewer votes go unrepresented. Parties that receive a small percentage of the vote can still gain seats, making every vote count. Thus it enhances voter engagement, as when voters become aware that their votes matter, they may be more likely to participate in elections, potentially increasing voter turnout.

At the same time, there are several disadvantages of the PR system. PR systems can be more complex and than majoritarian systems, leading to voter confusion. This was evident in last month's presidential election when a substantial number of votes were rejected due to faulty markings.

In the PR system, the intricacies of counting votes and forming coalitions can be daunting for the electorate. While coalitions can lead to more

representative governments, they can also result in instability. Frequent negotiations between parties may lead to deadlock or compromise that dilutes the original policy goals.

In some cases, PR can lead to the emergence of many small parties, complicating governance and making it difficult to form a majority coalition. Smaller, fringe parties may gain representation, which could enable extreme views to enter mainstream politics, affecting policy outcomes.

It is interesting to analyze a few examples across the globe to see the advantages and disadvantages of the PR system. Countries worldwide have adopted various forms of proportional representation, each reflecting its unique political landscape.

Sweden employs a party-list system that effectively represents the electorate's diverse preferences, leading to a multi-party system that often results in coalition governments.

Germany's Mixed Member Proportional system allows voters to support both a candidate and a party, balancing local representation with proportionality.

New Zealand transitioned from a first-past-the-post system to MMP in 1996, resulting in a more balanced representation of smaller parties and increased voter participation.

Norway had a first-past-the-post system, but it has a very interesting feature in its Constitution that bans and bans 200-member elections. This compels the winning party to form either a single-party government or a coalition for the entire four-year period of the Parliament. This coalition was in place from 2002 to 2005 and was an agreement to the parliamentary election in Norway in which no party could gain a majority. The two leading parties refused to enter into an alliance and King Harald created the minority party leader, Kjell Magne Bondevik, to form the government. Bondevik had only 17 seats in Parliament but managed to run the government for the entire four-year period, with his consensus approach, which earned him support from all the parties, including the two most powerful ones in Parliament.

Ceylon Today

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EXCHANGE RATES

02.10.2024

Currency	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
Australian Dollar	198.8279	208.8571
Canadian Dollar	213.7913	223.4846
Chinese Yuan (Renminbi)	43.5209	43.9560
Euro	378.7560	388.0021
Japanese Yen	2.9069	2.9894
Singapore Dollar	222.7771	234.3290
Swedish Krona	384.2800	394.2260
Taiwan Dollar	340.2158	356.8131
US Dollar	340.2158	356.8131

Currency	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
Bahrain	Bahraini Dinar	134.1474
Kuwait	Kuwaiti Dinar	947.8218
Oman	Omani Rial	787.8386
Qatar	Qatari Riyal	81.9102
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabian Riyal	78.7989
UAE	UAE Dirham	80.4849

www.csb

CBSL sells full complement of T-Bills, 2nd week

BY DANETHA AMERSEKERE

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) sold the full complement of its Treasury bills offered across the three tenures in question for the second consecutive market week at yesterday's weekly T-bill auction. The value of the full complement of T-bills sold yesterday was Rs 142,590 million.

The sales included the 91-day maturity, which saw 110.87 per cent of the 72,000 million sold compared to its original offer of Rs 60,000 million, and the 182-day maturity, with its 67,500 million (100 per cent) sold at yesterday's auction.

However, yield pressure forced CBSL to sell only 29.35 per cent (Rs 2,835 million) of the benchmark 364-day maturity offered at yesterday's auction. Yesterday also marked the eleventh consecutive market week in which only a fraction of the 364-day maturity originally offered was sold in the market.

Consequently, the WRF (Weighted Average Yield) of the 364-day maturity experienced slight decline for the second consecutive market week, slipping to 10.54 per cent this week on week (down to 10.54 per cent, while the WRF of the 91-day maturity fell slightly by 26 bps to 10.33 per cent. The 182-day maturity also saw its WRF fall slightly by 33 bps to 10.21 per cent, marking the second consecutive market week of decline.

A market watcher remains in which the WRF of the 364-day maturity is smaller than that of the other two maturities. WRFs for the third consecutive market day. Yesterday also marked the fourth consecutive market week in which the WRF of the 364-day maturity has been smaller than that of the 182-day maturity.

FINANCE TODAY

Debt Restructuring Delay Risks Banking Sector Re-Rating

ECONOMIC RECOVERY EASES NPL PRESSURE, LOAN GROWTH RISKS RISE -FCR

BY DANETHA AMERSEKERE

Sri Lanka's banking sector's net interest margin (NIM) rose to a four-year high (10.2) last week across the sector in the first half (H1) of the year but continues to remain lower on a year-on-year (YoY) basis, backed by higher rates that prevailed during 2023/23. First Capital Research (FCR) warned in a recent sector research report.

Regarding the country's ongoing external debt restructuring, FCR further cautioned, "Having agreed in principle on conditions related to ECR, Sri Lanka is currently on the verge of achieving debt sustainability. However, the agreed deal needs to be processed for comparability by the Official Creditor Committee (OCC), which includes the Paris Club, and an MOU needs to be signed as the final stage with all related parties."

Given Sri Lanka's sensitive position, we believe the timely-updated President may look to complete the debt restructuring endeavour and focus on improving and passing much-needed reforms anticipated by the people. However, the task also lies in the event the deal is delayed or delayed, where uncertainty surrounding international sovereign bonds (SIBs) could impact and affect the re-rating of the banking sector," it warned.

On page-FCR said, "The suspension of private execution poses challenges for banks in recovering their non-performing loan (NPL) assets. Furthermore, the suspension also poses a risk due to the relatively higher spreads maintained by banks to mitigate the general threats of NPLs, which is hindering their loan growth. However, we believe there is a good chance that the suspension of private will be lifted on 15 December 2024, given that the economy is in a recovery trajectory and loan growth is vital to the absence of monetary stimulus from the Government."

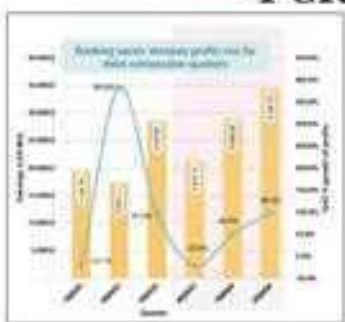
FCR further noted that the pressure from "Stage 2 NPL" on banks' balance sheets continued to ease as the economy recovers. However, the expansion of loan books may add pressure to NPLs, backed by the conservative stance maintained by banks, it

warned. On a selective review of loans, FCR said that despite a slight slowdown in credit card volumes and transactions during the first quarter (Q1) of 2024, credit card transactions have witnessed a resurgence, buoyed by the low interest rate environment and a recovery in trade.

