

Truth Hurts. We report it.

<p>APRIL 14 DAWN OF THE NEW YEAR Monday 3.21 a.m.</p> <p>Nonagathaya (Inauspicious time) Begins - 13th Sunday at 8.57 p.m. Ends - 14th Monday at 9.45 a.m.</p> <p>During this time keep off from all forms of work and engage in religious observances.</p>	<p>APRIL 14 PREPARING OF TRADITIONAL MEALS Monday 04.04 a.m.</p> <p>Dressed in copper coloured, facing South, light the hearth and prepare milk rice with sweet and curd-roasted rice. (wilaṇḍa)</p>	<p>APRIL 14 Monday 06.44 a.m.</p> <p>STARTING WORK, TRANSACTIONS AND PARTAKING OF MEALS</p> <p>While dressed in pearl and white colour facing South, start your transactions and consume meals.</p>	<p>APRIL 16 ANOINTING OF OIL Wednesday 9.04 a.m.</p> <p>Dressed in green, while facing North, place Kohomba leaves on head and colon leaves on feet, apply oil mixed with extracts of Kohomba leaves.</p>	<p>APRIL 17 LEAVING FOR WORK Thursday 09.03 a.m.</p> <p>Dressed in gold, facing North, consume milk rice and a sweet made with milk before leaving for work.</p>
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UNESCO's latest report on education inequity

By Roshani Madhuwanthi

A recently released report by UNESCO has brought to light the stark and widening gap in education access between developed and developing nations. The findings reveal that more than 260 million children worldwide remain out of school, a crisis that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued on Page 2



The return of the 02 astronauts to Earth after 9 months away from Earth

By Gayani Anupama

Because of a malfunctioning Boeing spacecraft, astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore were left stranded on the ISS. After a 17-hour flight, Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore took off from the International Space Station (ISS) early on Tuesday morning and splashed down off the coast of Florida. After their initial return vehicle, Boeing's Starliner, was judged dangerous for the trip home, the astronauts had to spend a lot more time in space than they had intended.

Continued on Page 2

Construction of Sri Lanka's First Trilingual School Prime Minister's Observation.

Kaduruwela: March 19, 2025 - Work has started to build Sri Lanka's first trilingual school in Kaduruwela area. This school, supported by the Government of India, is ready to provide education to the students in Sinhala, Tamil and English.



Continued on Page 2

Sri Lanka's Export Earnings Show Remarkable Growth



Sri Lanka's export earnings in January 2025 have crossed \$1.3 billion, marking a strong start to the year, the Export Development Board has announced. This impressive growth reflects the resilience, innovation, and competitiveness of Sri Lanka's industries, paving the way for sustainable economic development

Continued on Page 2

New laws to suppress the underworld -President

By K.M.U.I. Isurukumari

At present, there is a lot of shooting and killing going on in the country. These crimes have caused the intense attention of the existing government and people. In the past few months, there have been murders in Akmeemana, Valveriya, Ambalangoda, Kohwala, Midigama, Grand Pass murder, Middeniya triple murder and many other areas..



Continued on Page 2

Batalanda report to the parliamentary table



The leaked report that came to the fore with the Al Jazeera press conference has reached the hands of all members of the parliament. In that discussion, Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe was directly questioned about the Batalanda report, but the former president rejected the report stating that it was not a tabled report in the parliament.

Continued on Page 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Construction of Sri Lanka's...

By Hiruni Awanjana

An official observation & discussion was held on March 18 by prime minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya for the construction of this school. Housing for that Deputy Minister T.B Sarath, Polonnaruwa District parliament, M.P Padmasiri Bandara, Polonnaruwa District parliament M.P Sunil Rathnasiri, Education Higher Education & vocational Education Ministry secretary Nalaka Kaluwewa, Governor of North central province Wasantha Jinadasa, Polonnaruwa District secretary Sujantha Ekanayake officers including Messrs attended. This project is based on the objective the improving the national education attainment level.

Sri Lanka's Export...

By A.L.D. Kaushalya

According to data released by Sri Lanka Customs, merchandise export earnings in January 2025 amounted to \$1,004.82 million, reflecting a growth of 3.51% compared to January 2024. Similarly, agricultural export earnings grew by 14.87% compared to January 2024, reaching \$258.93 million in January 2025.

Industrial export earnings showed a slight increase of 0.08% in January, reaching \$745.89 million. Meanwhile, the estimated value of services exports for January 2025 was \$329.37 million, reflecting a significant increase of 37.87% compared to January 2024, according to the Export Development Board. As a result, Sri Lanka's total export earnings, including both merchandise and services, stood at \$1,334.19 million in January 2025.

For a country that has faced economic collapse, this can be seen as a positive sign of a more stable economy in the future.

UNESCO's latest...

The report emphasizes that the pandemic has not only disrupted education systems but has also intensified existing inequalities, particularly in low-income countries where access to technology and resources is limited. As schools closed their doors, many children faced barriers that prevented them from continuing their education, leading to a significant increase in dropout rates.

In response to these alarming statistics, UNESCO is urging governments and international organizations to prioritize education funding and cooperation. The report calls for a concerted effort to ensure equitable access to quality education for all

children, regardless of their socio-economic background or geographic location.

"Education is a fundamental human right, and we must act decisively to bridge the gap that has only widened during the pandemic," said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay.

UNESCO emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in addressing these challenges. Increased funding, innovative educational solutions, and partnerships between governments, NGOs, and the private sector are essential to creating sustainable pathways for educational access.

New laws to suppress the underworld...

It has been revealed in the investigations that this is an act of underworld gangs and the President emphasized that measures should be taken into consideration to fight crime.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said that steps will be taken to provide the necessary facilities to eradicate organized criminal activities and drug scourge as well as new legislation. Also, he said that a good society cannot be created without establishing the rule of law in Sri Lanka.

Furthermore, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has emphasized to the police officers including the Inspector General of Police that shootings and killings should not be reported in their area again and that they should be more concerned about their area and provide security and work to ensure public safety.

These comments were expressed in the discussion held on 18.03.2025 between the Western Provincial Police Chiefs and the President at the Presidential Secretariat. Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs Ananda Wijepala, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs Advocate Sunil Watagala, Secretary of the Ministry of Public Security Ravi Seneviratne, Acting Inspector General of Police Priyantha Weerasuriya and a group of Western Province police chiefs also participated in this event.

BATALANDA REPORT TO...

According to this, the commission report should be made public, the report should be forwarded to the Attorney General, a presidential committee should be appointed to take further decisions on the commission reports, and Minister Wimal said that he is ready to hold a two-way debate.

Human rights organizations accuse Wickremesinghe of crimes against humanity in the late 1980s, particularly involving the notorious Batalanda torture camp. Their warrant is based on the 'principle of universal jurisdiction', a legal principle that allows courts in some countries, including the UK, to prosecute individuals for serious international crimes such as torture.

The allegations against Wickremesinghe stem from his role as a senior minister in the then United National Party (UNP)-led government. Wickremesinghe has denied direct involvement, but testimonies and reports from survivors, including former police officers, tell a different story. In particular, Douglas Peiris, a retired police officer who was the head of the CSU, has filed an affidavit in court accusing Mr. Wickramasinghe of overseeing and facilitating battalion operations. Peiris claims that Wickremesinghe gave clear orders, which resulted in the disappearance of over 3,000 youths, many of them innocent.

The Batalanda Detention Centre, located in the Biyagama constituency near Colombo, became notorious during the 1987-89 Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) insurgency in Sri Lanka. It was reportedly used by the Sri Lanka Police's Counter-Terrorism Unit (CSU) to detain, interrogate and torture people suspected of involvement in a violent insurgency against the government.

The battalion detention center was notorious for systematic torture, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. Survivors and witnesses describe painful conditions, which include:

- * Subjecting detainees to physical and mental torture.
- * Killing secretly and disposing of corpses secretly.
- * Information about the detainees was denied to the families of the detainees and many never got to see the ship.

However, the evidence against him continues to mount. Human rights activists argue that as a senior government figure, Wickremesinghe cannot be absolved of responsibility for atrocities committed under his administration. His failure to act against the battalion's operations makes him complicit.

The return of the two astronauts...

NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore, both veteran NASA-trained space travelers, were stranded on the International Space Station (ISS). Williams, the current commander of the ISS, has spent 322 days in space and completed nine spacewalks. Wilmore, a retired United States Navy officer, first flew to space in 2009 on the Space Shuttle Atlantis and has logged 178 days in space. In the Boeing Starliner mission, Wilmore served as the commander and Williams was the pilot. The process for Williams and Wilmore to return began late on Monday night, and the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule carry-

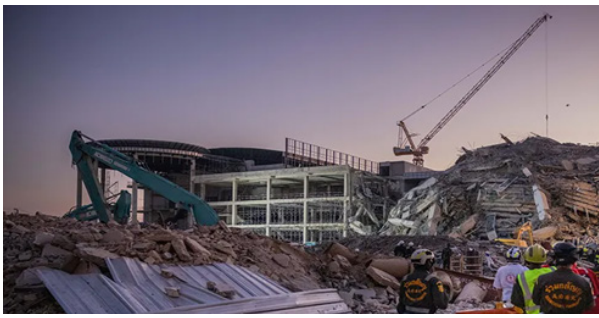
ing them undocked from the ISS at 1.05am ET on Tuesday. NASA live-streamed the departure and return journey of the astronauts. Williams and Wilmore arrived at the ISS on 6 June last year, intending to stay long enough to evaluate Starliner's docking and operational capabilities during its first crewed flight and return home no more than 10 days later. However, due to a number of technical difficulties and safety concerns, NASA and Boeing decided to return the capsule to Earth empty in September and prolong the two astronauts' stay by assigning them to the space

station as crew members instead of two other astronauts who were still on the ground and were transferred to other upcoming missions. Williams and Wilmore, astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS), remained in good health despite an unexpected extension of their stay. They maintained a structured routine of exercise, work, and leisure, including regular spacewalks. They also participated in missions to resupply the station with food, water, and oxygen. Williams and Wilmore maintain contact with their families and expressed happiness and enjoyment in their time on the ISS.

