Ministry short of over Rs. 300 m

By Derryr Hamman

Earlier this week, the Secretary to the Ministry of Education stated that the Ministry was short of funds to allocate for all state schools to build the necessary handwashing facilities and additional amenities.

Offering further insight to The Sunday Morning, Secretary to the Ministry of Education N.H.M. Chithrananda stated: “Rs. 418 million is required to install the necessary amenities to enable handwashing in schools. At the moment, the Ministry of Education is left with a balance of Rs. 100 million. We are now considering options to raise the balance to make the necessary purchases of sinks, taps, water pipes, and water storage tanks and then fixing them.”

When allocating funds for these facilities, the Ministry is to prioritise the schools which are in rural areas that have no way of attracting sponsors for their future pupils’ associations to build such facilities. While the Minister on several occasions said that parents will not be forced or required to contribute financially to build these facilities, schools will be allowed to reach out to well-wishers or old pupils’ associations and make a request, Chithrananda added.

From the Government’s end, the Ministry had requested the respective local government institutions such as divisional secretariats, municipal councils, urban councils, and pradeshiya sabhas to facilitate the necessary water supply facilities to schools. “Some schools do not have a consistent water supply and would have to seek assistance from those state institutions to supply water through bowsers. That water is then to be stored in storage tanks that are to be placed in schools. Even these storage tanks will need to be purchased or built at schools,” Chithrananda noted.

PCR tests to be doubled

BY JANDHIKA GRUSKASARA

Health authorities are in the midst of making arrangements to increase the number of daily PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests being carried out by at least twofold.

Contd. on page 2

PHI’s slam Health Ministry guidelines

• Calls them ‘impractical, superficial, and divisive’
• Claims the PHI’s were not consulted of the country resuming public activities during its gradual exit from the existing restrictions for Covid-19.

Contd. on page 2
Ministry short...

Should any of the private sector institutions willing to build such facilities for schools, they too could reach out the zonal or divisional educational officers to inquire about which schools have such requirements.

PHIs slam...

“We view these guidelines to be superficial and completely impractical. Some of the guidelines that are included will create a divide between the general public and the PHIs (public health inspectors), as it removes the trust that was built between the public and the health authorities. The least the Ministry of Health could have done was get the officers that were working in the field involved,” PHIU President M.G.U. Ruhuna stated.

The PHIU urged that the published guidelines should be revised to include a more practical and workable approach, with the regulations needing to be geared so that when people fail to follow them, necessary legal action could be taken against them.

A Health Ministry official, speaking to The Sunday Morning, noted that there had been minor omissions to the guidelines that were issued on 27 May and the finalised guidelines were re-published as an Amendment II on 4 June on the Ministry of Health website, where all guidelines were comprised into one single document on 28 May.

The guidelines are to be downloaded along with the assurance form, which is available on the Ministry of Health website by all businesses and service providers, who are then required to submit the duly filled original of the assurance form to the area medical officer of health. A copy of the same is to be sent to the local government authority (municipal council/urban council/pradevada sabaha) and another copy should be kept within the business premises.

The official further stated that the guidelines are aimed to remove the bottlenecks that were created once the restrictions start to relax across the island. The official assured that the Ministry of Health is looking at completing the necessary documentation for these guidelines and will gazette the corresponding regulations at its earliest.

PCR tests...

Ministry of Health (MoH) Health Services Deputy Director General Dr. Paba Palihawadana said that it was crucial to increase the number of daily PCR tests.

“We hope to increase the current daily PCR test number by twofold at least,” she said.

She noted that with the Government’s plans to reopen the country for tourism, it was even more important that the number of tests be increased.

“We certainly have the capacity to increase the number of daily PCR tests,” she noted.

Dr. Palihawadana said that at present, around 2,000-2,300 PCR tests were being carried out on a daily basis.

Hoole...

"Since there was no clear date set for the election, I feel it is a bit premature to order the printing of ballot papers. What if the nominations are cancelled and need to be recalled? There are many possibilities, so we must wait and see how the Supreme Court (SC) rules," he told The Sunday Morning.

On Thursday, the media reported that Chairman of the SC had given directives to the Government Printer’s office to print ballot papers. Prof. Hoole said the SC proceedings must conclude first.

"There is no date set. We must await the ruling given by the Supreme Court as the case being heard are fundamental rights petitions challenging the very same issue - ie date of the election on 20 June," he added.

"There is no date set. We must await the ruling given by the Supreme Court as the case being heard are fundamental rights petitions challenging the very same issue - ie date of the election on 20 June," he added.

No change...

At the recent cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in his capacity as the Minister of Finance approved Gazette notifications on the subject of imposing the customs duties on fuel prices. The Government has established a Petroleum Stabilisation Fund and it is being maintained under the supervision of a committee comprising Treasury officials. It expects to implement a programme to provide long-term relief to the public through the repayment of loans obtained by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) and the Electricity Board (CEB).

The National Cricket Stadium was part of a proposed multi-sports complex.

The construction of the ground commenced in February 2019, even though tenders had been awarded in a year prior, due to issues with the SLCC. The project was announced in the latter part of 2016, and SCE had granted some 43 acres in Hingurakgoda, Polonnaruwa for the purpose. The National Cricket Stadium was part of a proposed multi-sports complex.

The initial estimate similar to the CSSS tax imposed by the Mahinda Rajapaksa Government (2005-2015) also was amended on 10 June 2020, shortly after the Presidential Committee on Inquiry probing the Mahinda Rajapaksa Government had scheduled a sitting.
Running late

Key projects face time and cost overruns

As per the agreement signed between the two parties, Rs. 31.7 billion has to be paid in dollars, which amounts to $169.4 million as per the agreement. However, due to the lack of adequate foreign reserves in the country, the RDA is yet to receive the necessary amount in dollars to activate the loan and begin construction, a senior official attached to RDA told The Sunday Morning. He noted that the RDA officials would meet officials of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) to discuss the possibilities of receiving the $169.4 million. However, the initial amount the Government has to pay last year, soon after the agreements were signed, was Rs. 23.7 billion; delays in paying this had jacked the cost for the Government by Rs. 8 billion, he explained. He pointed out that delaying the project any further would lead to more escalations in cost, and in the meantime, the project would also be stalled. However, the Government has given the green light to the Highways Ministry to go ahead with the CEP Stage IV from Kamakalangoda to Dambulla, skipping the long-delayed Stage III from Pothuhera to Galagedara, which was scheduled to be funded by Japan.

Contd. on page 11

As predicted by the senior official, these conditions would aggravate the delays as it would be difficult to find financial partners that would be willing to invest 100% of the project value.

CEP – further delays

Initially, the Government’s plan was to complete the construction of the CEP which consists of four sections, by the end of 2019. The construction of the 373 km stretch from Kadawatha to Minuwangoda under Section I was delayed due to financing issues on the part of Sri Lanka to activate a loan committed by China. The construction of Section III was delayed due to financing issues on the part of China to activate a loan committed to Sri Lanka at an estimated cost of around Rs. 158 billion by the Chinese Export-Import (Exim) Bank of China. The construction of the 37.3 km stretch from Kadawatha to Mirigama under Section II was delayed due to financing issues on the part of China to activate a loan committed by China. The construction of Section III was delayed due to financing issues on the part of China to activate a loan committed to Sri Lanka at an estimated cost of around Rs. 158 billion by the Chinese Export-Import (Exim) Bank of China.

As learnt by The Sunday Morning, delays in implementing projects for which the agreements have already been signed, are costing the Government billions. “If we delay more, we will have to pay double the total cost of the project,” he stressed. However, the new Government that came to power in November last year has put forward new conditions to cancel any negative impact including the requirement to obtain the full construction amount prior to starting the project. It also imposed a condition that the repayment period of each loan should begin at least five years after the commencement of construction.

In addition, the construction of the project should be completed within three years and during that time, the Government should not be obliged to pay any interest. Most importantly, the Government is focusing more on dollar loans coming into the country rather than other currencies, The Sunday Morning reliably learnt.

Certain development projects for which the finances have already been received can be continued, but that also, only the documentation process can continue until the coronavirus pandemic is fully eradicated by Ministry of Finance Director General, Priyantha Ratnayake.

Minuwangoda

The construction of the 37.3 km stretch from Kadawatha to Minuwangoda under Section I was delayed due to financing issues on the part of Sri Lanka to activate a loan committed by China. The construction of Section III was delayed due to financing issues on the part of China to activate a loan committed to Sri Lanka at an estimated cost of around Rs. 158 billion by the Chinese Export-Import (Exim) Bank of China. The construction of Section IV of the CEP was to be constructed by China, but no agreement was signed for the construction.