FCR also mentioned that Sri Lanka's non-financial sector showed notable growth (14.1 per cent YoY) in 2023/24, driven by a favourable business environment and the resumption of large-scale infrastructure projects after a two-year suspension.

"Despite the expansion, the sector faces challenges with a shortage of skilled workers and ongoing employment contraction, though optimism remains high due to the increasing pipeline of projects and declining material costs," it said.

On a positive note, FCR reported that key government agencies like the Road (Roads) Revenue Department, OMT (Department of Motor Traffic), and Customs aim to improve their operating income this year. "Banking sector trading volumes, from a low base, resulted an over two-year high in Q1/24 due to accelerated economic growth coupled with increased usage of the internet and smart devices," FCR added. "Growth of equities and equities is being fueled by economic expansion and a rebound in global trade, as global GDP is expected to recover," FCR further said.



Employers' Federation of Ceylon congratulates President AKD EFC urges President to lead Labour Law Reforms

The Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC), issuing a media statement yesterday (2nd), congratulated and extended its best wishes to Anura Kumara Dissanayake on his election as the 18th Executive President of Sri Lanka.

The EFC, established in 1925 is an organization of employers dealing with labour, employment, and social policy in Sri Lanka. Today, it is the principal organization of employers promoting employer interests at the national level.

Considering the highly competitive investment business environment to operate at, it is the EFC's call on the President to initiate labour law reforms that will promote investment, create new and better job opportunities, strengthen social

security, and create an enabling environment for employers and employees to realize the full potential of the modern world of work.

While transforming labour law, the EFC also emphasizes the importance of recognizing the digital transformation taking place in the world of work and calls for the creation of an enabling environment to foster economic growth, ensuring the national economy remains competitive and sustainable.

The EFC extends its best wishes to President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and assures its commitment to providing initiatives and policies to achieve social harmony through productive employment.

Stocks fall after 11 days

BY DANETHA AMERSEKERE

Domestic investor profit-taking saw the benchmark ASPL fall by 0.49 per cent to 11,934.23 points, and the more sensitive S&P 3L 20 index decline by 0.21 per cent to 3,310.01 points on a Rs 2.30 billion turnover at yesterday's (Wednesday) stock market trading.

However, on the immediately preceding market day, Monday (1), the stock market, which had gained for 11 consecutive market days, also hit a three-and-a-half-month high. The increase in shareholder wealth, which reached the 400-billion-rupiah barrier on Friday (27 September), coinciding with IMF leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake's Presidential Inauguration on Saturday (27 September), further propelled the S&P 3L to 4,468.88 billion (Rs 446 billion).

Complementing these developments, stocks leading to and subsequent to Dissanayake's win last Saturday had gained for the eleventh consecutive market day to Tuesday, after more than five-and-a-half months of preliminary trading.

Nonetheless, the last time the benchmark ASPL hit a higher value than yesterday's figure of 11,934.23 points was on 18th April 2024, when the ASPL reached 12,006.22 points. Meanwhile, prior to Tuesday, the last time the stock market enjoyed net foreign inflows (NFI) was on 28th March 2024 to 10th April 2024, encompassing a total of 11 consecutive market days.

However, the stock market suffered a net foreign outflow (NFO) for the third consecutive market day yesterday, this time by Rs 53.49 million, increasing the total NFOs to four outflows in the calendar year to date by Rs 6.83 billion. In contrast, in the same period last year, the stock market enjoyed net foreign inflows (NFI) totaling Rs 3.44 billion, statistics showed.

'Spot' falls after 7 days

The benchmark 'spot', which generally made steep gains towards the end of last month (September 2024) due to banks' account finalisation, export conversions, and other foreign exchange (FX) conversions, nonetheless fell slightly at yesterday's (Wednesday) trading market closing, hit 'Finance Today'.

Consequently, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka's (CBSL) resumption of FX buying from banks after a seven-month dry hiatus saw the 'spot' drop relatively by between 0.31 and 0.35 per cent. DO ends at Rs 1.165 to the trading of Rs 295,302.50 to the US dollar in two-way quotes in the interbank FX market yesterday (see table).

However, for seven consecutive market days up to Tuesday (1), the 'spot' had sharply gained by between 3.36 and 4.43 per cent (Rs 10.28 and Rs 13.85) against the dollar in two-way quotes, resulting a near 10-month high, trading at Rs 295,562.245 to the dollar in two-way quotes.

A strong 'spot' rally mitigates near-push inflationary pressure in Sri Lanka on an export-dependent economy, whereas the reverse is true with a weak 'spot'. CBSL, said FX from banks to strengthen the country's foreign reserves as per IMF structures, but in its absence, the 'spot' strengthens due to no-demand from the market, sustained by the high cost of living (COL), complemented by high levels and utility rates imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) due to no IMF disbursements. However, market demand for FX is negative for the country's growth prospects.

Meanwhile, CBSL's resumption of purchases from the interbank FX market yesterday coincides with an IMF staff visit to the country, with the IMF representatives arriving in Sri Lanka yesterday. Nonetheless, due to such stock market demand for dollars (FX), the 'spot', in the calendar year to yesterday (year to date) and year on year (YoY) in yesterday, has strengthened sharply by between 8.87 and 8.82 per cent (Rs 28.10 and to 27.90) and by between 9.59 and 8.95 per cent (Rs 27.60 and to 26.20) to the dollar in two-way quotes, respectively. The 'spot' ended last year at Rs 304,024.25 to the dollar in two-way quotes, while a year ago, it was trading at Rs 323,303.93 to the dollar in two-way quotes.

Yesterday, CBSL, strengthened the guided indicative 'spot' for the sixth consecutive market day, this time sharply, by 0.23 per cent (Rs 1.50) to Rs 292.82 to the dollar, data showed. A year ago, the indicative 'spot' was also strengthened sharply by 0.23 per cent (Rs 0.92) to Rs 302.82 to the dollar. Year on year to yesterday, the indicative 'spot' has been sharply strengthened by 8.20 per cent (Rs 21.90) to the dollar.