A STRONG EARTHQUAKE IN MYANMAR

Many lives and properties were severely damaged

By Nayanathara Jayantha



Myanmar was rocked by two strong earthquakes, measuring 7.7 and 6.4 on the Richter Scale.

The first earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter Scale, occurred near the city of Sagging in Northwestern Myanmar. It was around 12.50 in the afternoon on 27th March 2025. Many deaths are said to have occurred in Mandalay, the city closest to the epicenter of the earthquake. The second earthquake, measuring 6.4 units on the Richter

Scale, occurred a few minutes after the first earthquake. Myanmar media say that many houses and buildings have been damaged by the earthquakes and casualties are been reported. International media reported that more than thousand peoples may have lost their lives and more than two thousand peoples were injured. According to the Myanmar News Service, there are peoples trapped among the flattened houses and buildings and rescue operations have been launched to rescue them. Thailand is a neighbor of Myanmar. Media say that even the capital of Thailand, Bangkok felt

the strength of the earthquakes. In the meantime, foreign media reports that rescue workers have said that about 15 peoples are trapped in the debris of the collapsed building in Bangkok, Thailand and that they are under 5-10 meters of debris rescue operations are continuing in Myanmar and Thailand to find survivors. But there is no official information had been reported regarding the number of houses and buildings destroyed by the earthquake or the loss of life. Myanmar is ruled the military. That democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her political party leaders were jailed. Due to military rule, Myanmar is an Asian Buddhist State isolated from the rest of the world.

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A NEW SECRETARY WILL BE APPOINTED TO THE MINISTRY OF BUDDHISM, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS



President Anura Kumara Dissanayake appointed Mr. W.P. Senadheera as new secretary of the Ministry Of Religious and Cultural Affairs. Mr. Senadheera has been appointed.

The appointment letter related to that will be presented by the President's Secretary Dr. Nandika Sanath Kumanayake to Mr. W. Senadeera at the Presidential Secretariat Office on 5th of March.

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR UP TO DATE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

By Surenika Nethmini

As part of new developments, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake emphasized the necessity of Sri Lanka's urban landscape to be modernized to drive economic growth, bring about the improved standard of living, and establish the nation as a world-class tourist destination. The vision is to have an integration of new infrastructure and maintaining Sri Lanka's cultural heritage.



Strategic Discussions on Urban Development
President Dissanayake summoned National Physical Planning Department officials to a meeting on March 5, 2025, at the Presidential Secretariat.

» Continued on Page 4

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR...

During this meeting, he articulated that scientific urban planning could make Sri Lanka an attractive tourist destination, moving away from conventional building methods to more innovative and eco-friendly ones.

Subsequently, on 12 March 2025, the President held talks with officials from the Urban Development Authority (UDA) to review the progress on under-way development projects and maximize the utilization of budgetary allocation. The meeting emphasized the need to strike a balance between urban modernization and Sri Lanka's special identity, ensuring that modernization doesn't diminish the nation's cultural identity.

Balancing Urban Modernization with Rural Preservation

At the heart of such discussion were the government's holistic development plans in rural and urban areas. The President made it clear that while much as city centers need to embrace modernity, it is equally important that rural lifestyles and traditions be preserved. This will strengthen the rural economy so that economic development is not only inclusive but also remains true to Sri Lanka's multicultural societal heritage.

Revitalizing Key Urban Development Projects

The centerpiece of the President's urban development policy is the revival and launch of key infrastructure projects.

Megapolis Western Region Light Rail Transit (LRT): Originally planned to interconnect the Western Province, the LRT project was marred by previous administration moves. The current administration is eager to get this project running, recognizing that it has the potential to heal traffic jams and promote green urban transport.

Port City Colombo: Planned as a special economic zone, multi-services Port City Colombo will position Colombo as a global financial services hub. The project will be offering world-class infrastructure, enhancing international business along with tourist visits and thus making an important contribution to the national economy.

International Associations and Economic Arrangements

Sri Lanka's urban development trajectory is otherwise reinforced by shrewd international association Energy Cooperation with India: India planned in December 2024 to sell liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Sri Lanka's power plants and connect the power supplies of both countries. The project will likely enhance Sri Lanka's energy sector, fueling industrial and urban growth.

Debt Restructuring with Japan: Sri Lanka signed an agreement in March 2025 with Japan to restructure \$2.5 billion of its debt. The agreement permits the revival of pending projects, including the development of the main airport, which is crucial for enhanced tourism and international trade.

Partnership with China: Sri Lanka inked an agreement with China's Sinopec to expedite the construction of a \$3.7 billion oil refinery in Hambantota. The development can potentially reduce the nation's reliance on imported oil and foster economic growth in the area.

It is with deep sadness that the family of the late Mr Christopher Peiris, announces the passing away of



Mr Christopher Peiris (Retired Manager- People's Bank)

Please find details in relation to funeral arrangements below.
Beloved husband of Mrs. Shantha Chandrani Meewella Peiris (Retired Principal),
Loving father of Prof. Chamara Chrisantha Peiris (Chris) (Director Cyber Security Australia/New Zealand),
Gayan Sajeewa Peiris (General Manager- Business Development-Microsoft)
Father in law of Kushanthe Peiris, Christine Nimalasiri
Beloved brother of Mrs Rita Peiris,
Brother in law of Siri Meewella, Hari Nimalasiri, Chithira, Asoka, Sagarika and Priyanthi.
Grand father of Kesara, Weera, Rahul, Chloe and Alisha.

Viewing:
11th April 25 from 8am to 10pm.
12th April 25 from 8am to 3pm.
Location:
Jayarathne Respect Home, Borella.
Cremation at General Cemetery, Borella on the 12th April 25 at 5pm.

27/469, Mahaiyawa Wattha, Thapowana Road, Kalapaluwawa, Mulleriyawa - New Town.
Phone: 011 2792750, 011 2792429

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**VIDYA JYOTHI PROFESSOR
LAKSHMAN ALWIS**

Dearly loved and missed by the family,
Management and Staff of Design Consortium Limited

In Loving Memory of

Ranjani Jayaweera Bandara
It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved mum Ranjani Jayaweera Bandara, born on 23rd December 1935, who peacefully left us on 27th March 2025.
In accordance with her wishes, she was laid to rest on 28th March 2025 with family and friends in attendance.
Her warmth, wisdom, and kindness will forever remain in our hearts. May she attain Nibbana and find eternal peace.

44th Death Anniversary

Sarath C de Silva
Fondly remembered by his wife, Children, grandchildren and all loved ones

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Challenges and the Way Ahead

Although these proposals reflect a high degree of commitment to urban development, several challenges persist:

- Economic Stability:** Even with indications of recovery, economic stability can only be sustained through ongoing reform and sound fiscal management to avoid future crises
- Environmental Sustainability:** Urban growth and environmental protection must be balanced. The use of green infrastructure and compliance with sustainable development principles are necessary to maintain natural ecosystems.

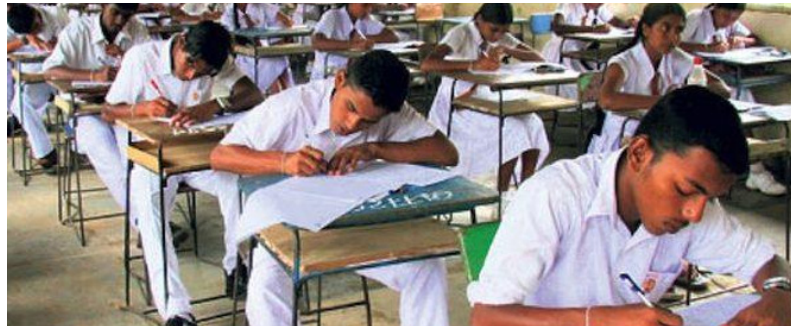
Social Inclusivity: Urban development must be made inclusive for all sections of society, including the marginalized, to ensure social harmony and equitable growth.





ISN'T EDUCATION BEING CLEANED THROUGH "CLEAN SRI LANKA" ?

6% OF THE BUDGET FOR EDUCATION.



By Viduranga Kariyawasam

" What "Clean Sri Lanka" should do is not to strive to clean up less important areas of a country, but to bring about a complete change in areas such as education, which have a strong impact on the future survival of a country. Education develops the knowledge, skills, and abilities of individuals, making the workforce more productive and contributing to national production and economic growth "

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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Education makes a strong contribution to the development of a country. The state education system that has been in place in Sri Lanka for a long time, from the past to the present, has not prepared students in a way that directly contributes to the country's productive economy. A fundamental problem in Sri Lanka is the continued maintenance of an outdated education system that relies on rote memorization instead of honing a child's inherent skills through practice. This system is a replicable model based on British and American methods, influenced by colonial-era values, and is not suited to the specific needs of Sri Lanka, nor does it encourage critical thinking or creativity in the child. It fails to recognize and develop the unique talents and abilities of each student. The politicization of the education sector, like all other sectors in Sri Lanka, is a major crisis. The system of granting teacher appointments based on political interference, disregarding abilities and talent, further accelerates the decline of the public education sector.

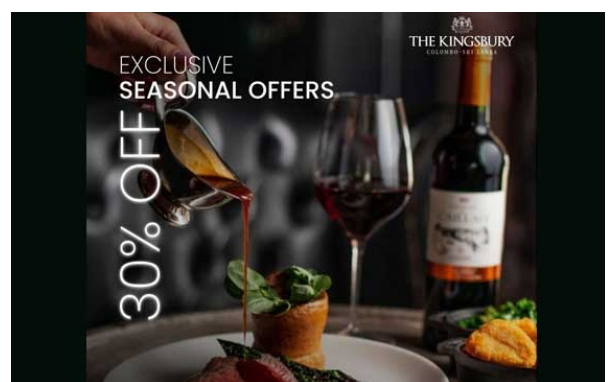
Many educated people, educated through free education, leave the country in search of better opportunities abroad, thereby depriving the country of talented professionals. This is a major crisis facing Sri Lanka today, coupled with the current economic recession, and can be cited as a primary consequence of the state education system producing graduates who are not suited to the country. A fundamental issue in Sri Lanka's education system is whether all students have equal educational opportunities. In the current education system in Sri Lanka, there is an imbalance in the distribution of resources among schools, based on the diversification of the national school system into rural schools, urban schools, popular schools, and national schools. Children from poor families are deprived of educational opportunities because they are unable to afford school supplies, textbooks, and extra classes. Factors such as caste, religion, and gender further illustrate the primary characteristics of the education sector in Sri Lanka, affecting children's educational opportunities. The lack of adequate facilities and support for children with special needs is an obstacle to their right to education.