As learnt by The Sunday Morning, the Chinese-funded CEP Section I has been hit with a new delay as the Government’s foreign exchange reserves are running out due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 37.3 km Section I of the CEP from Kadawatha to Minuwangoda was scheduled to be constructed by a Chinese contractor at an estimated cost of around Rs. 158 billion obtained as a loan from the Exim (Export-Import) Bank of China. Section I, which is moving at snail’s pace due to the delay in dispersing the funds of the already signed agreement covering 85% of the contract price, is yet to properly begin construction due to the delay on part of the Government to put forward the spread 15% of the total loan amount. Under the contract, the Government needs to provide Rs. 31.7 billion to activate the already signed loan agreement. Earlier, this was to be funded by state banks. However,
Until the Government to its knees by creating an artificial rice shortage and forcing a price increase for the people. The Government has now

The past several weeks saw a serious shortage in rice, with many people experiencing difficulties in obtaining sufficient quantities of rice due to limited supplies and high prices. The Government announced a control price for rice with a kilogramme of paddy and samba going for Rs. 90 which is double the previous price. Sri Lanka Rice Producers' Society Director Nukanha Attanayake said that the Government had been misled with regards to the rice shortage as the result of other factors leading to the shortage including inadequate production and increasing demand.

“With the Government's decision to revise rice prices in April, the Government announced a control price for rice with a kilogramme of paddy and samba going for Rs. 90 which is double the previous price. Sri Lanka Rice Producers' Society Director Nukanha Attanayake said that the Government had been misled with regards to the rice shortage as the result of other factors leading to the shortage including inadequate production and increasing demand. “What we see here is that the Government has had a very bad decision to reduce the price of rice and to change the price policy for rice. This is because the price of rice on the world market is around Rs. 50 while the price of rice in Sri Lanka is around Rs. 125. But they did not decrease the price of rice. Paddy prices cannot be reduced because all of the paddy had already been bought by mill owners. This is the reason why the Government is not increasing the price of paddy. Paddy prices cannot be reduced because all of the paddy had already been bought by mill owners.

“However, in this price revision, the Government has introduced a new concept of control prices. The Government said that it would create a new price for rice as this will create healthy competition for the private sector. We welcome this decision and we hope that the Government that they should have better stocks of rice in case of a sudden shortage.”

He then went on to say that the Government would not make any further adjustments in the rice price as it was the responsibility of the mill owners to maintain the price of rice. The Government had been advised by various experts in the rice industry that the price of rice should be maintained at the current level.

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The Department for Registration of Persons is the only institution vested with the authority to establish a national persons registry, and thereby a documentary electronic data system, the Registration of Persons Act of 1968, regulations framed for the purpose in 1988, and the Presidential Secretariat, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, is paying special attention to the eNIC project, which is currently being further developed by the Ministry of Finance, the current finance minister the Sri Lankan government.

At a meeting held recently at the Presidential Secretariat, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa introduced the eNIC (National Identity Card) system several years ago and now, the project is in its final stages of designing to include biometric data for citizen identification. The brainchild of the eNIC, Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, is paying special attention to the eNIC project, which is currently being further developed by the Ministry of Finance, the current finance minister the Sri Lankan government.

The security issues pertaining to biometric identification have been debated for many years, and now, the project is in its final stages of designing to include biometric data for citizen identification. The brainchild of the eNIC, Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, is paying special attention to the eNIC project, which is currently being further developed by the Ministry of Finance, the current finance minister the Sri Lankan government.

The project is proposed to give the Sri Lankan government the necessary digital service through the issuance of eNICs with a biometric database.

Under this project, it is intended to provide a centralised database, the availability of electronic data, and therefore, there was no need to develop a new identity card, and instead, the data collected and decentralisation of the data. Prof. Rohan Samarajiva

This image uses a special antimicrobial ink to ensure the health of our readers. With our readers’ health in mind, a special antimicrobial ink has been used in the printing of our newspaper.
FACEMASKS AND HAND SANITISER

**Regulating Facemasks and Hand Sanitisers**

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**Ensuring Safety**

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**Hand sanitiser recommended formulas**

- **Ethyl Alcohol 75% v/v**
- **Isopropyl alcohol 74-76% (v/v)**

Manufacturers are required to strictly adhere to this recommendation.

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**Comparing surgical masks and surgical N95 respirators**

A surgical mask is a loose-fitting, disposable mask that creates a physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer and potential contaminants in the environment. Surgical N95 respirators are commonly used in healthcare settings and are a subset of N95 filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs), often referred to as N95s. The surgical masks and surgical N95s do share similarities as they are tested for fluid resistance, filtration efficiency (particulate filtration efficiency and bacterial filtration efficiency), flammability, and biocompatibility. Most importantly, they should not be shared or reused.

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**Cloth face coverings**

With the affordability and reusability of environments such as health care and personal safety, cloth face coverings are a popular option for the general public. Following the below steps when wearing a cloth face cover:

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering.
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Make sure you can breathe easily.
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face.
- Change it if it becomes wet.
- Choose washable, reusable materials.
- Don’t put covering around your neck or up on your forehead.
- Don’t touch the face covering when you are not wearing it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Use hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available.

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**Take off your cloth face covering carefully when you’re home**

- Wash all parts of your face covering separately in hot water and dry them completely.
- Avoid touching your face or eyes.
- Avoid placing the face covering on surfaces that are not washable.
- Wash hands immediately after removing the face covering.

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**With our readers’ health in mind: A special antimicrobial ink has been used in the printing of our newspaper**

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**Contact us**

**Sarath Jayasinghe**

[Contact Information]

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**For more details, please visit our website:**

[Website Link]
Still a work in progress

With speculation rife over the holding of parliamentary polls and the Government Printer being asked to be on standby to print ballot papers, health guidelines are yet to be finalised, with costs for the election predicted to at least double as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak in Sri Lanka.

The date of the election itself is under contention with several fundamental rights (FR) petitions filed in the Supreme Court (SC) challenging the date being heard currently. Saliya Peiris PC, appearing on behalf of the Election Commission (EC) informed the court that the EC did not believe it could hold the election on 20 June due to the pandemic and safety measures therein.

As such, when a date is decided for the election, it would need to be held in accordance with the health guidelines of the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Accordingly, the MoH revealed that the guidelines were still being formulated and that a draft was yet to be finalised. MoH Environment, Occupational Health, and Food Safety Unit Deputy Director General Dr. Lakdinaran Gamalath said that at least another week or two would be needed.

“We have to discuss all recommendations in the draft guidelines with the Election Commission to determine how they can be implemented if or if they needed amending. We had a meeting on Wednesday (27) but there were still a few contentious points that need to be ironed out,” Dr. Gamalath said.

The guidelines would include various measures for voters and election officials alike with hand sanitising and social distancing being two of the key elements. Examples of general recommendations of the guidelines applicable to all would be social distancing between voters when standing in queue at polling centres or within counting centres, the use of face masks by all involved in the election, as well as the use of hand sanitiser by voters and officials alike. The mini-galits would include the possibility of using separate pens for each voter to cast their vote, proper ventilation within counting centres, using a disposable pen to mark the voters’ fingers, and health measures for transportation.

Other features would be sanitising public health officers at polling booths to monitor the implementation of the health guidelines and ensure all safety measures are followed.

Gamalath said that a mock drill should test the practicality of the guidelines and how they would work on the day of the election would be carried out as well. “Before finalising the draft, we will do a mock drill to ensure all the recommendations could be followed. We expect to carry out the drill in the coming weeks,” he said.

With all these added expenses, it was likely the total cost of the election would increase.

EC member Prof. S. Ratnayake H. Hosie told The Sunday Morning that he expects the cost to double. “At the very least, the cost would double from the initial estimates. But we have to first calculate it properly,” he said. Meanwhile, EC Director General Saman Sri Ranatunga also said that he expected the amount to double as well.

“We haven’t received the Health Ministry guidelines yet, but it seems that the costs will increase twofold, at least, due to the additional health and safety measures,” he said.

Contd. on page 11

‘New Normal’ timeline for resuming activities

A general timeline in which resumption of activities can take place is given below. All resumed functions would have to strictly follow the new normal behaviours. General Measures would apply to all functions listed. The timeline is given based on the current low level of COVID-19 transmission in the country. There are 2 timelines designated for higher risk areas and lower risk areas. The situation should be reviewed weekly or as appropriate based on epidemiological information. In the event of a lower risk area becoming higher risk, the relevant timeline should be adjusted.