CBSL, the strength of 'spot' and other foreign reserves, 'deals in 'spot'. 'Spot' trades are settled two market days after the date of trading. The value of the 'spot' approximates inversely to the value of the rate in the interbank FX market.

Dialog Axiata appoints Vish Govindasamy as an Independent, Non-Executive Director

Dialog Axiata PLC, on Tuesday, announced the appointment of Vish Govindasamy to its Board as an Independent, Non-Executive Director, effective from 1 October 2024.

Govindasamy currently serves as an Executive, Non-Independent Director at both SunLife Holdings PLC and Metawala Plantations PLC. At SunLife Holdings PLC, he holds the role of Deputy Chairman and serves on the Boards of several subsidiaries of SunLife Holdings PLC and Metawala Plantations PLC. Furthermore, he serves as an Independent, Non-Executive Director at SunLife Life Insurance PLC, TFL Lanka Hotels PLC, United Motors Lanka PLC, and the WFO Silver Series Foundation.

Beyond the corporate sector, Govindasamy has made significant contributions to Sri Lanka's economy. He is a member of the Governing Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and has served as the immediate Past Chairman of the Export Chamber of Commerce, as well as a former Chairman of the Employees' Federation of Ceylon.

Govindasamy holds an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Hartford, USA. Additionally, he is a Fellow of the Institute of Certified Professional Managers in Sri Lanka.



Vish Govindasamy

INSURERS MUST EVOLVE INTO PROACTIVE HEALTH PARTNERS - DR. WARDS

Dr. Christian Wards, AIA, Director of Group Health, recently addressed the Sri Lanka International Insurance Summit 2024 held at Shangri-La Colombo. The summit, themed "Insurance: A Role in a Changing Economy," focused on the intersection of health, technology, and global industry trends. Dr. Wards, who has over 25 years of international experience in healthcare, including health insurance, health care provision, and health services, shared his valuable insights on "The Future of Medical Insurance with Emerging Regional Trends and



Digital adoption, has presented a highly regulated industry, involving the shift towards value-based healthcare, the growing importance of digital solutions, and a need for health care management and the

integration of health insurance with healthcare providers to deliver enhanced customer experiences. Dr. Wards highlighted the importance of digital solutions and a need for health care management and the integration of health insurance with healthcare providers to deliver enhanced customer experiences. Dr. Wards highlighted the importance of digital solutions and a need for health care management and the integration of health insurance with healthcare providers to deliver enhanced customer experiences.

LPEC Campus wins Best Educational Institution Award 2024



LPEC Campus, a leading institution in Sri Lanka's education sector, was honored as the Best Educational Institution at the Sri Lanka Education Awards 2024. This accolade recognizes LPEC's dedication to academic excellence, innovative teaching methods, and holistic student development. The award acknowledges the campus's commitment to nurturing future professionals and empowering students to excel in their chosen fields. With a modern curriculum and state-of-the-art facilities, LPEC Campus has established itself as a premier in higher education, setting a new benchmark in the field. A key player in developing professionals for Sri Lanka's workforce, LPEC Campus has produced over 100,000 diploma holders in its 34-year history. The campus has partnered with SOFTEC, a Supply-Driven Government Institution, to ensure its graduates are industry-ready.

LPEC Campus is a UK-accredited institution offering University Grants Commission (UGC) approved degrees in collaboration with Cambodia's PSB University and Sri Lanka State University of Science and Technology (SLUST). Situated in Sri Lanka's LPEC Campus (Sri Lanka) provides a range of continuously and internationally recognized programs, including Diploma, Degree, Special Degree, and Post Graduate programs, designed to meet the needs of the modern job market. The campus offers diverse courses covering areas including Human Resource Management, Executive Human Resource Management, Business Management, Marketing Management, Psychology and Counseling, Law, Information Technology, English Language, and Business Administration.

Lasith Nanayakkara appointed as new CIO at NSB

National Savings Bank (NSB) has appointed Lasith Nanayakkara as its new Deputy General Manager - IT / Chief Information Officer (CIO), effective from 01 October 2024. He succeeds Dr. Amal Manjula, who recently retired after over 17 years of dedicated service to the bank.

Nanayakkara brings over 25 years of experience in the banking and finance sector to the role. Prior to joining NSB, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer at National Trust Bank PLC, Sri Lanka. With extensive expertise in both local and international banking, he has a strong background in digital transformation and IT modernization. His leadership is expected to enhance NSB's technological capabilities and improve customer experiences in an increasingly digital banking environment.

Lasith Nanayakkara has a strong background in digital transformation and IT modernization. His leadership is expected to enhance NSB's technological capabilities and improve customer experiences in an increasingly digital banking environment.



02.10.2024 DAILY SHARE PRICES

SECURITY	VOLUME	Y.S.A.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	Y.S.A. CLOSE	CHANGE %	SECURITY	VOLUME	Y.S.A.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	Y.S.A. CLOSE	CHANGE %	SECURITY	VOLUME	Y.S.A.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	Y.S.A. CLOSE	CHANGE %
ADAMSON	100	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		ADAMSON	100	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		ADAMSON	100	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	

LOOK

www.ceylontoday.lk



A must-go stall at Colombo International Book Fair 2024 FIRST-EVER STALL OF SRI LANKAN WAR LITERATURE BY ARMY VETERANS

By Piyani Premaratne

The Colombo International Book Fair 2024, currently being held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMIC) in Colombo from 27 September to 5 October, has not failed to surprise readers for the 25th consecutive year. Right at the entrance, one such surprise is clearly visible: the stall on Sri Lankan war literature, organised by the Sri Lanka Army, which marks the first time in the history of the book fair.

The goal is a soldier's familiar tool: the battlefield is their arena to showcase their talents. Sri Lankan society's perception, attitudes have their own opportunities to invest in their ambitions. However, it would be unfair to conclude that they would not excel in the field of literature with an understanding like a jet. It is true that some of the events, poetry collections, and documentaries presented to the readership at this first ever Sri Lankan war literature stall have not even been properly drafted from pen to paper. Some works originate from the walls of bunkers and autobiographies of diary entries from army soldiers. Most of the recipients recruited are true stories from



synthesises who witnessed the real brutality of the Sri Lankan civil war which engulfed the beauty of the island for nearly 30 years. Stemming from the soldiers' own experiences, the works are primarily based on their worst fears, fears remained unknown to civil society for years. "This stall, full of works from Army officials, is specifically designed to offer the stereotypical view of civil society towards the Army, and to demonstrate that the soldier behind the seamless gun is still a sensible person," shared Lieutenant Colonel Sujith Chandrabalan, while endorsing on the purpose of the stall.