For these reasons, it is clear there is a need for a revolutionary change in the education sector in Sri Lanka at this time. Sri Lanka's state budget allocation for education is very low compared to other countries, and this has a significant impact on the quality of the education system. The most appropriate way to improve the quality of education in Sri Lanka, which has declined in the present day, is to allocate more money from the Gross National Product for education compared to the present. The government should pay more attention to this.

The amount of money a country should allocate to education depends on many factors. However, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommends that a country allocate at least 4-6% of its gross domestic product to education. Sri Lanka's current budget allocation is considered low, and therefore a 6% allocation may be a suitable decision. According to recent reports, current public education expenditure in Sri Lanka is between 2%-3%. In particular, there is a need to increase spending on areas such as teacher salaries, school facilities, and educational technology facilities in Sri Lanka. Even if 6% of Sri Lanka's GDP is allocated to the education sector, it will not be beneficial if it is not implemented successfully. While it is not possible to allocate 6% in the short term when considering the local economy and budget deficit, it is clearly necessary when considering the education system in Sri Lanka. It is important to ensure that funds are distributed fairly. Statistical studies show that the most effective way to allocate funds is to identify and implement areas where money should be spent.

For these various reasons, there is an increasing trend among many parents to send their children to private education and tutoring classes, based on a lack of trust in the public education system. The public-school education system is considered impractical and unreliable, and this is a strong reason why student attendance has declined rapidly over time. The rise of low-quality private universities that offer degrees for a fee is also a serious threat to the credibility of higher education. These institutions are currently under criticism for exploiting students.

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ISN'T EDUCATION BEING CLEANED...

There should also be a basis for testing in practice whether allocating 6% is sufficient. Therefore, it is particularly important to increase spending strategically and manage resources well.

Under the dominant two-party system that existed in Sri Lanka, the various governments that came to power after Sri Lanka's independence misused the public education system for their own petty gains, and the insufficient and small amounts of funds allocated for the education sector through the state budget were also misused in this way. However, under the current socialist government that has come to power, we can expect a new change in the education sector because they have expressed positive views on the education sector through their election promises as well as through the policies of the new government. Under this, the announcement that six percent of the annual budget will be allocated to the education sector is key. In 2012, there was much controversy in the university sector in Sri Lanka. The Federal University Teachers Association (FUTA) launched

a major trade union movement demanding that 6% of the government's annual budget be allocated to education. It is heartening to see that the university lecturers who pioneered the 100-day strike by university lecturers in 2012 under the theme "6% for Education" are now playing a key role under the current government. In particular, the current Minister of Education, Harini Amarasuriya, Minister Dr. Upali Pannilage, etc. were active members of this six percent strike.

Defying the traditional power shift that has prevailed in Sri Lanka so far, the Sri Lankan people elected the current President, Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, to the presidency. The people expect, through an election, to implement a system of governance in the country that suits their needs. In the 2024 presidential election, the majority of the Sri Lankan community rallied around the National People's Force led by current President Anura Kumara Dissanayake. The primary reason for this was that the promises and policies they presented, especially in the

areas of economy, education, social welfare and national security, were directly proportional to the needs of the Sri Lankan people. Allocation of 6% of the annual budget for education was a fundamental policy of the National People's Power. If the promises and policies made to the people cannot be fulfilled during their term of office through pure governance, as they claim, then the current President, Mr. Anura Dissanayake, is also a failed ruler. The current "Clean Sri Lanka" campaign should not be about cleaning up the less important areas of the country, but rather about bringing about a complete change in areas such as education, which have a strong impact on the future of the country. Education develops the knowledge, skills and abilities of individuals. It makes the workforce more productive, which contributes to national production and economic growth. Education is essential for the progress of society, and it brings about a change in the attitudes and values of individuals. This contributes to building a more just and harmonious society.

A GRAND CELEBRATION OF DEVOTION AND CULTURE MATALE THERU FESTIVAL 2025

One of the most vibrant cultural and religious events in Sri Lanka, the Matale Theru Festival was held on March 12, 2025, at the Sri Muthumariamman Temple. The annual festival, which began with the traditional Kappa planting ceremony on February 18, marks the official start of the celebrations. Since then, special pujas and religious offerings have been held every morning and evening, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere in the city.

Theru Festival is an important occasion for the Tamil Hindu community, especially in the

central region, and it honors Lord Murugan, the Hindu god of war and victory. Devotees gather in large numbers to participate in rituals, seek blessings and offer their prayers. One of the most anticipated moments of the festival is the grand chariot procession, where a beautifully decorated Theru (chariot) is pulled through the streets. The chariot is adorned with flowers, colorful lights and religious offerings, and devotees participate in pulling it. It is a gesture of faith and dedication.



In addition to its religious significance, the festival is a cultural extravaganza. The streets of Matale come alive with devotional music, traditional dances and artistic performances, showcasing the richness of Tamil heritage. These traditions, passed down through generations, strengthen cultural identity and pride. The Theru festival also plays a key role in bringing communities together. People from diverse backgrounds join in the celebrations, fostering social harmony

and unity. The festival is not just about worship, it is also about sharing food, singing devotional songs and coming together as a community.

Over the years, the Matale Theru festival has become more than just a religious event. It is a symbol of cultural unity and tradition. Blending faith, art and community spirit, the festival continues to be a loving celebration that keeps Tamil traditions alive while bringing people closer together.

By Gayara Githmini



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“UNAWERUWA” THE WORLD’S ONLY VILLAGE OF SESATH MAKERS

By W.P.G.S.Rasanjalee



In the heart of Sri Lanka’s Matale district lies, “Unaweruwa” is the only village in the world where the ancient craft of “Sesath”-making continues in its traditional form. Once a symbol of prestige and religious significance, Sesath is still used in temples, ceremonies, and cultural processions.

Once a symbol of aristocracy and religious prestige, Sesath is now the primary livelihood for nearly 75% of the village’s households. However, with limited market access and fading interest among youth, this centuriesold craft faces an uncertain future.

With innovation, youth engagement, and global market expansion, Unaweruwa’s Sesath industry is being revived. The world’s last Sesath-making village is proving that tradition and modernity can thrive together.

For generations, the craft has been passed down within families, but with limited market access and declining interest among youth, this centuries-old tradition faces an uncertain future. However, recent efforts to modernize designs, expand markets, and engage younger generations are helping to revive the industry.

Youth who once planned to leave the village are now rediscovering the value of this heritage, learning digital skills to promote Sesath beyond local markets. Women, too, are taking on leadership roles, ensuring the craft’s survival while securing financial stability for their families.

With innovation and renewed interest, Unaweruwa’s artisans are proving that tradition and modernity can coexist, keeping the legacy of Sesath alive for future generations.

“Sanniyakuma” or “Daha Atasanni Shanthikarmaya” can be introduced as a main peace ritual which is based on Yak Tovil or Yakun Yakshina which belongs to the low country dance tradition. One of the Chula traditions of the lowland dance tradition, a sanna of the Bentara tradition also conducts Shanthikarma widely. In the lowland dance tradition, Sanniyakuma is the only appeasement ritual performed on the subject of demons. There are two birth stories related to the Sanniyakuma. It tells how the Sanni demons were born in this world. The two birth stories are

“KACHCHATIVU” ISLAND FILL WITH INDO SRI LANKAN

The devotional song that rose above the waves of the sea world the spiritual beauty of the annual festival on kachchativu island. Kachchativu is the furthest island from Sri Lanka in the small Sri Lankan archipelago of above 1.15 square kilo meters. These small islands located between India and Sri Lanka, is a symbol of peace where devotees from two countries come together on umbrella. This island, which has a history of about a hundred years, remain uninhabited for most of the year.

The island is packed with people for one day a year, just for the annual mass of saint Anony. This year, the annual mass St. Anthony, held on March 15, 2025 was celebrated with great-pomp and ceremony with the participation of thousands of devotees. In particularly the participation of the Indian and

Sri Lankan fishing communities added to the uniqueness of the festival. in addition, it was reported that nearly 3000 Sri Lankan devotees and about 70 boats carrying Indian devotees had arrived at kachchativu island for this purpose. However, this was the largest crowd attended pooja since the covid – 19 pandemic and the 2017 fishing crisis.

The Sri Lanka navy had implemented a special security program for the safety of the devotees. Navy media spokesperson Gayan Wickramasooriya had stated that all infrastructure facilities, sanitation facilities, electricity and transportation facilities were provided free of charge to the devotees under the full patronage of the navy. In addition, the installation of security camera system for the safety of devotees the island and in the

costal area has been completed. They are also taking care of the St. Anthony’s church, which was built with the full contribution of the Sri Lanka navy Buddhist association. The main mass of the annual festival held on the morning of Saturday 15th, was celebrated with the participation of the Bishop of Jaffna, Father Justion Gnanaprakashan. However, the bishop said that while last year about 300 devotees participated this time nearly 5500 Hindu, Buddhist and catholic devotees spread peace on the island of kachchativu. This considered a festival symbol is of cooperation and co-existence between Indian and Sri Lanka. The participation of devotees from both countries every year increase the importance of the festival.

By W.A.T.M Karunathilaka



THE STORY OF KING SANKAPALA, WHO TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF THE EIGHTEEN SANNI DEMONS

(1). The story of Sankhapala. (2) The story of Dan Udaya.