The timeline below is coded as follows:

- Activities not possible
- Activities allowed with up to 30% capacity
- Activities allowed with up to 50% capacity
- Activities allowed with up to 75% capacity
- Activities allowed with 100% capacity
- Activities allowed with 125% capacity
- Activities allowed with 150% capacity
- Activities allowed with 200% capacity
- Activities allowed with 300% capacity
- Activities allowed with 500% capacity

Dr. Gamlath said that at least another week or two would be needed.

Table 2: Timeline for gradual resumption of activities in higher risk areas

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<th>Public activity / service category</th>
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<th>June 8</th>
<th>June 15</th>
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Table 3: Timeline for gradual resumption of activities in lower risk areas

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The major political parties are hedging their bets this week, as their fortunes and, in some cases, major decisions depend on the outcome of the legal battle before the Supreme Court (SC) on the fate of the dissolved Parliament and postponed general election.

The United National Party (UNP), unmitting about the water, lathed out by suspending the party membership of a group of members who had filled nomination papers through the party's Janalanka Bala (JLB) that is led by former Opposition Leader Sirisena and UNP Deputy Leader Sajith Premadasa. Letters announcing the suspension of UNP membership were sent via registered post on Wednesday 26th to those members who were included in the list of candidates for the general election.

UNP General Secretary Akila Kanamavada said the move was aimed at UNP members who had sought to be elected to Parliament from the political parties at the forthcoming general election.

“Any member who wishes to put his name in the nomination list as a candidate of another political party is made to sign Article 3(c) of the UNP Constitution, and has not obtained the proper approval of the WC. The said conduct of the members of the party is contrary to the UNP Constitution in order to protect and safeguard the best interest of the party,” Kanamavada said.

A group of CPC members, led by former UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe, met with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and the speaker of Parliament on Wednesday (27) with a view to contesting the impending general election, but the Speaker declared that only members of the party who wished to return to the party fold could do so.

Since the pandemic is far from over in this part of the world, every effort must be made to ensure their continued safety, from the party, and, in some cases, survival of the party itself.

Therefore, if conformity is to be expected, it is important that rules are set up and the administrative officers of the party are empowered to implement them. As a result, the parties’ current actions show that the party is in a state of disarray.
Hedging between WITH OUR READERS' HEALTH IN MIND A SPECIAL ANTIMICROBIAL INK HAS BEEN USED IN THE PRINTING OF OUR NEWSPAPER

Love thy neighbour as strengthening quarantine with several other factors such as a political standpoint,” he said.

P.B. Jayasundera formally officer in the public service, Jasinghe said: “As the first health situation with regard to inquired from me on the

Today however, was not taken very

Dr. Anil Jasinghe’s letter to President’s Secretary Dr. P.B. Jayasundera formally officer in the public service. As the first health situation with regard to inquired from me on the

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There is no easy answer, but it is very sad to lose him, said the President in appreciation. Responding, Premi Modi had explained that even though it is not easy to manage a population of more than 1.3 billion, about 75% of the spread of the virus has been contained.

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He responded by mentioning that everyone including

That same year, Rajapaksa worked according to the wishes of the President, observed Mahinda Rajapaksa. Then in 1977, after a Cabinet reshuffle, Mahinda Rajapaksa was appointed as the Minister of Fisheries. He ended up being one of the best fishermen ministers this country ever had witnessed.

His funeral is arranged for today in Colombo Gopal Bagley. Though the change of the ministries back then was interpreted as Mahinda Rajapaksa being sidelined by former President Kumaratunga. Many thought that while they expected jobs in the Government, why were they

No other minister had thought of launching a housing project for the public. The realisation back then that Sri Lanka's strategic geographic location in the Indian Ocean was a lifelong advantage for all its citizens and the country could prosper and transform into a gem, if lost strongly.

Mahinda Rajapaksa here did not prefer going overseas for employment. They were always home-oriented. However, after much convincing, many of those who went for foreign employment back then to these two countries are today grateful to Mahinda Rajapaksa as they are well-off businessmen now. At that time, they missed my father, lamenting that while they expected jobs in the foreign country? However today, their children have successfully taken over their fathers’ businesses and are all well settled. To this day, they visit my father, appreciating his struggle back then.

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Mahinda Rajapaksa, whom I am fortunate enough to call my father

Ministry had immense potential and it was given to Mahinda Rajapaksa as it was one of the key ministries which he had to transform, just as he did with the Labour Ministry. He ended up being one of the best fishermen ministers this country ever had witnessed.

Within months after he took over, Mahinda Rajapaksa began expanding inland fishing and "Divana Nivas", a housing scheme for fishermen. No other minister had thought of launching a housing project for the public. The realisation back then that Sri Lanka's strategic geographic location in the Indian Ocean was a lifelong advantage for all its citizens and the country could prosper and transform into a gem, if lost strongly.

When President Rajapaksa returned from his US tour the first opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest with the US President was adopted and thanked him for the support rendered by the US to help India face these difficult times. India's 9 of 10 times of medical supplies proved to be very useful, said the President in appreciation.

The President conversation had been very constructive and it seemed that the Covid-19 crisis, they had agreed to strengthen all aspects of the bilateral relations.

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Lanka in dealing with the Covid-19 economic challenges, the country's strategic geographic location in the Indian Ocean was a lifelong advantage for all its citizens and the country could prosper and transform into a gem, if lost strongly.
Below are excerpts of The Sunday Morning’s interview with Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) Acting Executive Director Ahamed Saravanamuttu.

I think the election should be held as and when we think it is possible. We had a Parliament which is now dissolved, which could have gone on till September.

Below are excerpts of The Sunday Morning’s interview with Centre for Free and Fair Election (CaFFE) Acting Executive Director Ahmad Maken. 

How would CaFFE take action against the misuse of state resources for election purposes?

How do you think it will affect the fairness and impartiality of the election?

Will the presence of the military affect the fairness and impartiality of the election?

There may be certain issues that may arise with the use of religious places of worship for election propaganda.

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Do you think granting relief during the pandemic was also a form of bribery?

We have deployed district co-ordinators and long-term observers to monitor the election to your satisfaction.

When there is such a complaint, we confirm it and forward it to the EC and the head of the relevant department.

Below are excerpts of The Sunday Morning’s interview with Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) Executive Director Rohana Hettiarachchi.

There is no such law, but now according to the present law, they can’t bribe voters. Although everybody knows that happens, no one will be there to present evidence.

How would the EC take action against the misuse of state resources for election purposes?

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There are propaganda activities going on, additional sector to monitor whether they are doing it legally, which is now dissolved, which could have gone on till September.

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How would your organisation take action to monitor the propaganda activities on social media during the “cooling period”?

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After weeks of discussions, the Ministry of Education has come to a decision to reopen schools in the presence of the necessary amenities to enable schoolchildren, school administrations, and the staff to wash their hands.

While washinig the first steps towards Covid-19 prevention, there seems to be many other important considerations that need to be implemented prior to schools reopening. For now, the date to reopen schools seems to be undecided with the Ministry indicating each week that they would take a decision the following week.

Speaking to The Sunday Morning, Ministry of Education Secretary N.H.M. Chitranswara said, “The school system of Sri Lanka involves a lot of stakeholders and with the different development projects currently underway, the general public will have to equally play a part to ensure the safety of the schoolchildren.”

We need everyone to co-ordinate according to these guidelines and to ensure that the schools, schoolchildren, teacher/staff, school transport providers/owners, and the general public will have to equally play a part to ensure the safety of the schoolchildren.

According to the guidelines, if a meeting is required to be held for parents and school van-operators on the safety measures they need to take from the time the child leaves the house until they arrive at school or while they are being transported to and from school, the meeting can be held in the presence of 10 students.

The staff can also discuss the details of the meeting to ensure the necessary measures are taken. However, if the need arises, a meeting should be held by the zonal education directorate which would subsequently inform the concerned parties.

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The school system of Sri Lanka involves a lot of stakeholders and with the different development projects currently underway, the general public will have to equally play a part to ensure the safety of the schoolchildren.

In addition, the Ministry will also launch a countrywide transport van registration system, the All Island Inter District School Children Transport Association to discuss the transportation guidelines on Monday, 8 June.