"The emergence of war literature is characteristic of any post-war society, and Sri Lanka is gradually witnessing its growth. Thus, "This stall marks a

milestone in the emerging war literature," Lieutenant Colonel Edirisinghe added. Furthermore, it serves as a vital source of knowledge about the history of Sri Lanka, providing a candid view of the 30-year civil war through the experiences of Army veterans who saw, heard, and felt the chaos firsthand. Moreover, the stall is not merely a book stall but a place with many authors exhibiting commencing the significant events of the 30-year Sri Lankan civil war. If you still haven't checked out the stall, do drop by to enjoy a novel experience while appreciating the white skills of our beloved soldiers alongside their duty to the nation.

By J. Weeraratne

Vidarshana Literary Prize 2024 Latest Addition to Sri Lanka's Literary Landscape



By YUJESHA KAMINARATNE

The Vidarshana Literary Prize is a brand new literary award ceremony that has just emerged this year. This celebration of Sri Lankan literature is organised under the aegis of the Vidarshana Publishing House, guided by its proprietor, Jaseka Manankada. Prizes are awarded to the best translations that have not yet been published in Sinhala. The organisers hope that this prize will boost the literary reading culture of the country by helping manuscripts move from the printing stage to the published stage thereby gaining greater social interest in the creative works of writers.

An esteemed panel of evaluators, including Prof. Prabha Manaratne, Ragnipriya Perera, Vidarshana Kanchangara, Dr. Tudy Manaratne, Animesha Rajakumar, Arshika Herathasinghe, Dr. Sunil Wijerewardene, Dr. Rajarathna Wijerewardene, Ragnipriya Manaratne, Weerasinghe (Joz) Harshana, Sandeepananda, Jeyaraj Manaratne, and Prof. Saranika Perera, evaluated the submissions.

Many writers from across the country submitted their work in categories such as Sinhala Novel, Sinhala Short Story Collections, Sinhala Poetry Collections, and Translations into English from Sinhala during the first quarter of this year. Recently, the award ceremony took place celebrating all the longlisted and shortlisted writers.

ඉගැන්වීම: මෙහිදී ප්‍රචලිතව පවතින සිංහල සාහිත්‍ය කෘතීන්වලින් සිංහල සාහිත්‍යයට පිටුපසට පරිවර්තනය කිරීම.

සම්මාන: සෑම දරුවකුට

ඉගැන්වීම: මෙහිදී ප්‍රචලිතව පවතින සිංහල සාහිත්‍ය කෘතීන්වලින් සිංහල සාහිත්‍යයට පිටුපසට පරිවර්තනය කිරීම.

සම්මාන: සෑම දරුවකුට

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ඉගැන්වීම: මෙහිදී ප්‍රචලිතව පවතින සිංහල සාහිත්‍ය කෘතීන්වලින් සිංහල සාහිත්‍යයට පිටුපසට පරිවර්තනය කිරීම.

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ඉගැන්වීම: මෙහිදී ප්‍රචලිතව පවතින සිංහල සාහිත්‍ය කෘතීන්වලින් සිංහල සාහිත්‍යයට පිටුපසට පරිවර්තනය කිරීම.

සම්මාන: සෑම දරුවකුට

Best Sci-Fi of All Time

Here are ten of the best science fiction books that have captivated readers and stood the test of time:



Dune by Frank Herbert

Set in a distant future amidst a huge interstellar empire, Dune follows Paul Atreides as he navigates political intrigue and ecological challenges on the desert planet Arrakis, the only source of the valuable spice melange.



1984 by George Orwell

This dystopian novel presents a chilling vision of a totalitarian regime that uses surveillance, propaganda, and thought control to maintain power. The story follows Winston Smith, who begins to question the Party's oppressive rule.



Neuromancer by William Gibson

A seminal work in the cyberpunk genre, Neuromancer tells the story of Case, a washed-up computer hacker hired for one last job: to infiltrate a powerful artificial intelligence. The novel explores themes of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and cybernetics.



The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin

This novel is set on the planet Gethen, where inhabitants can change gender. It follows the journey of Genly Ai, an envoy from Earth, as he navigates the complex social and political landscape of Gethen and forms a deep bond with a native named Estraven.



Foundation by Isaac Asimov

The first book in Asimov's Foundation series, it introduces Hari Sheldon, a mathematician who develops psychohistory, a method to predict the future of large populations. Sheldon establishes the Foundation to preserve knowledge and shorten the impending dark age.



Snow Crash by Neal Stephenson

In a future America fragmented into corporate-controlled city-states, Max Protoper, a hacker and pizza delivery driver, uncovers a conspiracy involving a new drug called Snow Crash that affects both the virtual and real worlds.



Hyperion by Dan Simmons

Structured as a series of interconnected tales, Hyperion follows seven pilgrims on a journey to the distant world of Hyperion. Each pilgrim tells their story, revealing their connection to the mysterious and deadly Shrike.



The Three-Body Problem by Liu Cixin

This hard science fiction novel begins during China's Cultural Revolution and spans centuries. It explores humanity's first contact with an alien civilization from the Trisolaris system, whose unstable planetary environment drives them to seek a new home.



Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Set in a future society driven by technological advancements and consumerism, the novel explores themes of conformity, control, and the loss of individuality. The story follows Bernard Marx and John the Savage as they grapple with the implications of this engineered utopia.



The Martian by Andy Weir

This gripping survival story follows astronaut Mark Watney, who is stranded on Mars after a mission goes wrong. With his ingenuity and engineering skills, Watney struggles to survive and communicate with Earth for a potential rescue.