(1). Story of Sankapala. King Sankhapala, who reigned in Dambadiva, had a princess named Asupali. She was very beautiful and the two lived happily ever after. The king had to go to war with the neighboring kingdom (Kuru country) who had declared war on his kingdom. When the king left for war, the queen became pregnant. The queen was sad because she didn’t even get a chance to tell the king about it. At the time when the king was away at war, the queen’s pregnancy began to ripen slowly. Since the king was not there, she told her desire to a chief minister. At that time, mangoes were in short supply in the country, so it was a very difficult task to find a mango. However, he sent messengers to a neighboring country to find this mango. As soon as the food was ready, an unexpected event happened. A poor woman who was pregnant like the queen appeared before her and asked her to give her a portion of the mangoes. The queen enjoyed this mango alone. The poor woman, who was very angry at the incident, decided to take revenge on the queen out of hatred. In the meantime, the king who had won the war was enjoying himself in the palace. Know-



ing that the queen who had come before was pregnant, he thought the story of the poor woman who told him the story was true and ordered the torturers to kill the queen without any trial. He was taken to a raw grave and ordered to be hanged from a pubberiya tree. On the order of the king, the queen was killed in this way and when she was cut in two, one part was hanging on the tree and the other part fell from the tree. That night there was a big rainstorm and the tree’s hole fell to the ground and a child was born from the dead body. Rajamulu was known as Sanni Yakshaya, who grew up walking in graves and eating corpses. Thus, the royal Sanni Yakshaya was a perfect person with a hidden revenge and transcendental characteristics. When he inquired about the reasons why he became a demonic soul, he was able to know the inci-

dent of killing his mother. Knowing that it was because of the king’s actions, he decided to take revenge on his father. After walking in the lake, they found many types of poisonous leaves and poisonous fruits, ground them into 18 lumps and left them to dry. Seeing this, Shakraya added poison to the 18 poisonous lumps and turned them into medicinals. Knowing Abel, the king and the Sanni Yakshaya used his superhuman power to kill eighteen of the eighteen lumps. They created eighteen. The whole kingdom of sanniyakun accompanied by those ten devils went to the kingdom of the father king and started to destroy it. In Buddhist literature, the destruction done by these sanniyakun is called the three fears of Kandy. There was also a disease. It is said that King Bimbisara, who reigned in the neighboring kingdom, saw the Buddha in this regard and preached the “Rathana Suthra” to the great Kandy and chased the Sanni demons out of Sakwala Stone. In this way, the Sanni demon disguised itself as a mustard seed and hid under a pile of dung. It is read in folk literature that knowing that Mahakola Sanniyakshaya was also chased away. This is how the story of King Sankhapala unfolds.

By M.H.T.R.Sandanika

RETRO MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA SET TO ROCK COLOMBO AT LOTUS TOWER!

By D.M.D.K. Dissanayake

Colombo is gearing up for an electrifying musical experience as some of Sri Lanka's most iconic artists come together for a spectacular concert at Lotus Tower on March 21st. The event, organized by MR. CONCERT, promises a nostalgic journey through classic hits and high-energy performances.

The star-studded lineup features Rookantha, Chamara, Chandana, Weraliyada, Chamara Jayasri, Raveen, Hana, Lavan, and Dinesh, ensuring a night filled with timeless melodies and groovy beats. The promotional poster, designed in a vibrant retro theme, hints at a musical throwback that will transport audiences to the golden era of Sri Lankan music.

Adding to the excitement, the event offers a "Limited Offer" on tickets, with General Admission priced at Rs. 1,500 and VIP tickets at Rs. 3,000. Attendees can also opt for Phase 1 VIP tickets at Rs. 2,500 and exclusive VIP access at Rs. 5,000.

With dazzling performances, a nostalgic atmosphere, and an energetic crowd, this concert is set to be one of the biggest entertainment events of the season. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime musical celebration at Lotus Tower, Colombo!



For more information and ticket reservations, contact Binon (070 39 9555) or Chalani (070 639 9555)

A SRI LANKAN HEART—A MUSICAL DREAM IN FINLAND

Representing Sri Lankan folk music internationally, singer Upendra Siriwardana is now taking to the stage of "The Voice of Finland" in Finland. Upendra, who has made the city of Kouvola, Finland her second home, is stepping into this famous singing competition as the latest step in her musical journey. Her talent on The Voice Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka made her passionate about singing. Now, that dream is coming true in front of the Finnish audience. Upendra particularly expresses her joy at being able to take our music, our journey, our artistic talents to the world. She is stepping onto the stage of "The Voice of Finland" representing the vibrant musical culture of Sri Lanka.

Through my singing, I hope to convey the beauty of Sri Lanka, its culture and music to the Finnish people. I believe that music can unite us!" The love and support of the people of Kouvola has been the strength of Upendra's journey. "I am extremely honored to have this community embrace me, just as my country nurtured my dreams." For the Sri Lankan community here, as well as for the international community, there is no doubt that another great singer has been born who has represented Sri Lankan music on an international level. Let us all celebrate Upendra Siriwardana's journey on The Voice of Finland with love!



By W.M.P.S.M.Wijenayake

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"SINHABAHU" STAGE PLAY TO BE PERFORMED IN ANURADHAPURA

"SINHABAHU", a valuable creation in the history of Sri Lankan drama, will be staged again. This play will be staged on April 8, 2025, at the SURAPURA Open Air Theatre, Anuradhapura, under the patronage of the Provincial Cultural Department. "SINHABAHU", created by Professor Ediriweera Sarachchandra, a powerful playwright in the art of drama, holds a high place among the famous plays in Sri Lanka. In particular, the story of SINHABAHU, born from the Jataka stories, is brought to the play with new ideas and a deep artistic expression. The

story of "SINHABAHU" raises a vision of social and human relations through the play. Come and join us at the "SURAPURA" Open Air Theatre, Anuradhapura on **08 April 2025 (Tuesday) at 6.45 pm.** (Organized by the Provincial Cultural Department)

Ticket Price
General – Rs. 500 / Rs. 700
VIP – Rs. 1000

Where to get tickets

- Public Bookstore
- Asiri Pharmacy
- PADIVITA Bookstore
- City Plaza

For more information and ticket bookings, call : **071 281 1000 | 072 281 1000**

Like one of the calmest vessels in Sri Lankan stage art, "SINHABAHU" is ready to captivate the hearts of fans again! You are also invited to experience this amazing stage experience!



By W.G.S.P. Herath

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NEW BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE 'THE ETERNAL DREAM' TAKES THE BOX OFFICE BY STORM

By A.R.A.S.Rathnayaka

Hollywood, USA – The much-anticipated film The Eternal Dream officially hit theaters, and its box office performance is already exceeding expectations. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker John Smith, this fantasy drama explores the themes of love, sacrifice, and the pursuit of destiny.



The movie features rising stars, including Emily Johnson, who plays the lead role of Lily, a young woman caught in an impossible romance with a supernatural being. The film also stars veteran actor Robert King, who plays the mysterious and enigmatic character, Tobias.

Critics have praised the stunning visual effects, intricate storyline, and outstanding

performances, particularly Johnson's portrayal of Lily. Many have described it as a career-defining role for the actress. "The Eternal Dream offers something rare — a truly immersive cinematic experience," said Sarah McMillan, a film critic from The Hollywood Times.

The film's captivating soundtrack, composed by Oscar-winning artist James Taylor, has also contributed to its success, with several tracks ready to top the charts. With an intriguing plot and breathtaking cinematography, The Eternal Dream is expected to be one of the top films of the year, drawing both fans of fantasy and drama. Moviegoers are raving about the film's ability to transport them into a magical world, leaving audiences eager to see what will happen next.

Stay tuned for more updates on the film's continued success at the box office.

"The Eternal Dream" is now showing in theaters nationwide. Don't miss the chance to experience this cinematic masterpiece



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SIVAKARTHIKEYAN'S 25TH FILM "PARASAKTHI" BEGINS INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING IN SRI LANKA

By R.D.N.K. Weerasingha

Parashakti, an upcoming Tamil political drama, has begun its international shooting, with the crew currently filming in Sri Lanka. Directed by Sudha Kongara Prasad, Parashakti marks the 25th film of popular actor Sivakarthikeyan, who plays the lead role in this gripping story set against the backdrop of the Tamil Nadu anti-Hindi riots of 1965. The film also stars Atharva Murali, Ravi Mohan, and Sree Leela, with Ravi Mohan portraying the role of the anti-hero. The story follows a student revolution, focusing on pivotal historical events. The primary shooting locations for the film included Chennai, Pondicherry, and Karaikudi, but the latest schedule has Lanka.



Shooting in Sri Lanka:

Sivakarthikeyan, who arrived in Sri Lanka on March 11, was greeted warmly by fans upon his arrival. The actor, clearly surprised by the crowd, greeted everyone with a smile and expressed his appreciation. According to the film's producer Akash Bhasaran, the shooting of Parashakti will be completed by June or July 2025.

New Faces in the Film:

Basil Joseph Joins as Director In another exciting development, popular Malayalam actor Basil Joseph has joined the team as a director for the film. Although there has been no official confirmation about whether Basil Joseph will appear in the film, there is growing speculation that he might make his Tamil debut. Recent photos circulating on social media show Basil Joseph and Ravi Mohan sitting together on set, fueling excitement among fans.

The Buzz Surrounding "Parashakti"

On March 15, filming continued with Ravi Mohan, who plays the rival character to Siva-

karthikeyan's role. Parashakti is gaining attention not only for its star-studded cast but also for its historical significance and the political themes it tackles. Despite the growing buzz, the film's official trailer has yet to be released, and the release date is still unconfirmed. However, anticipation is high as the team continues to shoot in Sri Lanka, with fans eagerly awaiting updates. According to the film's producer Akash Bhasaran, the shooting of Parashakti will be completed by June or July 2025.



Parashakti is Sivakarthikeyan's 25th film and is set against the backdrop of the student revolution.

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The Beginning of Your beautiful Smile

NEW VICTORY FOR E-WIS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET

The export of E-wis manufactured laptops to Zimbabwe can be seen as a new achievement for this company in the international market.

They have IOS 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, CE, FCC, RoHS and IEC 62368-1 certifications for international quality.