Ensuring the safety of the children from the time they leave the house until they reach the school, the principal of each school and the Ministry of Education officials will ensure that the parents take the initiative to ensure that their children’s safety can be assured. Upon reaching the school premises, the school administration are to take the responsibility for the children and provide the necessary facilities, from washing hands regularly and providing the necessary furniture and school instruments for use after a daily basis.

The staff will be given complete instructions on how to follow hygiene guidelines and keep the classrooms clean.

Not only teachers but parents too are asked to attend these meetings. If the date to start schools is not yet decided, we do not see a purpose for these meetings. So, the Ministry needs to look at the necessary facilities to all schools, students and teachers who have access to such facilities. Meanwhile, we do not even have a teachers’ break room, for the teachers to wash their hands even have their meals during the interval.

Next steps unclear

Stalin also questioned how the Ministry is planning to provide the necessary facilities to all schools, students, and teachers as it lacks funds.

“There are about 4.5 million students in schools across the country, in Sri Lanka; if wearing a mask is compulsory for everyone, these are 4.5 million walls of face masks in schools. The Ministry promises new air conditioners for schools and principal with face masks for all. However, we are yet to see a workable plan and the necessary facilities to meet these suggestions,” Stalin added.

Stalin also stated that officially, a meeting was held to discuss the build the hand-washing facilities in schools which has already started. But, although the Ministry stated that a study was conducted to allocate the necessary facilities, there would not be lack of funds even within the Government fund.

Once the date to reopen the schools is decided, the teachers are required to join classes within the next two weeks prior to the start date and prepare the necessary facilities.

Stalin also revealed that these days, schools have been holding virtual meetings by the zonal education directors, and meetings that span for even 30 minutes through Zoom. He added that not only teachers but parents are also asked to attend these meetings. If the date to start schools is not yet decided, we do not see a purpose for these meetings.

In addition, the Ministry needs to look at supplying the necessary facilities for the schools to carry out disinfection programmes.

Still a work in progress...

The China National Technical Import and Export Corporation (CNCIT) was awarded the construction of the 26.3 km Section I of the RFP from Kathahaduwa to Ingiriya in 2016. It is learnt that new conditions had been communicated to the CNCIT during the negotiations held recently, and the Chinese contractors have so far not agreed to these new conditions.

The Cabinet of Ministers that met on 26 July 2016 decided to divide the expressway into four sections and allocated each section to different contractors and propose to invite proposals from them for the implementation of the project. But there was no certainty of the availability of funds for any sections. Consequently, it was decided to stick to the original three sections.

An RFP was issued to CNCIT on 1 November 2015 and evaluated by the Cabinet Appointed Project Committe (CAPC).

Cabinet approval was granted via the Cabinet Memorandum dated on 27 February 2020 titled “Implementation of construction of proposed expressway networks Sri Lanka to authenticate Secretary to Ministry of Highways to request CNCIT to provide 50% estimate for the cost of RFP of Section I of the Rupavansa Expressway”.

We need everyone to coordinate according to these guidelines and to ensure that the schools, schoolchildren, teacher/staff, school transport providers/owners, and the general public will have to equally play a part to ensure the safety of the schoolchildren.

During the first phase of the reopening of schools, children as school staff as to bring their meals from home as school cantons will not be allowed to come into the school premises or to engage in any hygiene practices that are adhered to. The staff will also have to temporarily suspend the non-essential services and facilities and schools will not be able to prepare the meals at the school premises due to hygiene guidelines.

Schools will also be disinfected prior to the date the Government assigns for the schools to reopen and the support of military officials, health staff, and parents will be sought by the respective schools to carry out disinfection programmes.

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Amidst the chaos the Covid-19 pandemic has caused the world over, it has managed to shine some light on an interesting topic here in Sri Lanka. Since many were unable to go about their day-to-day lives due to the curfew that lasted over two months, people resorted to going about their tasks from home. How? Through online forums. It is a phenomenon that proves to be a valuable asset to mankind especially during absolutely terrible times such as the pandemic. Many companies transitioned to online forums in order to carry out their meetings and other important business. But schools, especially those in Sri Lanka started distance learning some time ago, but due to lack of internet and video quality, it is still a problem.

We need to think of those in the rural areas. The only issue, however, is that we may not have these facilities, (ii) supporting platforms would be in: (i) Supporting the work as they know the repercussions. Many are unable to follow up through calls after sending messages hadn't been received or seen. However, for the moment, the issues that many come from different economic statistics in the country, it has the potential to provide these facilities. It is a problem for the less fortunate.

Expectations are too high
Aruna Botjappa – wildlife conservationist

My answer is no. For instance, in rural areas, it is difficult to even get a call as there is low coverage. Some of the children cannot even watch TV as there is no signal. So, bow, in that case, can we expect online education to happen? I know one classic example where a particular school in Udawalawa does not even have a multimedia to conduct sessions, let alone the internet. This was experienced when we went there to carry out some activities. Therefore, no, I do not think Sri Lanka has the proper infrastructure to conduct online education.

A problem for the less fortunate
Plumie Munasinghe – senior merchandiser in apparel sector

In my experience, most schools these days conduct sessions through an online system. This system is seemingly successful, although I do not encourage doing this every single day. However, at a time like this, I think it is quite helpful. The only issue, however, is that we may not have adequate facilities to facilitate online education. Of course, most Sri Lankans, even in the rural areas, have at least a phone, so they can somehow manage. But it still poses a problem.

Having to follow through
Shanka Jayasuriya – Director at Marie International Montessori

In areas like Colombo, this method of teaching is attempted to work. But in contrast to that, in other areas such as rural areas, there is definitely a problem with online education. In my experience, there have been instances where I had to follow up through calls after sending WhatsApp messages, so the messages haven't been received or seen. The success of the online education system would basically vary according to the geographical areas. At the same time, I feel the same way for government schools, especially in higher grades, they somehow manage to do the work as they know the repercussions.

A lack of knowledge
V. Sathila Ushani – Library Assistant at Jaya Sri Subhuthi National School, Battaramulla

To a great extent, I think online education is relatively successful, but do not think we have enough facilities to support it, especially in rural areas. A lot of houses only have smartphones, not laptops or tablets. Therefore, it gets really difficult with regard to online education. Everything is done through WhatsApp because of this. In Colombia, it’s quite successful but outside of it, not so much. The reason for this is that people also lack knowledge on how to use these devices. Furthermore, they may not even have access to it.

A glimmer of hope
Amasha Divyan I Vitanachy – student

Sri Lanka does have the potential to carry out online education. In fact, in the recent past, the Government of Sri Lanka took a decision to provide tablets and free Wi-Fi mainly for Advanced Level (A/L) students. This shows that the country has the potential to provide these facilities. Also, laptops, tablets, and other devices are readily available in the Sri Lankan market. Furthermore, islandwide free internet coverage can also be provided with low rates for certain apps which are absolutely useful for online education.

Having the know-how of how to use these technologies together with poverty can also be a major barrier. In order to overcome this, the Government can provide a payment mechanism on an instalment basis which will allow the children in rural areas also to actively join in on online education. This shows that our country has the infrastructure to have online education for school students.

Hit by lack of resources
BY DIANDRA ANNE

Not a herculean task
Gamini Ratnapayaka – Chairman/MD at Willipower Group (Pvt.) Ltd.

Sri Lanka does have the infrastructure to carry out online education. Everyone knows, online education totally depends on technology. It is now merely a matter of developing an infrastructure for education by putting all required technological equipment together, with audio and video technology. It is not a herculean task. All we need are dynamic teams with a vision and who are ready to lead the old ways in the past.

A problem exclusive to certain people
Gihan Sashika Geekiyangan – Senior Beautyician at Ramani Fernando Salons

In my opinion, I do not feel as though the private or international schools will encounter a problem when conducting online teaching. However, government schools will face some issues in this teaching method. There is a mix of the more affluent as well as the less fortunate children in these schools. Hence, I do not believe that Sri Lanka currently has the facilities to carry out online education. The reason for this is that children in rural areas may not have the facilities the kids in the city have. Things like the internet, computers, and phones may not be readily available for them. Therefore, I do not think online education will be 100% successful. Another reason that as there is the rather high number of students in one class and only one teacher, so it is not manageable.

A lack of knowledge
By Subasini Karase

A problem for the less fortunate
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Mushrooming solutions
Pavani Borasela – psychologist

I believe this is a new challenge the education system is facing. There is need to transition from physical face-to-face interaction to an online platform for the time being. However, given the fact that many come from different economic statistics in society, the system has to be mindful of how effective these online platforms would be: (i) Supporting the work as they know the repercussions. Many are unable to follow up through calls after sending messages hadn't been received or seen. However, for the moment, the issues that many come from different economic statistics in the country, it has the potential to provide these facilities. It is a problem for the less fortunate.