(Bing)

A Glowing Tribute to His Centenary Birthday

VIDYAJYOTHI DR. RAJA DE SILVA: ONE OF THE NATION'S GREATEST AND MOST CHERISHED ARCHAEOLOGISTS

By ANURAGHA DALLEWE WIJERATNE

Dr. Raja de Silva, B.Sc. (Ceyl.), B.Sc. (Lond.), D.Phil (Oxford) is a specialist Graduate in Chemistry from the Universities of Ceylon and London. He was appointed to the Archaeological Department in 1948 and December the first Scientist in its cadre. He trained for two years in the Archaeological Survey of India from December 1951. From 1962 to 1983, he was in charge of the new service for the conservation of cultural property and restorative material culture. He obtained his Postgraduate Qualifications at the University of Oxford after researching the technical aspects of art history after 18 years as Assistant Commissioner of Archaeology. He was appointed Archaeological Commissioner in 1967 and his appointment in 1979. From 1979 to 1988, he was Advisor to the Archaeological Department in the Conservation of Cultural Property. He is the author of many academic publications including the book *Sigiriya and its Significance*.

Memories of Flower Road

During my early childhood, in the 1950s, we lived at Appachchi's private residence at 32/B, Flower Road, Colombo 7. Among Appachchi's friends who often visited at Flower Road were Uncle Raja (Dr. Raja de Silva), Uncle Maha (J. H. Mahipala), leader of the Buddhist Janata Samawajaya (Dr. Udaya Chandra De Silva), Uncle Gokulabura (J. then Commissioner of Archaeology), Uncle Rama (Rajasekera de Silva), later Cabinet Minister of Finance, Uncle Rajapaksa (Gajapada Rajapaksa), and Uncle Rajapaksa (Gajapada Rajapaksa). During this time, in addition to the government service official duties, Appachchi edited and published a Sinhala newspaper, *Sakamini* (Sakamini), which provided the necessary funds and staff for its smooth operations which were carried out from our home. The facts and contents for the newspaper editorial were contributed by Appachchi's close friends, including Uncle Raja, who often came to our house for the Buddhist Janata Samawajaya (Janta Samawajaya) meetings which were held every Sunday evening.

Restoration of Sigiriya

One day in 1967, Uncle Charles Dr. Charles Gajapada Rajapaksa (then Commissioner of Archaeology) suddenly came to our home at Flower Road which he was an archaeologist. He mentioned that a national crisis, which was noted as a great cultural tragedy in Ceylon in the 20th century had taken place in Sigiriya. In the morning of next October 1967, it was discovered that the Sigiriya Frescoes had been vandalized with white ink. Dr. Raja de Silva (then



Assistant Archaeological Commissioner, accompanied by a team, made their way to Sigiriya the same evening with a large quantity of material to remove the paint. At that time, it was the very season in the province. When Dr. Raja de Silva arrived there, he realized that it was not working as but a type of green paint that was used to paint windows and doors. The white a porous solvent and started the process of removing the paint and when Marath started to be combined using the same solvent but used a quicker method of removal. There is a chapter in his book 'Sigiriya Painting' which explains the restoration in great detail.

In response to a request by the Government of Ceylon to the International Centre for the Study and Conservation of Cultural Property in Rome, Dr. Luciano Marzari, an authority of the centre and the best available expert was selected for the analysis of restorative of these paintings. Dr. Marzari and his technical staff immediately made their way to Sigiriya to complete the restoration together with Dr. Raja de Silva. Dr. Marzari completed the initial part of his programme and left the island after advising Dr. Raja de Silva and others of how to carry out the restoration work. He returned to Sri Lanka in 1968. The programme of restoration and conservation was phased out as follows: removal of the yellow and green constituents of the paint used by 'vandalic' consolidation of the plaster of the physically damaged frescoes, removal of the remaining Plaster of Paris, restoration by Marzari of the areas exposed by the removal of modern restoration work, application of a preservative coating.

Dr. Raja de Silva was appointed to the Archaeological Department in 1949 and became the first Scientist in its cadre. He trained for two years in the Archaeological Survey of India from December 1951. From 1962 to 1985, he was in charge of the new service for the conservation of cultural property and research in material culture. He obtained his Postgraduate Qualifications at the University of Oxford after researching the technical aspects of art history

Discovery of Sigiriya less than 200 years ago

Buddhist monastic settlements

were established during the 3rd century BC on the Western and Northern slopes of the southern-sloping hills surrounding the Sigiriya rock. Several rock shelters or caves were created during this period. These shelters were made under large boulders, but carved the ledges around the mouth of the caves. Rock inscriptions were carved near the big ledges on many of the shelters, recording the donation of the shelters to the Buddhist monastic order as residences. These were made in the period between the 3rd century BC and the 1st century AD.

Dr. de Silva has shown considerable examples of Mahayana Theravada worship that arose in India to spread to Sri Lanka during the period of Sigiriya domination. Tara Devi, like Catholic, Diana, Devi (and in our own times, Mary) all reflect a human urge to seek protective divine material aids. The worship of Tara, the *Chandraghata* connected with his worship, and mentioned by the Sigiriya paintings have been clearly shown to Dr. de Silva. This water and wells played a significant role in the Mahayana cult has also been shown by de Silva, to take residence for monks on elevated land and rock. The Palfrey Cave (Palfrey Cave) below the Mawatha cave in Anuradhapura, the Samraiva cave above the mound of Basawalagama, the Summit of Rajagala in Mawatha, Waligala in Anuradhapura, the Hill above Palfreygala in Rajapalassa, Kumbhigala in Eastern Province and other such sites bear testimony to this.

Sigiriya might have in some form or another given shelter to refugee soldiers. The safety of the shrine was reported to Europe and even in Sri Lanka after the

1818 outbreak of refugee centres built at Malabar in the Kandyan period or Sinhala held centuries earlier. But to fact on Sigiriya a new capital that required the application of ancient physics is to run in the face of fact and religious sensibilities. This has been clearly shown by Dr. de Silva.

Despite this rich history, since the period of Portuguese rule (from 1505 to 1688), Dutch rule (from 1688 until 1796) and British rule from 1815 until 1947 in the history of Ceylon, none of the ancient writers of Ceylon had mentioned Sigiriya in any description. Major Jonathan Forbes was a civil servant serving as the Assistant Government Agent and District Judge in Central Province in addition to serving in the British Army. Five years after his arrival in Ceylon in 1820, the most cherished day of his life, as described by him, had occurred. In 1821, while returning on horseback from Palfreygala, he encountered the Sinhala covered peak of Sigiriya. It was after this that Sigiriya attracted the attention of Archaeologists, including Dr. Raja de Silva.