Through these standards, e wis has also ensured compliance with quality, international safety, environmental and standards. Due to these reasons, e wis has been successful in being very competitive in their international market.

This successful export to Zimbabwe represents a strong step taken by e wis to expand its international footprint, strengthening Sri Lanka's capabilities

as an international technology and manufacturing hub.

Mr. Sanjeeva Wickramanayake, Chairman of E-wis Colombo company, said the following regarding this occasion.

" This Special juncture is important not only for us but for the whole of Sri Lanka "

This opportunity testifies that our country has the ability to produce IT products of high quality for export, competing in the global arena with our own talent and selfconfidence. We are very proud to be able to showcase the excellence of Sri Lankan technology and in-

novation to the world, going beyond the local market.



By K.P.S. Fernando

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES INDUSTRIAL GROWTH WITH MINISTRY OFFICIAL

By U.H.G.S. Nandira



President Anura Kumara Dissanayake met with officials at the presidential secretariat.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake held a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development at the Presidential Secretariat on March 14 to discuss strategies to improve the manufacturing sector and strengthening the national economy.

The focus was on improving the efficiency, integration and development of the manufacturing sector to address the challenges associated with strengthening the national economy.

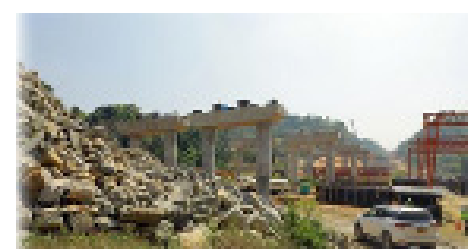
The main topics of discussion included government-led primary investments and empowerment of small and medium scale enterprises and the challenges they face in terms of business credit, establishment of local small-scale industries in investment zones, etc.

The President also instructed officials to promptly release the lands allocated to the Ministry of Industries but not yet released, resolve important restrictions affecting it to strengthen local industries, give priority to local suppliers in construction industry procurement, and implement tax exemptions to boost the gem and jewelry industry.

The meeting underscored the government's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, investment, and industrial expansion as key drivers of economic growth.



Rambukkana, significantly enhancing connectivity and transportation efficiency in the region.



By H.A.K.M. Siriwardhana

SRI LANKA RANKED AS 'THE MOST FAMILY-FRIENDLY COUNTRY' FOR 2025 BY CONDE NAST TRAVELER

Sri Lanka has been recognized as the most family friendly country for 2025 by Luxury travel magazine, Conde Nast Traveler. To help families about their next move, Remitly, a leading American remittance company, has unveiled its 2025 immigration index.

The report, released in March 2025 ranks 82 countries across 24 factors such as healthcare accessibility, education, quality, economic stability, safety and digital infrastructure. In an article written by Olivia Morelli, Conde Nast Traveler highlights Sri Lanka's welcoming culture, outdoor activities and family-friendly hotels as key factors. The company used statistics including the average years of schooling adults, the expected years of schooling for children and the average cost of childcare per year.

Sri Lanka came in first place and achieved an impressive score for its education system (0.7 out of 1.0) and a low annual childcare cost \$ 354.60 per year. (Compared to \$ 16,439.40 in the US, which ranked in 10th place). This combination has made Sri Lanka as the ideal destination for families. With the affordability and nurturing environment, Sri Lanka offers a balanced lifestyle for families looking for both adventure and relaxation. Many of the country's hotels offer a popular, fascinating destination for generational travel, multi-generational travel.

While the UK remains an attractive destination, its performance in the family-friendly rankings suggests it may not be the best option for families and the UK does not feature in this report. The USA in 10th place, Australia in 9th place, Denmark in 8th place and Sri Lan-

ka came in 1st place surpassing countries like Sweden, Norway and New Zealand.

Sri Lanka has vast national parks, sprawling beaches, fascinating history, delicious foods and the country is home to some incredible wildlife. It's no surprise - in fact, Sri Lanka is one of our favorite places to go for mega trips in 2025. While the tourism authorities are taking steps for a global promotion campaign, this is the best time to do it and the process will be fast-tracked.



By T.K.B.N. Amarasinghe

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY

Deputy Minister of Transport and Highway Mr. Prasanna Gunasena says the halted Central expressway project will resume, with the construction commencing within the next two months. In that case Central expressway, the road section from Pothuhara to Rambukkana phase 03, extends from Pothuhara to Galagedara.

In these days which are the hurry

to end this project and expressway spans a total of 32.45 kilometers.

The initial phase of this section is scheduled for completion by 2025, with the entire project set to be finalized and operational by July 2026. He said that steps are being taken to resume construction following fruitful discussions held regarding the project during President Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake's

recent tour to China. This project located Lihinigiriya area of Pothuhara. In many places such as Pothuhara Interchange Center, Wadakada, Turuviana - Bulgolla, Dombemada, where the construction is currently underway, were observed by officials led by the minister.

Once construction is complete, the public will have access to the Central Expressway from Mirigama to

MEDIA SUPPORT FOR KOTMALE GAMINI DISSANAYAKE NATIONAL SCHOOL'S SCIENCE EXPO 2025

By G.G.N. Anuththara

The Science Expo 2025 of Kotmale Gami- ni Dissanayake National School took place on the 6th and 7th, featuring a live broadcast and a special media exhibition. The event was conducted under the guidance of Principal Mr. Priyanthasiri Ariyase- na, Deputy Principal and School Media Head Mr. Nimal Bandara, and Assistant Principal Mr. Lanka Jayalath. The live coverage was led by Kot- male FM Media Head Mr. Sunil Wijesinghe and was a highlight of the exhibi- tion, with students actively managing the entire media segment a truly remarkable aspect of the event.



The exhibition showcased a media stall on the evolution of communication, along with displays from various government institu- tions. It also featured medical clinics for physical and dental health, organized under the leadership of the Kotmale Regional Health Medical Officer. Attend- ees experienced interactive displays, including live plant exhibits, snake spe-

cies demonstrations and biological specimens pre- sented by the University of Peradeniya. The event was made even more sig- nificant as its broad- cast reached a global audience via Radio Garden. A key highlight of the expo was Kot- male FM's initiative to engage students in live radio pro- gramming, offering them firsthand media experience. This initiative not only en- hanced their skills but also inspired them for future op- portunities inbroadcasting and communication. Such ex- periences serve as valuable stepping stones for young mindsaspiring to make an impact in the world.

A KIDS' GUIDE TO SAVING THE PLANET

The planet we live on is beautiful, full of amazing animals, plants, and land- scapes. But it also needs our help! Pollution, climate change, and deforestation are harming the Earth, and if we don't act now, our future could be in danger. The good news is that kids like you can make a BIG difference. Here's how you can help save the planet with simple but powerful actions!One of the easiest ways to help the Earth is by following the Three Rs:Reduce the waste you create by using fewer plastic products and buying only what you need. Reuse items instead of throwing them away. For example, use a refillable wa- ter bottle instead of buying plastic ones. Recycle paper, plastic, glass, and metal to help re- duce pollution and save re- sources. Scientific Evidence: Ac- cording to the Environ- mental Protection Agency (EPA), recycling one alumi- num can saves enough en- ergy to power a TV for three hours! Using less electricity and water helps conserve natural resources. Here's how: Turn off lights, fans, and electronics when you're not using them.

Take shorter showers and turn off the tap while brush- ing your teeth. Use energy-efficient LED bulbs and appliances at home. Scientific Evidence: The U.S. Department of Energy states that LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than traditional bulbs! Wild animals are losing their homes due to defor- estation and pollution. You can help by:Planting trees to provide homes for birds and insects.Avoiding prod- ucts made from endangered animals or forests.Support- ing conservation groups that protect wildlife. Scientific Evidence: The World Wild- life Fund (WWF) reports that nearly one million spe- cies are at risk of extinction due to human activities. Every action count in pro- tecting them!What we eat can impact the environment. You can help by: Eating more fruits, vegeta- bles, and plant-based foods. Reducing food waste by finishing meals and storing leftovers properly. Supporting local farmers who use sustainable farming methods. Scientific Evidence: The United Nations states that food waste contributes to

8-10% of global green- house gas emissions, wors- ening climate change. One of the most powerful ways to save the planet is to inspire others! Talk to friends and family about eco-friendly habits. Start a green club at school to plant trees or clean up parks. Use social media to share environmental tips and chal- lenges. Scientific Evidence: Stud- ies show that when kids lead environmental efforts, adults are more likely to fol- low their example! Saving the planet isn't just for scientists or poli- ticians—it's for everyone, including YOU! Every little action you take adds up to a big difference. By reducing waste, conserving energy, protecting nature, eating responsibly, and spreading awareness, you can become a hero for the Earth. Let's work together to keep our planet clean, green, and safe for future generations!



By H. R. D. M. Bandara

STORY OF THE WEEK THE MAGIC OF KINDNESS

Once upon a time, in a small village, there lived a little boy named Amal. He loved playing with his friends, but one day, he noticed a lonely puppy sitting under a tree, shivering in the cold.

Amal felt sorry for the puppy and quickly ran home to get a small blanket and some food. He wrapped the puppy in the blanket and gave it some warm milk. The puppy wagged its tail happily, and from that day, it followed Amal everywhere.

One morning, as Amal was walking to school, he saw an old woman struggling to carry a heavy basket of fruits. Without thinking twice, he ran to help her. The woman smiled and said, "Thank you, my dear. Your kindness will come back to you one day."

"Weeks later, during a big storm, Amal was walking home when he slipped and fell into a muddy puddle. Just then, the same old woman appeared and helped him up. "See, kindness always finds its way back," she said kindly.

From that day on, Amal believed in the magic of kindness. Whether it was sharing his lunch, helping a friend, or simply smiling at someone, he knew that even small acts of kindness could make the world a better place .



MORAL OF THE STORY:
**KINDNESS IS LIKE A BOOMERANG
IT ALWAYS COMES BACK TO YOU!**

Kindness Challenge!

Can you do one act of kindness today? Here are some ideas,
Help a friend or family member.
Share a favorite toy or book.

Draw a picture of your kind deed and send it to us at the address below... We will post your beautiful picture on this page in the near future.