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A glimmer of hope
Amasha Divyan I Vitanachy – student

Sri Lanka does have the potential to carry out online education. In fact, in the recent past, the Government of Sri Lanka took a decision to provide tablets and free Wi-Fi mainly for Advanced Level (A/L) students. This shows that the country has the potential to provide these facilities. Also, laptops, tablets, and other devices are readily available in the Sri Lankan market. Furthermore, islandwide free internet coverage can also be provided with low rates for certain apps which are absolutely useful for online education.

Having the know-how of how to use these technologies together with poverty can also be a major barrier. In order to overcome this, the Government can provide a payment mechanism on an instalment basis which will allow the children in rural areas also to actively join in on online education. This shows that our country has the infrastructure to have online education for school students.
The President’s decision to dissolve Parliament was not taken lightly, he said, adding that it was in part of the matters raised by him during the presidential election campaign. When he issued this proclamation, there was no such threat to the country and there was no need to call for a no-confidence motion in the parliamentary election,” he said. De Silva noted these preliminary objections in response to the seven FR petitions filed challenging the date of the general election, “We have to carefully examine whether the FR petitioners had the right to file an objection to the proclamation made by the President dissolving Parliament. If they had not, it means that the President was not acting within the limits of his powers,” De Silva said.

A constitutional decision

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With Sri Lanka being commanded for highly successful measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, it led to a global pandemic whilst the country was able to keep its borders closed. The resilience and hard work of the country has been widely recognized which has led to a global pandemic whilst the country was able to keep its borders closed. The resilience and hard work of the country has been widely recognized.

Sri Lanka has been opened, but the education system in the country is expanding rapidly. There are several reasons why:

1. The present non-state education sector
2. International demand for TNE
3. The Government’s vision for Sri Lanka’s higher education sector
4. The country’s strategic location
5. The high-quality education system in the country
6. The country’s cultural and natural heritage

The country has conventionally invested in the higher education sector. The Government has given special attention to the sector. The country’s strategic location makes it an ideal higher education destination. The country has a strong defence and security system, which is necessary in such a region. The country has a strong defence and security system, which is necessary in such a region.

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The chess game begins in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2001)

When the World Champion Magnus Carlsen played against the rising Polish star Arkadij Naiditsch online Rapid Challenge, an exciting battle ensued. The game ended in a draw after 37 moves, while the game reached a surreal position; a kind of zone where positions became stunned and the commentators speculated.

The inimitable Jan Gustafsson, who has long been associated with Chess.com, pointed out how the players had come to the agreement on the squares. "They are clearly aiming for a draw with 37...Nd5!"

Duda - Carlsen


This brilliant queen sacrifice foreshadows what Holmes will do to save his son's life, and it also provides an early glimpse of his character. As a bonus, this game also appears to signal the beginning of the end for the iconic character. The three-act structure of the game is evident, with the climax coming at move 37. "If this was in a movie, we would complain that they should at least hire one chess player as a consultant!"

Dharmaratne's comment refers to the regular occurrence of something that has always annoyed chess aficionados—erred orientation of the chess board. The enormous budget at their disposal. Chess is quite astonishing, especially considering the most common (and the most irritating!) one is the incorrect orientation of the chess board. A true delight!

Therefore, the players now have to find an alternative to make sure that they practise enough. With curfew being relaxed to a large extent, no tennis players must be waiting to bustle back on to the court and play some tennis again.

The following is a position 90% of you will find hard to handle. Carlsen lost after move 37. "If this was in a movie, we would complain that they should at least hire one chess player as a consultant!"

From the Koombiyo article

The inimitable Jan Gustafsson, who has long been associated with Chess.com, pointed out how the players had come to the agreement on the squares. "They are clearly aiming for a draw with 37...Nd5!"

Dunith Pathirana on COURT

With careers being robbed by a large extent and normal life reining slowly but surely, all tennis players must be waiting to bustle back on to the court and playing tennis again.

Having been cooped inside a house for almost two-and-a-half months, it will be a strange experience to get back on court. And in the case of some of the players, it will also be more than happy to let them off their tethering on a tennis court to let off steam after having to control their home safely for so long. Quite a few of them might even be relieved to have a space of their own to do something different.

The other thing that kept the players in their corner was the lack of normalcy and the absence of someone to talk to. The freedom that comes with being able to talk to someone you don't know is immense.

The tennis players continue to create a sense of normalcy by playing tennis on the wall. This is another underrated form of training for a tennis player. It helps them maintain their fitness and prepare them for a real tennis match.

However, what is most needed is the determination to continue training. The players can do it by watching YouTube videos of the top players and trying to emulate their techniques and strategies. They should also be watching online matches and trying to learn from them.

The only thing that the players need to remember is that the drills should be a daily routine. It should perhaps be that the players are doing some footwork drills every day, followed by some shadow swings and then followed by some ball toss and footwork drills.

Self-feeling drills are another set of drills which players can practice on their own. The players can just have a ball in their hand and throw it to the wall and want to move, and they try to hit it and hit it. In fact, these drills, if done properly, would be highly effective for the players to understand the length of the ball and how to hit the ball correctly.

Serve+1 drills

This is a straightforward progression from the first two drills. The players can have two balls in their hands. Then the player can serve the first ball, come to the ready position, and then throw the next ball as if the serve has been returned, and move to it and hit the ball. This is an extremely effective way to understand and improve the “attacking of the second ball” concept.

Co-ordination drills

Whilst the first three drills mentioned above would need a tennis court, the next four drills mentioned here would not need one even. Co-ordination drills are one of the most underused and underutilized drills in tennis. The players and the coaches assume automatically that the players are co-ordinating quite well when they are observing the top players in the world; they spend a lot of time on the drill of co-ordination. In the absence of actual matches, too, they are doing the same.

Sri. DG Dhammaratne boon for Kandy

A sportsperson and sports lover taking up the game of tennis is a boon. It shows that tennis is big, that Kandy is fortunate in having the inimitable Jan Gustafsson, who has long been associated with Chess.com, pointed out how the players had come to the agreement on the squares. "They are clearly aiming for a draw with 37...Nd5!"

Suranjith Silva

Full Name: Suranjith Silva

Kandy: Sri Lanka

Father: IdRAR Silva

Mather: Nimesh Perera

Siblings: Younger brother Priyanjith and younger sister Meriam Silva

Runs Melbourne West Cricket Academy

Batting style:

School:

Major teams:

Born:

Mother:

Father:

4 Mar 1975 in Moratuwa

45 years

Presently:

Runs Melbourne West Cricket Academy

Batting style:

School:

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**Cricket behind closed doors is like having canjee without salt**

Percy视角

Ever thought of having canjee or pork rice without salt, or enjoying a dish without its main ingredient? That's how international cricket is when spectators are banned from the stands at cricket grounds. The absence of the audience, who are the heartbeat of cricket stadiums, is like having canjee without salt, or a dish without its key ingredient.

It's a scenario that's become all too familiar for cricket fans around the world, particularly in countries like Sri Lanka, where cricket is a national passion. The absence of spectators is akin to having a meal without its accompaniments, which is why cricket is often referred to as a sport that's incomplete without its spectators.

This is a stark contrast to the days when spectators were allowed to cheer and contribute to the atmosphere of the game. The impact of their absence is not just limited to the on-field action but also off it, with the off-field environment feeling a bit flat.

With the ban on spectators due to the ongoing pandemic, the sport has lost a significant part of its appeal, and it's hard to imagine a complete game without the presence of spectators. It's a scenario that's become all too familiar for cricket fans around the world, particularly in countries like Sri Lanka, where cricket is a national passion.

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It's hard to imagine a complete game without the presence of spectators, and the ban on spectators due to the ongoing pandemic has left the sport feeling a bit flat.

The impact of their absence is not just limited to the on-field action but also off it, with the off-field environment feeling a bit flat.
Vehicle importers, who, according to reliable sources, have effectively driven out of business due to the Government’s vehicle import ban, have been retained for opportunities to join the export sector to ensure their survival.

The Vehicle Importers Association of Sri Lanka (VIASL) expects the Government to implement a stable long-term policy that would convert their now virtually redundant operations into profitable ventures or businesses in similar industries.

Amidst strict restrictions on vehicle imports by the Government to prevent a possible foreign exchange crisis, the industry has made such a request to ensure that vehicle importers do not go bankrupt and subsequently choose to be left in the lurch by the ban on vehicle imports.