Ibaniakawwa megalithic tombs

Ibaniakawwa megalithic tombs is an ancient burial site located at Gallewala in Eastern District of Central Province. The *Meenakawwa Tombs* was first identified in 1970 and its initial research was done by Dr. Rajasekera de Silva, then Commissioner of Archaeology at that time. The site was surveyed in 1982 under the Cultural Triangle Programme and he excavated another megalithic site in Wipulaha, called Pampuruppa.

Memories of Stanmore Crescent

In 1975, the Government appointed Appachchi as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Because of this, we had to move from our private residence on Flower Road to the government residence on 138, Stanmore Crescent, Colombo 7, and it was a completely new environment for us.

The then IGP Stanley Samarasinghe, his family and former MP for Haputale, Dettorata and then Cabinet Minister of Health, M.P. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, became our immediate neighbours. Uncle Raja and his family were in the house opposite ours (now the main office of former Minister Rajapaksa) and at the time he had become the Archaeological Commissioner and the Department of Archaeology under the Ministry of Culture Affairs. Uncle Raja's son is also the younger brother Lanka's first grand who was in the same class at Royal College. He will never forget when the first Minister S. S. Kulasiri and his family visited

Justice, Samaras, Gamage, Gamage, Lakshmi and Samarasiddhi (the temple with Appachchi and our family on official duty trip that were arranged by Uncle Raja and the Department of Archaeology). The then Minister S. S. Kulasiri also did great service to the country. In 1975, he was appointed as one of the six Ministers of Parliament by William Gopallawa the Governor General of Ceylon. While Minister Samaras Samarasinghe first appointed him as the Cabinet Minister for Cultural Affairs. Before entering the Parliament, Minister S. S. Kulasiri was the Additional Magistrate and then the District Judge. The present Government Minister of Sri Lanka was resident in 1977 under the concept and guidance of Appachchi. At the design work took place at our residence at Stanmore Crescent and the designer of the Emblem and the Mace, Magistrate Rajapaksa Maha Thera, it was done with a traditional grain boat surrounded by a blue lotus with golden petals. Appachchi a master painter, a golden lion is seen holding a sword in its right paw. The crest is the *Simhasikha* at the top, supported by the traditional *Simhasikha* on the sides and the *Simhasikha* on the top of the *Simhasikha* for Appachchi's dedication. From 1972 to 1977, the members of the national flag were occupied by symbols depicting the Sinhala (lion), the Tamil (elephant), the Indian (elephant), the Malay (elephant), the Sinhala (lion), the Tamil (elephant), the Indian (elephant), the Malay (elephant), the Sinhala (lion), the Tamil (elephant), the Indian (elephant), the Malay (elephant).

Appachchi oversaw the placement of four lion bases at the four corners of the national flag. The four Buddhist principles of *Metta* (compassion), *Karuna* (loving-kindness), *Upekkha* (equanimity) and *Mudita* (happiness) are represented by the leaves. The comments and feedback that Appachchi got from Uncle Raja when overseeing the design of the national emblem were memorable. Uncle Raja's own service to Sri Lanka's Archaeology and the nation in its admirable Archaeology in the study of human activity through the recovery and analysis of material culture. The archaeological record consists of artifacts, architecture, bio-cultural or environmental objects, sites and cultural landscapes. It can be considered a social science as well as a branch of humanities. It is with utmost respect and gratitude that I recall those years served to archaeology and to the nation on his 100th Birthday which fell on 8 August.

About the Author:
Anuragha Dalawe Wijerathne is the first son of the late Vidya Jyothi Dr. Raja de Silva and Anuragha Dalawe Wijerathne (former Deputy Minister of Sri Lanka's Education, Health and Labour Cabinet Minister).

In ratification of historic UN ocean treaty

Greenpeace South Asia welcomes regional leadership

India, Bangladesh and the Maldives have taken historic steps for the protection of our oceans at the UN General Assembly closing today in New York, with India signing the Global Ocean Treaty, (also known as the High Seas Treaty or Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)) and Bangladesh and the Maldives completing their ratification process at the UN Treaty Event.

Anshu Chandra, Campaign

Manager at Greenpeace South Asia said, "India, the Maldives and Bangladesh have shown international leadership for marine biodiversity conservation as this new Treaty will allow the creation of large protected areas on the High Seas, beyond 200 nautical miles (or 370 km) from the coastlines. Such large sanctuaries on the High Seas will allow the recovery of marine life, increase its resilience to climate change and support the livelihoods of

millions of people in the region." The Global Ocean Treaty, adopted in June 2023, will enter into force when at least 60 governments have written it into their national law and, as of today, only 10 have done so. India and other South Asian countries have completed the ratification process.

Treaties and other South Asian countries need to prioritize ratification of the Global Ocean Treaty and stop favouring a regional driving force to implement bold measures for

biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation," says Anshu Chandra. The UN, the wider South Asia region has again witnessed from extreme weather events causing too many casualties, meanwhile, industrial overfishing, pollution and climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels and temperature, are dramatically affecting coastal fisheries and livelihoods. Oceans and Climate are connected and support one

another. Government leaders need to understand it and start prioritizing commitments that can best mitigate climate change and secure a sustainable future for all. Protecting the wider Ocean with a Global Treaty to create large-scale sanctuaries on the High Seas is a good start and one within reach.

Anita Perera, Greenpeace South Asia Campaigner in Sri Lanka added, "While most other South Asian countries are committing to Ocean protection,

it is important that Sri Lanka, as an island nation, also steps in. The country has just chosen a new President and we urge him to join this positive, dynamic in favour of our ocean and climate. Now is the time to make history. Greenpeace South Asia is calling on all States in the region to ratify the Global Ocean Treaty to safeguard ocean biodiversity and support climate change mitigation and the future of the next generations.