Uni Mirror News paper,
Kids Page,
No 101/A ,
Nilaweli,
Trincomalee.

By H.G.S.I Jayamali

STORY OF THE WEEK THE MAGIC OF KINDNESS

YOUNGEST INVENTORS IN THE WORLD

Innovation knows no boundaries, and age is no barrier to brilliance. Across the globe, young visionaries are crafting revolutionary inventions that tackle pressing issues, reshaping the world with their ingenuity. These young inventors exemplify the power of creativity, resilience, and a passion for making a meaningful impact. Their journeys are a beacon of inspiration for aspiring minds in Sri Lanka and beyond, urging them to think unconventionally and harness their knowledge to spark positive transformation. Their stories are a testament to the boundless potential within every young individual, urging them to break free from limits and turn their ideas into change-makers for a better tomorrow.



At the tender age of just 11, Gitanjali Rao from the United States made waves in the world of science with her groundbreaking invention, Tethys — a portable device designed to detect lead contamination in drinking water. Harnessing the power of cutting-edge carbon nanotube sensors, Tethys provides fast, affordable, and reliable results, offering a powerful solution to communities grappling with unsafe water. This innovative creation has not only gained global recognition but has also sparked a movement among young inventors, inspiring

them to use the power of science to address pressing social issues and create a healthier, safer world for all. Gitanjali's ingenuity and vision stand as a testament to how a single idea can make a world of difference.



Kenyon Lo, a brilliant 10-year-old inventor from Canada, has developed an ingenious self-stabilizing spoon designed to help individuals with Parkinson's disease eat with greater ease. His innovative creation combines advanced sensors and miniature motors to detect and counteract the uncontrollable hand tremors that often accompany the condition. By stabilizing the utensil, the spoon enables patients to regain their independence and enjoy meals without struggle. This simple yet groundbreaking invention exemplifies how even small, creative ideas can have a profound and positive impact on the lives of those facing challenging medical conditions.



Driven by a deep concern for the health of our oceans, Haaziq Kazi, a young visionary from India, has created ERVIS, an advanced and eco-friendly ship designed to com-

bat the growing problem of ocean pollution. This futuristic vessel is equipped to collect plastic waste while simultaneously filtering and purifying the surrounding seawater. With ERVIS, Haaziq is pioneering a solution that aims to restore the marine environment and safeguard marine life for future generations. His remarkable work underscores how young innovators can lead the charge in tackling some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, proving that even the youngest minds can make a monumental impact on global sustainability efforts.



Anna Du, a 12-year-old from the United States, created an amazing underwater drone designed to track microplastics in the ocean. Equipped with special infrared sensors, her drone can detect the tiniest particles of pollution, providing valuable data to scientists who are working to protect our oceans. By using her invention, researchers can better understand how pollution is affecting marine life and take action to fight back. Anna's invention shows how technology can be a powerful tool in saving the planet.

While not an inventor in the conventional sense, India's Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa has cemented his place in the global chess arena as the second-youngest grandmaster

ever, achieving this remarkable feat at just 12 years old. His extraordinary aptitude for strategic thinking and his ability to navigate complex, dynamic challenges serve as a testament to the power of youthful ingenuity. Pragganandhaa's prowess on the chessboard reveals the limitless potential of young minds to excel in intricate problem-solving—an invaluable skill set that mirrors the cognitive processes of inventors and innovators who shape the future with their groundbreaking ideas.



These young visionaries are proving that age is no obstacle to groundbreaking innovation. With the power of knowledge, cutting-edge technology, and an unwavering passion for solving problems, Sri Lanka's youth are poised to make a lasting impact. By fostering a culture of innovation from an early age, Sri Lanka can cultivate the inventors of tomorrow who will transform the nation's future. Who can say? The next world-altering breakthrough might very well emerge from the brilliant minds of young Sri Lankans!

By B.P.S. Madhuwantha

RESTFUL SLEEP FOR A BLISSFUL LIFE

Welcome to today's discussion! Sleep is something we all do, yet many of us struggle with it. Is it possible that we are sleeping wrong? To answer this question, we have Dr. Kasun Wijethunga, a sleep expert and neuroscientist. Welcome, Dr. Kasun.

Thank you! I'm excited to talk about this crucial yet often misunderstood topic.

Let's start with the basics. Why is sleep so important for our health?

Sleep is like a reset button for the brain and body. It helps with memory consolidation, hormone regulation, immune function, and emotional stability. When we don't get enough sleep, we risk developing conditions like obesity, heart disease, and even mental health disorders like anxiety and depression.

Many people struggle with sleep. What are some of the most common sleep mistakes people make?

That's a great question! Some of the biggest mistakes include,

Irregular Sleep Schedules – Going to bed and waking up at different times confuses our biological clock.

Screen Exposure Before Bed – Blue light from phones and laptops suppresses melatonin, the sleep hormone.

Caffeine and Late-Night Snacks – Stimulants like caffeine or heavy meals close to bedtime can disrupt sleep.

Poor Sleep Environment – Too much light, noise, or an uncomfortable mattress can make sleep restless.

What about those who wake up in the middle of the night?

That's normal! The key is not to panic. Avoid checking the time or looking at your phone. Instead, try deep breathing or a simple relaxation technique. If you can't sleep after 20 minutes, get up and do something calming

like reading until you feel sleepy again.

Fascinating! Before we wrap up, is there one common myth about sleep you'd like to debunk?

Yes! The myth that we all need 8 hours of sleep. While 7–9 hours are ideal for most adults, some people function well on 6.5 hours, while others need 9 or more. The real measure of good sleep is how refreshed you feel during the day.

That's a great insight! Thank you, Dr. Kasun, for sharing these valuable tips. Hopefully, we can all improve our sleep and feel more energized.

My pleasure! Sleep well, everyone!



Specialist Doctor
Kasun Wijethunga

BY W. A. T. N. Weerasekara

BY M. DINOSHA

VOICES OF SRI LANKA

“Digital Sri Lanka, connecting communities.”

Sri Lanka’s communication and media landscape is a dynamic mix of traditional and modern platforms. To answer the question of how communication and media studies were initiated and what its current trend is, we will listen to Mr Joel’s lecturer from the Trincomalee Campus EUSL

Thank you! I’m excited to know about this topic.

What is your perspective of communication studies and media in Sri Lanka

My perspective on communication studies and media in Sri Lanka is that, nowadays, there are many institutions where one can learn about these fields. However, many individuals who have worked in Sri Lankan media for a long time often lack formal educational qualifications.

Specifically, in the media field, many do not hold degrees or other formal qualifications like a Bachelor of Arts or Science. Their entry into the media field stemmed from their interest. Consequently, they possess a wealth of experience.

There are many famous and talented people who, despite having studied in different areas or streams, ended up working in media. They essentially followed media studies informally, as at the time, formal media or communication courses were not widely available in Sri Lanka.

As I understand, many people working in media stations, particularly senior producers and employees in both the government and private employee in both the government and private sectors, often pursued diploma courses, especially diplomas in media from the University of Colombo, as it was one of the few available options.

However, nowadays, many universities offer courses related to media. For example, the Trincomalee Campus offers courses in Communication Studies, where we teach both theories and practical aspects of media and communication in English. In Jaffna, there is a degree program called Media Studies within the Arts faculty, where media is taught in Tamil. At the University of Kelaniya, there is a Mass Communication program, which also offers master’s degrees.

The University of Colombo also has a campus called Sri Pali, which provide media courses in Sinhala, including master’s degrees.

Currently, students who wish to study media or communication stud-



ies have many options, especially in state universities.

Institutions like UniTec also offer media-related courses. In addition to these government universities, many private universities provide media-related courses, including those focused on digital media, multimedia, filmmaking, and film and television.

One positive development in Sri Lanka is the growing availability of communication studies courses. However, there are also many fake campuses or institutions. Some individuals offer diploma courses without proper registration or University Grants Commission (UGC) approval. Students should be cautious and consider this when choosing a course.”

The current state and trends of the media and communication industry in Sri Lanka?

The current state and trends of the media and communication industry in Sri Lanka have shifted significantly. In earlier times, many journalists lost their lives while attempting to deliver information and news to the public. Numerous individuals were killed for their dedication to investigating and reporting on real-life incidents, crimes, and other crucial matters.

Back then, many journalists adhered to ethical standards, recognizing that journalism requires a strong ethical foundation, including rules, regulations, and ethical practices.

However, journalists faced considerable threats, particularly when investigating political and terrorism-related issues. This resulted in restrictions on their ability to express ideas and convey accurate news, constraints that persist to some extent today. However, the media landscape, especially the communication industry, has undergone a transformation.

The rise of new media, social media, and the internet has commercialized the industry. Previously, the primary goal was to deliver news; now, the

focus is on generating revenue and maximizing viewership through various strategies.

Traditional media, such as newspapers, radio, television, and magazines, once operated under stricter regulations. However, due to globalization and technological advancements, people have less time to consume traditional news. Consequently, traditional media outlets have adapted to new media formats. For example, newspapers now have YouTube channels, Facebook pages, Twitter, Instagram, and websites to remain viable as print readership declines.

They have expanded into visual and audio media. Similarly, television channels promote their programs through viral social media content and establish their own online platforms for revenue generation.

A prevalent trend is the use of clickbait news on websites, where misleading titles are employed to generate clicks and revenue. These titles often create curiosity or tension among readers. Negative publicity and sensationalized content are also used to attract attention.

Many media outlets, including social media channels, do not verify the authenticity of news, particularly concerning AI-generated content. For instance, a Sri Lankan newspaper, Thinagaran, shared an AI-generated video on their Facebook page, mistaking it for real, damaging their credibility.

Misinformation, fake information, and fake news are widespread, especially on social media. Furthermore, many media outlets disregard ethical standards. For example, they may publish the names and images of victims in arrest reports, which is unethical.

Another trend is the rise of independent journalists who create their own YouTube channels to generate income.

This shift indicates a focus on financial gain and publicity rather than purely journalistic pursuits. Consequently, it is increasingly rare to find

media professionals solely dedicated to ethical and responsible journalism.”