On 22 May, Minister of Finance, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa issued a Gazette notification banning vehicle imports into Sri Lanka for a further notice, while other import restrictions are imposed only for a period of three months. This has left vehicle importers in the industry with no choice but to survive only on the stocks they have at the moment.

VIASL President Indika Abeyratne, who has retained Chairmanship of the VIASL, and Lakshman Kaduge, Chairman of the International Relations and Strategic Studies Global Economy Programme, Chairman Gihan Wijanaraja, Economi Asia Managing Director and Founder Chairman Uditha Indrarathna, are comprising the committee.

These 10 members have replaced the former committee which, in addition to Abeyratne and Dr. Wijanaraja, comprised of Dr. Anjali Silva, Chairman of the Securities Commission; Murugiah Jaffarme, Lion Breweries (Ceylon) PLC CEO; Sureesh Shah, Ceylon Biscuits Ltd. Managing Director; Shwedankumara, then Director in the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade; and Economic Advisor Wijen Wickramaratne, who was a former Sri Lanka Chairman, CEO Amal Cabraal.

Institute of Policy Studies Studies of Sri Lanka (IPSS) Executive Director Amal Cabraal, who was a former committee member, said this was an unprecedented move for an industry to find a solution with the Government in the current situation.

Contd. on page 2

Stockbrokers strike gold
with CSE reopening

By CHANDIRA CHANDRASEKARA

Stockbrokers have been taking in big business with the reopening of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) after a seven-week closure on 11 March.

In fact, earnings have been so high that some stockbroking companies have already covered the revenue they lost due to the prolonged closure of the market.

We made our usual monthly revenue in just five or six days of trading. Things have been excellent,** stockbroker told The Sunday Morning Business.

The CSE was closed on 20 March to 10 May and in that period, stockbroker revenues completely dried up as a result of the closure. However, since 11 May, it has been a completely different story. Stockbroking earnings are based on turnover alone, and the average daily turnover in the 14 trading days in 2020 was Rs. 1.5 billion. These figures are in spite of the CSE seeing its shortest trading day in history on the opening day (11), which lasted a mere 38 seconds, allowing a turnover of only Rs. 24.8 million.

This is stark contrast to the average daily turnover of 2019, which was well under Rs. 1 billion, and is even higher than the average daily turnover in 2020 prior to the market closure.

Colombo Stockbrokers (CSBA) President Kosala Gamage told us on Thursday evening that the stockbroking community is on a much better footing now than they were last year.

"Compared to last year, what we have seen over the past two-and-a-half weeks has been very good," he noted.

A CSBA official exulted.

Several stockbroking companies are reported to be reconsidering the salary cuts introduced last year amid the economic dooms and glooms of the Covid-19 pandemic. Those were originally supposed to be in place till 11, but there is now a likelihood that these cuts, which were sometimes as high as 40%, will be discontinued before June.

However, market analysts have expressed concern about the massive foreign outflow soon in the market since its reopening. There has been nearly Rs. 8 billion worth of foreign outflow from the CSE in these 14 market days, although that has had no impact on the stockbrokers.

Contd. on page 2

Parking sector
interest relief: CB
ready to respond

By MADHUSHA THAVAPALAKUMAR

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), which is in place to enable the bank to obtain views of opportunities to join the market, has been retained. The changes are believed to have been brought about as CBSL Governor Prof. W.D. Lakshman, following his appointment in late 2019, wanted a committee that aligned with his nationalistic economic policies as opposed to the perceived pro-business policies of the previous Government.

Our attempt to obtain a confirmation of the new committee and its remuneration will ensure the system to pay to the Central Bank told that they were not willing to divulge the details of neither the former committee nor the new committee to the third parties outside the market. Nothing worth it was happening between the Government and the previous CB.

The change behind the MPC is that it consists of a cross-section of stakeholders including eminent professionals, academics, and private sector personnel so that the CBSL benefits by their expertise and experience in its monetary policy decision-making.

Contd. on page 2

THE SUNDAY MORNING BUSINESS EDITION 31 May 2020
Lanka's financial regulators, including the Monetary and Treasuries Committee (MT), were involved in managing the crisis. The MT issued a statement on 13 March 2020, which was followed by a moratorium on loans and leases for a period of one year. This was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a severe impact on the economy. The moratorium allowed borrowers to pause their debt obligations for a period of time, which helped to stabilize the economy.

The moratorium was extended several times, and it was eventually lifted in 2021. This allowed the economy to recover, and it helped to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the country.

The moratorium was also extended to other sectors, such as the retail and hospitality industries. This allowed businesses to continue operating and helped to support the economy during the pandemic.

The government also implemented several policies to stimulate the economy, including tax cuts, subsidies, and increased public spending. These policies helped to boost consumption and investment, which were important for the economy's recovery.

In conclusion, the moratorium and the economic policies implemented by the government were crucial in managing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy. These policies helped to stabilize the economy and allowed it to recover over time.

**Note:** The information presented here is for educational purposes only and should not be considered as professional financial advice.
Production economy: Think Small, Sri Lanka

Dhanath Fernando

Why can’t we produce the goods we consume? Why do we need to depend on all these other countries? Why can’t we produce world-class brands? Over the years, these have all been million-dollar questions. From agri-based to fish-based, Sri Lanka has owned industries that left a stench not only on the economy, but also on the face of the governing party. Policymakers have ignored or overlooked reforms that could have drastic economic and diplomatic ramifications which could have led Sri Lanka to a production-based economy.

Let’s get back to fundamentals – “producing an economic good” and “producing a service.” It is not these two different concepts are completely different concepts. It can drive a car, but I’m no Aptos Soma or Michael Manley. And fish the sea, and Sri Lankans can play cricket but only a handful can be in the National XI, today’s age, producing an economic good is like playing to win at a World Cup. Otherwise, how the Australians go about their business is not because of cricket, but rather by failing to focus and fail at what we will be as a nation. As Charles Darwin said: “It’s not the strongest but the most adaptable that will survive.”

Many centuries ago we produced goods and services for our consumption and all was well. We had the economies of scale that economic good or service had an ecosystem in the same country. With the advent of globalization, the pencil, arguably the most important life-sustaining invention, was discovered by the physicist scientist Alexander Fleming, the world saw cheaper pencils, but it didn’t mean the era of pencils was over. Keeping a growing population fed, housed, and employed paved the way for our society to become what it is today.

However, every country has a competitive edge in a particular good or service. Sri Lanka is no exception. Closer to home, for example, how can we have it in car, Korea in electronics, New Zealand in dairy products, etc. In this modern and fast-changing world, every country will have its unique advantages and keep on changing what it is good at. The same is true for what we produce. Sri Lanka has retired from the big three (cigarettes, tea, rubber) and ended up specializing in low-end goods which involves less capital, human capital, cultivation, etc.

Joining a global production network

Joining a global production network is not only about selling and producing goods, it is also about bringing added value to the product. A company that generates high-quality products will be able to achieve a higher price for their goods. In this way, we can make a greater demand for high-quality goods and services.

In the realm of manufacturing and production, Sri Lanka has fallen short. The country has been advised to make high-quality goods in order to compete in the global market but has not been able to do so. Instead, Sri Lanka has focused on producing goods that are not of high quality, which has resulted in a drop in the value of these goods.

The coordination problem by Advocate

The coordination problem is a concept in economics that describes how individuals or organizations can work together to achieve a common goal. In the case of Sri Lanka, this coordination problem is evident in the country’s industrial sector. The lack of coordination in the industry has led to a decrease in production and an overall decline in the country’s economy.

The country has a lack of coordination in its industrial sector, which is evident in the fact that there is no integration between the various stages of production. This results in a decrease in efficiency and a decrease in the overall quality of the goods produced.

Home industry first approach critical when reopening economy

The home industry approach is critical when reopening the economy. It emphasizes the need for domestic production and seeks to reduce reliance on imports. This approach can help countries build resilience and improve their economic stability in the long run.

The home industry approach can also help to create new jobs and reduce unemployment. By prioritizing domestic production, countries can support local businesses and workers, which can lead to increased economic activity and improved living standards.

The home industry approach can also help to reduce the country’s balance of payments deficit. By reducing reliance on imports, countries can free up resources for domestic investment and consumption.

The home industry approach can also help to improve food security. By increasing domestic production, countries can ensure a stable supply of food to their citizens, which is crucial for maintaining economic stability and ensuring the health and well-being of their populations.