FIXTURES

Oct 01	SAW vs SCOT W	1:30 PM	Sharjah
Oct 02	PAK W vs SL W	7:30 PM	Sharjah
Oct 03	SA W vs WI W	12:30 pm	Dubai
Oct 04	IND W vs NZ W	7:30 am	Dubai
Oct 05	AUS W vs SL W	1:30 pm	Sharjah
Oct 06	SAW vs IND W	7:30 am	Sharjah
Oct 07	IND W vs PAK W	1:30 pm	Dubai
Oct 08	SCOT W vs WI W	1:30 pm	Dubai
Oct 09	ENG W vs SA W	1:30 pm	Sharjah
Oct 10	AUS W vs NZ W	7:30 am	Sharjah
Oct 11	SCOT W vs SA W	1:30 pm	Dubai
Oct 12	IND W vs SL W	7:30 PM	Dubai
Oct 13	SAW vs SA W	7:30 am	Dubai
Oct 14	IND W vs SCOT W	1:30 pm	Sharjah
Oct 15	AUS W vs IND W	7:30 am	Sharjah
Oct 16	NZ W vs PAK W	7:30 am	Dubai
Oct 17	ENG W vs WI W	7:30 am	Dubai
Oct 18	1st Semi-Final		
Oct 19	TSA vs TSA	7:30 pm	Dubai
Oct 20	2nd Semi-Final		
Oct 21	TSA vs TSA	7:30 am	Sharjah
Oct 22	Final		
Oct 23	TSA vs TSA	7:30 pm	Dubai

ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2024



ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP RECORDS

HIGHEST TOTALS
 IND Women 313/5 (20 O) v PAK Women ICC Cup Dubai in 2019

LOWEST TOTALS
 BAN Women 46 (14 O) v WI Women ICC Cup Dubai in 2019

MOST RUNS
 T20 Runs (20 O)
1048 Runs
 Mithali (IND) 313
 M.L. James (WI) 285
 A.J. Finch (AUS) 281
 M. Kasprow (PAK) 252

HIGH SCORES
 M.L. James (WI) 87
126 Runs (WI) 6-4
 v IND Women ICC Cup Dubai in 2019

MOST WICKETS
 5 (20 O) (SA) 47
 J. Kallis (SA) 47
 M. Kasprow (PAK) 47
 M. Kasprow (PAK) 47

BEST BOWLING
 D.S. Dube (WI) 4/15
 S. Williams (WI) 4/15
 M. Kasprow (PAK) 4/15
 M. Kasprow (PAK) 4/15

Group A	Group B
Australia India New Zealand Pakistan Sri Lanka	Bangladesh England Scotland South Africa West Indies

VENUES
Dubai International Cricket Stadium
 Capacity: 25,000
 Opened: 2009

Sharjah Cricket Stadium
 Capacity: 37,000
 Opened: 1987



ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP PAST WINNERS



2009 in England - **ENG Women**



2010 in WI - **AUS Women**



2012/13 in SL - **AUS Women**



2013/14 in BAN - **AUS Women**



2015/16 in IND - **WI Women**



2018/19 in WI - **AUS Women**



2020/21 in AUS - **AUS Women**



2023/24 in SA - **AUS Women**

AUSTRALIA

BATTERS
 Alyssa Healy (c)
 Ellyse Perry
 Ashleigh Gardner
 Kate Sciver
 Jess Jonassen
 Alex King
 Tegan Martin
 Laura Harvey
 Maddison Jordan

BOWLERS
 Sarah Broad
 Imogen Matthews
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry

INDIA

BATTERS
 Smriti Mandhana (c)
 Harmanpreet Kaur
 Shikha Pandey
 Deepti Sharma
 Jyoti Basmal
 Anshu Kulkarni
 Anshu Kulkarni

BOWLERS
 Pooja Vats
 Neelam Kulkarni
 Neelam Kulkarni
 Neelam Kulkarni
 Neelam Kulkarni

SCOTLAND

BATTERS
 Heather Knight (c)
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain

BOWLERS
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain

NEW ZEALAND

BATTERS
 Sophie Devine (c)
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry

BOWLERS
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry
 Ellyse Perry

AFGHANISTAN

BATTERS
 Gulistan Gulistan (c)
 Gulistan Gulistan
 Gulistan Gulistan
 Gulistan Gulistan
 Gulistan Gulistan
 Gulistan Gulistan

BOWLERS
 Gulistan Gulistan
 Gulistan Gulistan
 Gulistan Gulistan
 Gulistan Gulistan
 Gulistan Gulistan
 Gulistan Gulistan

SOUTH AFRICA

BATTERS
 Laura Wolvaardt (c)
 Laura Wolvaardt
 Laura Wolvaardt
 Laura Wolvaardt
 Laura Wolvaardt
 Laura Wolvaardt

BOWLERS
 Laura Wolvaardt
 Laura Wolvaardt
 Laura Wolvaardt
 Laura Wolvaardt
 Laura Wolvaardt
 Laura Wolvaardt

WEST INDIES

BATTERS
 Hayley Matthews (c)
 Hayley Matthews
 Hayley Matthews
 Hayley Matthews
 Hayley Matthews
 Hayley Matthews

BOWLERS
 Hayley Matthews
 Hayley Matthews
 Hayley Matthews
 Hayley Matthews
 Hayley Matthews
 Hayley Matthews

PAKISTAN

BATTERS
 M. Kasprow (c)
 M. Kasprow
 M. Kasprow
 M. Kasprow
 M. Kasprow
 M. Kasprow

BOWLERS
 M. Kasprow
 M. Kasprow
 M. Kasprow
 M. Kasprow
 M. Kasprow
 M. Kasprow

SCOTLAND

BATTERS
 Nicola Strain (c)
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain

BOWLERS
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain
 Nicola Strain

INDIA

BATTERS
 Smriti Mandhana (c)
 Smriti Mandhana
 Smriti Mandhana
 Smriti Mandhana
 Smriti Mandhana
 Smriti Mandhana

BOWLERS
 Smriti Mandhana
 Smriti Mandhana
 Smriti Mandhana
 Smriti Mandhana
 Smriti Mandhana
 Smriti Mandhana

AUSTRALIA

BATTERS
 Alyssa Healy (c)
 Alyssa Healy
 Alyssa Healy
 Alyssa Healy
 Alyssa Healy
 Alyssa Healy

BOWLERS
 Alyssa Healy
 Alyssa Healy
 Alyssa Healy
 Alyssa Healy
 Alyssa Healy
 Alyssa Healy

Source: ICC, ESPNcricinfo, Cricbuzz, Sportskeeda

SPORTS TODAY

Omel equals 22-year-old 400m record



Omel Omel

BY ANJANA KALUSARACHCHI

Omel (second) broke the 400m record set by former Olympian 22-year-old Sri Lanka Under-18 boys' All-India record at the Sir John Tarbat Games Athletics Championships held at Sugathadasa Stadium yesterday.



Ritzbury Sir John Tarbat Athletics Championships 2024

The South Asian Junior 400m Silver Medalist clocked 47.19 seconds, matching the time set by former All-India Under-18 boys' All-India record holder A. Rajathirupathi C. Malala in 2002. However, Omel's time was enough to secure him the medal record.