Career opportunities or communication graduates in Sri Lanka?

Career opportunities in Sri Lanka, especially in the media field, do exist. Media stations, channels, and newspapers are predominantly situated in the capital city of Colombo. Therefore, if you have relevant studies, extracurricular activities, and talents such as writing, speaking, or filmmaking, you will find opportunities.

However, compared to other fields, these opportunities are fewer. This is because they are concentrated in a specific area. Even in Jaffna, there are a few television stations like IBC Tamil and Capital TV, offering some chances. But the Eastern Province lacks significant channels or newspapers. Similarly, other regions, including the central part of the country, do not have recognized media channels. Consequently, individuals often need to relocate to Colombo to find work. Alternatively, with a communication studies background, you can work as an interpreter, in parliament, or as a communication officer, as there are some government vacancies.

Communication is a broad field, and if you have an interest, you can pursue roles in the film industry, as a writer, or in newspaper article writing. It all depends on your talents. Without passion and hard work, finding job opportunities will be difficult.

How about Sri Lanka film industry?

Career opportunities, of course, in Sri Lanka, especially if you have talents in the Sri Lankan film industry. There are two industries: the Sinhala industry and the Tamil industry. Both industries started around the same time, but the Tamil industry was heavily impacted by the war. Specifically, many artists went abroad, and because of the influence of Indian cinema, we have a significant issue. We don’t have production houses or all the necessary infrastructure in Sri Lanka.

That’s great insight! Thank you, Mr Joel, for sharing this great information, Hopefully, it helpful for students and this generation people.



Lecturer
Mr R. Joel
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EXPECTED WEATHER FORECAST IN COMING APRIL

By M.T. Maushalya



Sri Lanka is in the northern Indian Ocean, 30 km off the southeast coast of India. Sri Lanka is an island nation with a tropical climate with high temperatures throughout the year. It has two monsoon seasons: the northeast monsoon from October to February and the southwest monsoon from May to August.

The weather in Sri Lanka is expected to be hot and dry during the month of April, according to the weather department. The temperature in April ranges from 23-32 °C (73.4-89.6 °F) and the monthly rainfall is around 152 mm (5.9 in). The southern and western regions will have mostly sunny weather, while the eastern and northern regions will experience less rain and blue skies

A YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH

By J.A.U Madushani



According to Sri Lanka's leading astrologers, 2025 is expected to be a year of profound change, particularly in the areas of politics, economy, and social development. The alignment of key planets—such as Saturn's transit through Aquarius and Jupiter's influence on the nation's lunar chart—suggests that Sri Lanka is on the verge of a significant shift.

Astrologer Nimal Weerasinghe, one of the most respected figures in the Sri Lankan astrological community, explains, "The influence of Saturn in Aquarius heralds a period of structural change. It will push the country toward modernizing its systems and embracing new technological advancements. However, it also indicates Lanka is on the verge of a significant shift.

Astrologer Nimal Weerasinghe, one of the most respected figures in the Sri Lankan astrological community, explains, "The influence of Saturn in Aquarius heralds a period of structural change. It will push the country toward modernizing its systems and embracing new technological advancements. However, it also indicates challenges and obstacles that must be overcome to achieve progress."

SEVERE STORMS HIT EUROPE, CAUSING MAJOR DAMAGE

Severe storms have been sweeping across Europe this week, bringing heavy flooding, landslides, and widespread disruptions to several countries. The storms, which began on Monday, have affected places like Italy, France, and Germany, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.

In Italy, heavy rainfall caused rivers to overflow, flooding cities like Florence and Pisa. As a result, authorities issued red weather alerts, urging people to stay indoors for their safety. Emergency teams have been working non-stop to clear flooded roads and rescue people trapped by rising waters. The flooding has caused major disruptions, with transportation systems shut down and homes damaged. The government continues to monitor the situation closely, as more rainfall is expected, which may make the recovery process even harder. The community remains on high alert as they deal with the aftermath.

In France, strong winds and rain have caused buildings to collapse, injuring at least ten people. Meanwhile, in Germany, authorities have

warned people to stay off the roads as many routes are blocked by fallen trees. In the UK, power outages have affected thousands of homes, leaving people without electricity.

"This is one of the worst storms we've seen in years," said meteorologists. *"We urge everyone to stay safe and follow the weather alerts closely."*

Authorities are continuing to monitor the situation, and people are advised to stay updated on weather warnings. The storm is expected to last until Thursday, and more disruptions are likely as the severe weather continues.



By S.L.S.Hansika

ESCAPING THE INFLUENCE OF SATURN: NEW GOALS AND SUCCESS IN YOUR

"Saturn, the Lord of Suffering." Many people become fearful when they experience Saturn's influence in their horoscope. During the periods when Saturn transits through the 12th, 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th houses in the birth chart, they are likely to face unfavorable outcomes and challenges.

Astrology is beneficial to everyone—whether poor, rich, educated, uneducated, happy, or suffering—according to their individual circumstances, along with the influence of Saturn. Through astrology, an individual can find ways to expand their growth and move forward by avoiding the adverse effects of planetary afflictions. Even for those in suffering, astrology helps to systematically prepare methods to overcome troubles, pain, and hardship, offering solutions for liberation and guiding them to peace through the right practices and remedies.

Like an official who punishes for the wrongdoings committed in past lives, Saturn stands before us. Sudden accidents, diseases, losses, downfalls, and numerous hardships are inflicted by the planet Saturn without mercy. It leads to suffering from long-term ailments and encourages enduring pain. During this period, many often face fractures, broken limbs,

chronic diseases, cancer, ear and dental problems, skin diseases, swelling, and throat disorders. Various difficult situations that hinder harmony in married life, leading to failures and separations, as well as other challenging circumstances, arise due to certain planetary alignments. Though such yogas may exist, they do not always manifest. These effects occur under the influence of planetary transits periods.

The following remedies, when performed, can help alleviate the effects of planetary afflictions caused by Saturn:

- * If you are a Buddhist, performing a Bodhi Puja on the 9th day of the waxing moon, offering a garland of flowers to the Bodhi tree, adding blue flowers corresponding to your age, and performing a puja with nine types of medicinal herbs can help reduce the influence of Saturn. Placing nine kirikola (tree sap) and lighting nine sesame oil lamps may also aid in alleviating these afflictions.

- * When Saturn is in the Sade Sati (Seven and a Half Years) or in the Mahadasha and Antardasha periods, offering a puja to the Nuga tree, which is associated with Saturn, can bring relief.

- * Increasing the practice of

Maitri Bhavana (loving-kindness meditation) is highly beneficial.

- * On Saturdays (Shani Day), between 6 and 7 AM, mix sesame oil with kiribath (milk rice) and offer eight balls of the mixture around your head, then feed them to the crows (also keep water for them).

- * Assist the suffering, such as the poor, blind, or handicapped, by offering food, clothing, or money.

- * Whenever possible, feed food to an animal that is struggling or in need, especially to animals that come near your meal.

- * Release caged birds in pairs to set them free.

- * Feed fish living in flowing water by touching them with your hand and offering them food.

- * Offer support to children who have been born or are yet to be born.

- * On Amavaka (New Moon) days, light a sesame oil lamp near a Bodhi tree as per your age.

- * Perform a medicinal herb puja for a monk or ascetic who is ill

These remedies, when followed with dedication, can significantly reduce the negative effects of Saturn and bring positive outcomes in life.

By A.G.R.S.Waduge

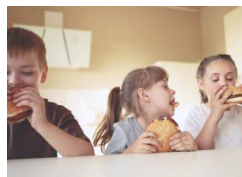
THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF FAST FOOD FOR KIDS

By R.G.V.U.A.Wijerathna

Fast food has become very popular among young children, especially in busy families. It is quick, cheap, and easy, but it lacks important nutrients and can harm children's health. Fast food is often full of sugar, fat, and chemicals, which can cause problems like obesity, diabetes, poor memory, and mood changes. It may also affect children's growth, learning ability, and behavior.

Fast food companies attract kids with colorful ads, cartoons, and free toys, which encourages unhealthy eating habits. These habits can follow children into adulthood and lead to serious health problems. To protect children, parents and schools should teach kids about healthy eating and offer nutritious meals. Governments also need to create rules to

limit fast food ads aimed at kids and promote healthier food choices in schools. In the end, the article says that society must act now to protect children's health and future by promoting better food habits and controlling the fast-food industry's influence on young minds.



“A FOUNDATION FOR A FULFILLING FUTURE”

Marriage is a beautiful commitment, but before embarking on this journey, it's important to focus on personal growth and self-improvement. “Leveling up” your life before marriage is not about changing who you are, but rather preparing yourself to enter this new phase as a strong, independent, and fulfilled individual. Start by investing in your career and financial independence. Building a stable financial foundation allows you to enter marriage with a sense of security, reducing stress and pressure in the relationship. It's equally important to work on your emotional well-being. Prioritize your mental health by engaging in activities that bring peace and fulfillment, such as meditation, exercise, or therapy. Take time to reflect on your values, goals, and passions. What do you want to achieve in life? Pursue

your hobbies, travel, and explore new experiences. The more you know yourself, the better you'll be at understanding and supporting your future partner. Cultivating strong, supportive relationships with friends and family also plays a critical role in personal growth. They provide the emotional support and encouragement that will help you flourish. Being your best self before marriage ensures that you bring your full potential into the relationship, strengthening the bond and creating a healthy foundation for the future. By leveling up your life, you're not only preparing for marriage but also empowering yourself to enjoy a fulfilling and balanced life together with your partner.