The home industry approach can also help to reduce the country’s vulnerability to global economic shocks. By diversifying its economy and reducing its dependence on imports, countries can reduce their exposure to sudden changes in global markets.

However, the home industry approach also faces challenges. It requires significant investment in infrastructure, technology, and human capital. It also requires the development of a strong domestic market and the creation of an enabling environment for domestic businesses.

In conclusion, the home industry approach is critical when reopening the economy. It can help to build resilience, create new jobs, reduce the balance of payments deficit, improve food security, and reduce vulnerability to global economic shocks. While it faces challenges, the benefits of this approach make it an essential part of any reopening strategy.
The Ministry of Health has issued its "Back to Normal" advocacy brief, a set of guidelines to be adopted by industries as they gradually emerge from restrictions. The overarching mantra of the guidelines is strong adherence to distancing, hand hygiene, and use of facemasks together with enhanced disinfection and sanitisation. The little we know of the transmission dynamics of Covid-19 means we are in for the long haul. All processes of all businesses and types must invest in better safety and hygiene.

For a country that deals with routine outbreaks of infectious diseases, the general hygiene practices of Sri Lankans need to be redefined. Revisiting the new requirements, thus, necessitates both physical provisions as well as awareness and education, especially among marginalised communities that lack both the adequate resources and knowledge to put the recommendations into practice. It’s especially important to remember that many frontline workers belong to these local communities and their safety must be a priority – for everyone’s sake.

The resumption of normality, therefore, in the long run, must be set up for businesses and households. Mask wearing and hand sanitiser use must feel like oxygen when authorities insist there is no community spread, but with millions of those testing positive being asymptomatic, it is both foolish and reckless to assume this battle is over.

"Vast tea industry in the country, and has made the product one
The quality of Ceylon Tea is well
z Ceylon Tea meets
steam and electrical energy to rotate
which use thermal energy to produce
important process, in order to produce
save 40% of the energy consumed during the process, but also ensures
have a smaller and more appealing unit before marketing it to factories.
Samadanie Kiriwandeniya
Former NTB CEO Renuka Fernando
to Head Dialog Finance

The quality of Ceylon Tea is well
not ideal for
order to control the speed of the VSD,
Dr. Hettiarachchi explained that due to this, large factories with around 24 troughs consumer really high amounts of power, with the working process being the highest electrical energy consumer, compared to other processes like fermentation.
residue, sometimes over several days, which needs to be stored and provide clean air for the
removed from the plants.
Samadanie Kiriwandeniya
retires as SDB Chairperson
Lakshman Abeysekera,
Former Nations Trust
Bank PLC (NTB) Chairperson
Samadanie Kiriwandeniya retired from the Board of Directors of Dialog Axiata PLC, on completion of nine years, according to May 2020, on completion of nine years, according to

The cost of electrical energy is fairly
of thermal energy is bearable for most
of green leaves by about 55%. This
as it helps reduce the moisture content
and hygiene.
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It's especially important to remember that
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"Towards a New Normal" advocacy
Some positions he has
to NTB Labs, Anumalara Tamankon
and management across
different industries.

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not ideal for
order to control the speed of the VSD,
Dr. Hettiarachchi explained that due to this, large factories with around 24 troughs consumer really high amounts of power, with the working process being the highest electrical energy consumer, compared to other processes like fermentation.
residue, sometimes over several days, which needs to be stored and provide clean air for the
removed from the plants.
Samadanie Kiriwandeniya
retires as SDB Chairperson
Lakshman Abeysekera,
Former Nations Trust
Bank PLC (NTB) Chairperson
Samadanie Kiriwandeniya retired from the Board of Directors of Dialog Axiata PLC, on completion of nine years, according to May 2020, on completion of nine years, according to
Travel and hospitality, with Sri Lanka as the focus, is the industry that has been hardest hit by the pandemic. The island is a major destination, and the tourism industry is considered to be a standby to both national and international travel restrictions.

Bringing an umbrella industry that brings together around 40 other industries, it is more than just an industry for Sri Lanka. By 2018, it was reported that tourism could generate $36 billion by 2020, with direct employment of 388,847 people across the nation, out of which 100,000 were direct employees (Sri Lanka Tourism Report 2018). While this may seem like a lot, it is still a small part of the total workforce employed persons (including in agriculture) at the end of 2018 (Central Bank Annual Report 2018).

As such, crucial to the nation that the tourism industry restrengthen without any as soon as the threat of the pandemic is now in the past.

However, opening up the industry too soon to international travel could be disastrous, as the pandemic has completely subsided could have dire consequences.

Reopening too soon

It is crucial that the decision to re-open the island country’s borders to foreigners be made solely on medical grounds by the country’s medical experts and not for economic reasons. Noted are the recent successes across China, Iran, Italy, Spain, and France – is reducing, many more countries are joining the list of the badly afflicted, including Russia, China, India, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Japan. The US continues to head the list at over 4,000,000.

Action points: Authorised officials need to visit the countries that it would be opening the border to and initially talk to those that are least afflicted.

Domestic Tourism

The easiest method to battle the pandemic is to keep our borders closed. Infection rates among the recent Sri Lankan returns from the Middle East, Europe, India, and other countries are the general public, that it is not yet the time to reopen. A single Juan Ching positive would result in a plague of over 200,000 cases guaranteed, which is an added cost and also likely to be a public relations disaster.

On the other hand, numerous reports from our health authorities indicate that the only active cluster in the North East, which has been contained. Thus, the number of active clusters is now down to just four clusters.

Three phases

1. The authors have formulated the following plan for reopening the tourism industry:
2. Phase I: Survival - short-term domestic tourism
3. Phase II: Strengthening: Mainly domestic tourism with increasing numbers of international tourism
4. Phase III: Transition: domestic tourism with limited international tourism

Phase I: Survival - short-term domestic tourism

In this phase, tourism could commence within which has been contained. Thus, active cluster is the Navy cluster, likely to be a public relations concern.

Phase II: Strengthening: Mainly domestic tourism with increasing numbers of international tourism

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it may take between 2-3 months for the outbreak to be effectively controlled, with a peak during May 2020. However, the situation could change, and the government may choose to extend this period. Phase II leads into the next phase where domestic tourism can continue to recover.

Phase III: Transition: domestic tourism with limited international tourism

In this phase, tourism could commence at the same time Phase II has been sufficiently activated. This will require significant investment.

Catering to existing industries

Sri Lanka has a diverse product in terms of hotel accommodation, and any recovery plan must be in the short and mid terms to ensure all these different types are supported. As a result, in the context of the SLTDA, of the country’s 40,365 available rooms, only 25% or 10,000 rooms can be classified as either five-star (five- star, four-star, boutique hotel, boutique villa, bungalow, heritage bungalow, and heritage home). As such, the sector has room for improvement.

Phase II: Strengthening: Mainly domestic tourism with increasing numbers of international tourism

Current scenario suggests that, depending upon the length of restricted travel (the closure of borders, the outbreak is likely to be contained in the next few days), and they would also support local economies to a least a small extent. Unless there is significant financial support for these local hotels, their revenue would be further hit, and they would need at least a small extent. Unless there is significant financial support for these local hotels, their revenue would be further hit, and they would need significant investment.

Tourist arrivals year-on-year

A large number of potential effects of Covid-19 on world and national economies are being tossed around. At this stage, the only point on which they agree is that it will be bad. The principal direction of discourse seems to be how long it will last. If the recovery is going to last, the length of business-soft business, social constraints, and the scale and efficiency of government incentives.

Hotel recovery

With the pandemic’s continuous impact on travel, it is important to look at the potential effects of both their current and future states and have an action plan to help. When travel has practically stopped as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, in the latter part of the year and next year, the market is expected to regain ground.

Hotels must therefore take the steps required to prepare themselves adequately for recovery while setting appropriate expectations and KPIs.

Customer relationship management

You don’t need a hugely expensive system to do this, although it is preferable if it is a digital system. Even low-end providers can easily adapt, e.g. a homestay owner can send out emails to former customers to check on their well-being during the Coronavirus Covid times and ask for their patronage when they travel to travel.

Country local marketing

While the several aims of Sri Lanka Tourism would formulate and spearhead international and domestic marketing, including promoting various local tourism marketing specific resort towns and individual resorts as well as restaurants and attractions need to have the active support of local entities, both public and private. If you are a local entity, you are responsible for marketing your location as a location destination marketing organization (LDMO) in Sri Lanka. If you are a local entity, you are responsible for marketing your location as a location destination marketing organization (LDMO). In our case, it is up to who works in the field of tourism marketing to represent the target area.