Meanwhile, the 4x400m mixed relay-winning team from Chennai, India (Narasimhan of St. Joseph's College, Wannampet, clocked 37.41 seconds to surpass the previous record and British record.

W.N. Wimal of St. Joseph's College, Wannampet, clocked 49.76 seconds to set a new record in the Boys' Under-16 400m. In the girls' events, St. Joseph's College, Wannampet, Lyceum International School, Marula, Gateway College, Colombo, and Ananda College, Colombo, set new time records in the 4x100m event.

18 Boys - St. Joseph's - 44.13 seconds
18 Girls - Lyceum - 49.02 seconds
19 Boys - Gateway College - 47.43 seconds
19 Girls - Ananda College - 47.43 seconds

Women's T20I World Cup 2024

SRI LANKA OPEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST PAKISTAN

Will look to build on recent form against rivals



BY MUSTAQ SYEEN

Sri Lanka will look to continue their fine form against Asian rivals Pakistan when the two sides meet in the first game of the ICC Women's T20I World Cup today at Shaugh International Cricket Stadium.

The two teams last met in July during the Asia Cup, where Sri Lanka triumphed and went on to win the title. Historically, Sri Lanka has a solid record against Pakistan, having won 9 out of 20 matches.

Powered by their Asia Cup victory, the Lions enter the encounter with high confidence. A win against Pakistan would provide vital early momentum in the tournament.

The team features a blend of experienced players and emerging talents, with captain Chamara Athapaththa leading the charge. Key players like



strengthens their attack, complemented by Kavinda and Chamara, who can effectively contribute during the middle overs. On the other hand, Pakistan under the new captaincy of Fatima Sana, will aim to bring their best game to secure an early win in the tournament.



Fatima Sana

Despite a challenging warm-up match against Scotland, they will look to shake off those setbacks and perform at their best.

The tactics in Green Innes for their opening play will rely on their dynamic bowling and bowling units. The team has a blend of aggressive openers and steady middle-order players. Their bowlers, especially spinners, are expected to play a key role in the pitch. Pakistan's recent form will rely on their batting lineup to their advantage.

Both teams are eager to kick off their campaigns with a win, setting the stage for an exciting match filled with skill, strategy, and the intensity that defines a World Cup opener.

SA20 2025 (South Africa) JSK confirm Matheesha Pathirana as their wildcard pick

Joburg Super Kings (JSK) announced the acquisition of Matheesha Pathirana as their wildcard pick for SA20 2025. The championship event will be played from 5 January to 5 February at its venue across South Africa.

The update comes after the SA20 auction took place on Tuesday 1 October, which saw the Super Kings secure the services of three players. They signed the likes of Wilton Lubbe, Evan Jones, and Doug Brunt, while selecting JP King as their opener player. However, the franchise didn't announce their wildcard pick at the time of the auction and had time until 31 December to finalize the name.

Nevertheless, the Super Kings posted a video on Wednesday evening (1 October) confirming Sri Lankan player Pathirana as their wildcard player. The Super Kings line-up includes experienced batsmen like Faf du Plessis, Moshees Ali, and Jonny Bairstow. With the addition of Matheesha Pathirana, they have a credible bowling attack with Jasprit Bumrah, Tahir, Shami, and Navdeep Singh already on the roster.

The SA20 2024 saw the Joburg Super Kings finish fourth in the league stage to qualify for the playoffs. However, they lost the Qualifier 2 against Durban's Super Giants.



ICC bans SL Cricketer Praveen Jayawickrama for 1 year

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Sri Lanka player Praveen Jayawickrama from all cricket for one year, effective from 10 months and suspended, after he admitted breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

Jayawickrama admitted to being in breach of the following provisions under the Code: Article 2.4.7 - Obstructing or

delaying any investigation that may be carried out by the ICC; including concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence of a breach of the Code; and Article 2.4.7 - Obstructing or

delaying any investigation that may be carried out by the ICC; including concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence of a breach of the Code; and Article 2.4.7 - Obstructing or

After Sri Lanka loss Tim Southee resigns as captain ahead of India Tour

New Zealand's cricket landscape has witnessed a significant leadership change as Tim Southee steps down from the captaincy ahead of a crucial Test series against India. With the resignation, Tim Latham has been appointed as the new captain. This change comes in the wake of a sustained challenge faced under Southee's leadership, particularly following a disappointing 2-0 series defeat to Sri Lanka.

The leadership change is not merely a tactical adjustment; it marks a pivotal moment for New Zealand cricket. Southee, who took over the captaincy from Kane Williamson in 2022, led the team in 14 Test matches over two years. His record includes six wins, six losses, and two draws. Despite showing promise, the team struggled to maintain a consistent performance, culminating in a four consecutive Test matches, including back-to-back series defeats.

As New Zealand embarks on this new chapter with Tim Latham at the helm, the hope is that the team can harness their potential and deliver strong performances in the upcoming Tests against a formidable Indian side.



Tim Southee

National Super League Limited Over Tournament Dambulla edge Jaffna to set up final clash with Colombo

Team Dambulla secured a thrilling 16-run (DLS method) victory over Jaffna at the Hambantota International Stadium yesterday, setting the stage for a final showdown against Colombo.

Battling first, Jaffna posted a competitive 224/5 in their 40 overs (revised due to rain), bolstered by half-centuries from Hasindu Rajapala (56) and Lahiru Madushanka (36).

In response, Dambulla had reached 230 runs for 8 wickets in 42 overs when rain halted play once more. At that point, Dambulla were 16 runs ahead of the DLS target, leading to their victory being confirmed under the DLS regulations.

Key performances included Hasindu Hasaranga, who made a significant contribution with 62 runs, while both Lahiru Madushanka and Donal Dinuwa added 56 runs each, finishing Dambulla's victory.

This win not only secured Dambulla's entry into the final but also showcased their batting prowess and ability to maintain composure in high-pressure situations.

The forthcoming final against Colombo promises to be an exciting match.

Final scores:
Jaffna: 224-5 (40) (Hasindu Rajapala 56, Lahiru Madushanka 36, Karun Rajitha 43, Lakshan Sandakan 33)
Dambulla: 230-8 (42) (Wasindu Hasaranga 52, Donal Dinuwa 56, Lahiru Madushanka 36, Vijayakath Vijayakath 36)