By K. Karunanayaka

COLOMO FASHION WEEK 2025

Colombo Fashion Week is a developmental project that aims to drive progressive change in every aspect of the fashion industry in Sri Lanka. Colombo Fashion Week's mission is to establish, develop and maintain an efficient fashion eco-system that incubates the best of Sri Lankan fashion design before it

is presented to the world. Acorn Group supports Colombo Fashion Week 2025 as Official Tourism Partner. This was presented on 11-18 March 2025, and Acorn Group successfully concluded its role as the Official Tourism Partner for Colombo Fashion Week (CFW) 2025. Marking its 22nd year, CFW continues

to be a pioneering force in the South Asian fashion industry, and is among the few fashion weeks in the region to have surpassed two decades of creativity and innovation. The event played a pivotal role in positioning Sri Lanka as a global fashion and lifestyle destination. Held across three of Colombo's luxury

city hotels—Shangri-La, Taj Samudra, and Cinnamon Grand—the event attracted industry leaders, designers, and fashion enthusiasts from the region. This year's edition featured an impressive mix of established and emerging Sri Lankan designers, along with a host of international talent from

India, Italy and Bangladesh. These were presented alongside celebrated Sri Lankan designers such as Fouzul Hameed, Sonali Dharmawardena, Asanka De Mel, Aslam Hussein, Dimuthu Sahabandu, Indi Yapa Abeywardena, and Charini Suriyage. With a strong focus on sustainability, craftsmanship,

and innovation, 'Colombo Fashion Week Summer 2025' reaffirmed its role as the backbone of Sri Lanka's fashion industry, bridging heritage with contemporary design on a global stage.

By N.I.Munasinghe

DEADLY DISTRIBUTION OF MUDDY SAVE YOUR SAFETY AND LIFE!

leptospirosis, also known as rat fever, is a serious bacterial infection caused by *Lep-tospira interrogans*. It is spread mainly through the urine of infected animals such as rats, cattle, dogs, and wild animals, and is common in farms, muddy fields, and during floods. The bacteria can enter the human body through cuts, wounds, or mucous membranes like the eyes, nose, or mouth, especially when working in wet or muddy environments such as paddy fields.

The disease is widespread in Sri Lanka and tends to peak during the monsoon seasons—March to May and October to December—due to increased moisture and flooding. Symptoms typically appear within 5–14 days (but may range from 2–30 days) and include:

- High fever with chills, Severe muscle pain (especially in the neck and back)
- Red, inflamed eyes, Nausea, vomiting, headache, loss of appetite, Dark yellow urine, blood in urine, reduced urination, Skin rashes and, sometimes, cough

In some cases, symptoms may resemble dengue or hepatitis, or may not appear

at all. If untreated, leptospirosis can affect the kidneys, liver, heart, and brain, and may lead to death in 5–30% of cases. However, it is treatable with antibiotics like doxycycline.

Prevention Tips:

- Keep the farm and surroundings clean
- Wear protective clothing when farming
- Avoid contact with muddy water, especially with open wounds
- Drink only boiled water (chlorine does not kill the bacteria)
- Protect wells from contamination

If symptoms appear, seek immediate medical attention. Preventive antibiotics can be taken under medical guidance if you work in high-risk areas. Always report suspected cases to health authorities to prevent outbreaks.



By L.S.Madhumali

YOU WANNA PIECE OF ME?

Pizza has its origins in ancient times, traced back to early civilizations like the Greeks and Egyptians who made flatbreads with toppings. The modern pizza as we know it emerged in Naples, Italy, during the 18th century. It was a simple dish of flatbread topped with tomatoes, mozzarella cheese, and basil—reflecting the colors of the Italian flag. Today, pizza is a beloved worldwide dish with countless variations and toppings, enjoyed by people of all ages.

Making pizza at home can be easy, fun, and a great way to enjoy this favorite meal with your family.

Here is a simple recipe to try

Ingredients

- 1 cup warm water
- 1 tsp active dry yeast
- 2 ½ cups flour
- 1 tsp of salt
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1 cup pizza sauce
- 1 ½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- Toppings of choice (e.g. pepperoni, veggies)



you have a hot, fresh pizza straight from your oven! This easy recipe allows you to customize your pizza with any toppings you like.

Method of making

1. In a bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water and let it sit for 5 minutes.
2. Add flour, salt, and olive oil to the yeast mixture. Knead until the dough is smooth. Let it rise for 1 hour.
3. Preheat oven to 475°F (245°C)
4. Roll out the dough into a circle. Place on greased baking sheet or pizza stone.
5. Spread pizza sauce over the dough, top with cheese and your chosen toppings.
6. Bake for 12-15 minutes until the crust is golden and the cheese is melted.

By Instructions chef R.S. KUMUDUNI



T O D A Y R E C I P E

THARUSHI GOT A GOLD MEDAL IN AMERICA



Asian gold medalist Tarushi Karunaratne won the gold medal in the 800m event in 02:06:99 minutes at the American Women's Indoor Track and Field Athletics Championship held in the USA.

Tharushi Karunaratna, an inspiring figure in the world of athletics, has etched her name in golden letters with her exceptional performance, and continuous striving for excellence. Born and raised in Sri Lanka, Karunaratna's journey to becoming one of the most respected athletes of her generation is nothing short of inspirational. Tharushi first entered the scene in her teenage years and left an indelible mark with her raw

talent and relentless determination. She clinched the gold medal in the 800 meters at 2022 Asian Games. It's marking a historic victory of Sri Lanka. As well as she won the gold medal in the 800 meters at the 2023 Asian Athletics championships, setting a new Asian record, personal best in the 800 meters 02:00:06. So Tharushi Karunaratne achieved like these remarkable times with winning multiple national titles. So, this also another unique juncture in Tharushi's career. Tarushi showed this skill at the **Birmingham CrossPlex track in America**, and the second place was at Tulane University, where Tarushi represents.

MUMBAI INDIANS WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Harmanpreet led Mumbai Indians Women to victory in the Indian Women's Premier League. The opposing team, Delhi Capitals Women, led by Meglan, suffered a crushing defeat by 8 runs. Batting first, Mumbai Indians scored 149 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in 20 overs. Mumbai captain Harmanpreet scored 65 runs with nine fours and two sixes in that match. Mumbai did not allow Delhi to reach the target of 150 runs to win and at the end of 20 overs, Delhi could only score 141 runs for the loss of 9 wickets. Natalia, who bowled for Mumbai, took 4 wickets for 30 runs. Accordingly, the Mumbai Indians women's team won the championship.

"Mumbai Indians"

- 20 overs - 7 wickets
- 149 runs
- Harmanpreet -65
- Natalia Seaver -50

Delhi bowling

- Marisen Cape - 11/2
- Jess Jonassen - 26/2
- Nallapureddy - 43/2

"Delhi Capitals"

- 20 overs - 9 wickets
- 141 runs
- Marisen Cape - 40
- Nikki Prasad 25 not out

Mumbai bowling

- Natalia Seaver -30/3
- Amelia Kerr -25/2



By R.M.W.I.Ranathunga

The 2025 Volleyball Tournament held at the Trincomalee Campus of the Eastern University concluded with great enthusiasm with two outstanding teams that displayed extraordinary talent, dedication and teamwork. The event, organized by the Trincomalee Campus Sports Council, commenced at 5.00 pm on 12th February

2025 at the University Sports Ground. Attracting teams from all over the University, it created an atmosphere full of competitive energy. The teams that participated in the tournament displayed outstanding performances. Their incredible team spirit, determination and resilience were evident and the Super Challenge team,

THE MASTERS LEAGUE 2025 CHAMPIONSHIP HAS ENDED SUCCESSFULLY

The International Masters League 2025 cricket tournament concluded with great fanfare on February 22. It began on February 22 with 6 teams representing 6 countries. The first match was held at the Dy Patil Sports Academy ground in Mumbai, India, and the first match was played between India and Sri Lanka. Many big cricket stars, including Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara, Kumar Sangakkara, Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle, Shane Watson, and Eoin Morgan, participated in this tournament. There were 15 matches in the league stage, the first of which was between India and Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan team lost to the West Indies in the semi-final round.

The final match was held on March 16 at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Rajpur with the participation of a large number of cricket fans. The Sachin Tendulkar-led India Masters team emerged victorious from the finals, with India and West Indies qualifying for the final. Accordingly, the West Indies team, which batted first, scored 148 runs for the loss of 7 wickets at the end of the stipulated 20 overs, while the India Masters team managed to surpass the target by losing 4 wickets in 17 and one overs, winning the International Masters League 2025 Championship.

By K.M.N.I. Lakshani

BATTLE OF THE MAROONS 2025 ENDS IN A THRILLING DRAW



Colombo: The 95th Battle of the Maroons, the annual cricket encounter between Ananda College and Nalanda College, concluded in a thrilling draw at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Grounds from February 28 to March 2, 2025. Despite a fierce contest, rain played spoilsport, preventing a decisive result and allowing Nalanda College to retain the Dr. N.M. Perera Memorial Trophy.

Ananda College set the tone by declaring their first innings at an imposing 324 for 6, with a standout performance from Dinada Athalage, who notched up an impressive 131 runs. Kenul De Zoysa (73) and Nethula Edirimanne (49) also made valuable contributions.

In response, Nalanda College fought back with a strong first-innings total of 325 for 6. Nadul Jayalath led the charge WITH A magnificent 111, while Nemidu Akmeemana (43) and Sadew Samarasinghe (40) added crucial runs. Ananda College resumed their second innings at 27 for 1, but the match was called off due to rain, leaving the traditional encounter without a winner. The excitement continued with the 48th One-Day Encounter on March 16, 2025, at the same venue. Both teams displayed exceptional skills, further fueling the historic rivalry. The much-anticipated match drew a large crowd, showcasing the unyielding spirit of school cricket.

By W.M.H.D.Wijesundara

TRINCOMALEE CAMPUS VOLLEYBALL TEAM CROWNED CHAMPIONS IN 2025 TOURNAMENT

who put up an exceptional performance from start to finish, gave the other teams a tough competition and were also presented with their championship trophy after a thrilling final. The winning team's consistent efforts and strong play on the field ensured they secured the top spot, and their victory was celebrated by team members, supporters and fans. The energy and spirit of these teams resonated throughout the university.

At the end of the 2025 Volleyball Tournament, the "Lion" sports team emerged as the runners-up at the Trincomalee Campus. At the end of the tournament, the trophies were presented to the teams by Mr. Sujith, the former Chairman of the University Council. With the success of the tournament throughout the tournament, the volleyball teams are already looking forward to future competitions and are eager to represent the university with pride.



By A.A.U.A. Kumarasinghe