The marketer’s role is to promote tourism through different marketing strategies to the target area. As an LDMO, it’s not you that are promoting the visitors to the destination, but also to supply them with information about the most important attractions in the particular area. Most hotels, restaurants, and resort managers have members or stakeholders and can pay membership fees. Such a group promotes the hotel’s brand and encourages tourism and other types of city visits.

A great deal of marketing research, anyone interested in tourism marketing, should take a direct approach to city marketing and promote the city to attract locals.

More local tourists

The following Eleven-Point Plan is meant to jumpstart tourism and deal with their respective KPIs. The plan is designed to cater to the particular area. Most hotels, restaurants, and resort managers have members or stakeholders and can pay membership fees. Such a group promotes the hotel’s brand and encourages tourism and other types of city visits.

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A great deal of marketing research, anyone interested in tourism marketing, should take a direct approach to city marketing and promote the city to attract locals.
It has been an interesting couple of months for IndianOil Corporation PLC (Lanka IOC). First, it raised its fuel prices despite a recent fall in the global oil prices. This move caused severe criticism and allegations of price gouging by the Government. The country was left questioning IOC’s pricing rationale and strategy as well as the role of the Government in regulating the fuel market.

A few days later, the company faced another backlash as it dropped its prices soon after. This led to questions about the company’s pricing strategy and its responsiveness to market conditions.

In another development, the company announced that it had signed a new high sea sale (HSS) agreement with Matrix Bharat for supplies of bunker fuels, which will help in maintaining its market share.

Not the first disagreement, unlikely to be the last

As per the MoU with Lanka IOC, the company has already agreed to lease its Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm to Lanka IOC on a long-term basis. Furthermore, both IndianOil and CPC agreed to operate and use the tank farm for a period of 10 years commencing from 14 January 2007.

The IndianOil Corporation Ltd (IndianOil) is a government-owned, state-owned oil and gas company that is one of the largest and the commercial oil company of India. In addition to its local subsidiaries in Chennai and a number of joint ventures in the power and energy sector, the company’s foreign ventures are present in Sri Lanka. Moreover, shipping and pipeline facilities of CPC were transferred into one company known as the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Ltd (CPSTL), of which Lanka IOC owns a one-third share. The company paid $4 million in CPC on 22 January 2004 to obtain one-third ownership.

Nevertheless, this MoU allowing to determine the monopoly played by CPC. Lanka IOC also began bitumen sales in 2003 to 2004 to obtain one-third ownership. This was one of the largest investments by an Indian company into the Sri Lankan Government increased duty on petroleum products, which increased by more than 20% for the year ending March 2017. The operating profit for FY 2015/16 was $4.16 billion, while exports from the country amounted to $4.16 billion.

The company commenced lube exports in 2009, which has grown by more than 20% for the year ending March 2017. The operating profit for FY 2015/16 was $4.16 billion, while exports from the country amounted to $4.16 billion.
Fails just is not to do...

The Finance Company

Facts You just can’t ignore

The writer is a Research Fellow at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This article is based on a chapter titled ‘The Financial Sector’ from his forthcoming book ‘The Food System and the COVID-19 Pandemic’. The chapter explores the impact of the pandemic on the Sri Lankan food system and the challenges faced by the government and the private sector in ensuring food security.

COVID-19: a global pandemic that has had a profound impact on the Sri Lankan food system, with implications for food security, nutrition, and health. The government has implemented various measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the food system, including the distribution of food aid, the provision of subsidized food, and the promotion of homegardens.

Impact on the Food System

The pandemic has had a significant impact on the Sri Lankan food system, with implications for food security, nutrition, and health. The government has implemented various measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the food system, including the distribution of food aid, the provision of subsidized food, and the promotion of homegardens.

Impact on the Financial Sector

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Sri Lankan financial sector, with implications for depositors, investors, and the broader economy. The government has taken several measures to address the challenges faced by the financial sector, including the relaxation of lending norms, the provision of liquidity support, and the implementation of measures to safeguard depositors.
India is still in lockdown amidst the rapid rise of the Covid-19 virus, but the number of COVID-19 cases observed in the country. The spread of the virus has led to an economic downturn, though several restrictions have been eased in recent weeks. On 24 May, several Indian states opted to allow the country’s liquor sales to resume, after being stopped for weeks, via home delivery. Liquor sales for home delivery in urban districts like New Delhi and states like Odisha decided to allow the sale of liquor to the public and foreign liquor and beer. These states seek to reap the benefits of taking a cue from seeing as to how other non-essential businesses have been allowed to make a come back after the lockdown was completely lifted. The liquor industry in India’s capital city New Delhi stated that by the lockdown directly affects the state’s annual revenue earned via excise duty on alcohol.

India’s liquor industry also benefits from the country’s lockdown period, as it allows companies to continue operation, though several restrictions have been eased in recent weeks. This past week, the liquor industry opted to allow the sale of liquor to the public and foreign liquor and beer. These states seek to reap the benefits of taking a cue from seeing as to how other non-essential businesses have been allowed to make a come back after the lockdown was completely lifted.

Liquor sales have also seen a huge increase in sales during this period, similar to that of Christmas, the liquor industry emphasized that this year’s loss could be in the billions.

Speaking to The Sunday Morning Business, the State Government explained that this additional revenue can be utilized for supporting the educational needs of students in the country. He explained that this year’s revenue is expected to be generated from the sale of liquor, because they plan on charging a special Covis-19 excise duty of Rs. 200 per liter, which would be utilized for repairing the current excise laws, because it is written in 1912 and so are very outdated.

Contd. from page 3

**IDEA**

**With our readers’ health in mind a special antimicrobial ink has been used in the printing of our newspaper**

Sri Lanka ready for alcohol delivery?

- **India becomes first in South Asia**
- **Tax revenue will boost state firms**

**Excise Department statement firm**

The service is currently available in Indian cities like Ranchi and Bhubaneswar, and states like Jharkhand and Odisha; it is set to commence in the cities of Kandy, Colombo, Bal Pharma, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, and Cuttack.

**Excise position**

Sri Lanka’s Deputy Excise Commissioner K. Jayawardena said that the initiative is not practical in the Sri Lanka market, and therefore the Excise Department has already instructed leading supermarkets and major liquor suppliers to settle the issue. He explained that such an initiative is not practical against the entire Excise Ordinance, but the Excise Department for the safety and welfare of the consumer has taken the NATA (National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol) Act.

The Government will not compromise on all the access control techniques which are currently in operation throughout the country. These have been incorporated into excise laws after more than 50 years of its existence and the pressure and resistance shown by interest groups in Sri Lanka, in order to protect the public, and also those coming from within the country.

The State Government explained that the additional excise revenue that will be generated from this initiative as it prevents the consumption of alcohol. They stated that the additional revenue that would be generated from this initiative as it prevents the consumption of alcohol.

**Response from the industry**

- **People go for illegal products**
- **Excise Department too**
- **Recommending a new policy**

Referring to a statement made by the Minister for Home Affairs, Asanka Kumara said that the on the lack of excise revenue due to the lockdown during these months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it could help the Sri Lankan government to put the country's illicit alcohol sales are now reduced. They explained that the prevention of excise revenue too. The Excise Department keeps the regulations in place, these are not imposed on the world and they do not take new measures right away. They recommended that the industry's access control techniques which are currently in operation throughout the country. These have been incorporated into excise laws after more than 50 years of its existence and the pressure and resistance shown by interest groups in Sri Lanka, in order to protect the public, and also those coming from within the country.

- **Sunday, May 31, 2020**

**Home industry...**

It is also important to note that for cement production companies, the most important factor for raw material is the supply of cement. In addition, academic-based research and collaborative culture in the industry. However, the companies have always put the nation's interests first, while the legal alcohol trade has continued to expand rapidly growing. They explained that the prevention of excise revenue too. The Excise Department keeps the regulations in place, these are not imposed on the world and they do not take new measures right away. They recommended that the industry's access control techniques which are currently in operation throughout the country. These have been incorporated into excise laws after more than 50 years of its existence and the pressure and resistance shown by interest groups in Sri Lanka, in order to protect the public, and also those coming from within the country.

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Your wedding has been ‘pandemicked’

What post-Covid-19 weddings will look like

How will weddings look though?

Clearly, the further away your wedding is, the less these regulations will impact you. Weddings in the interim though may take some getting used to. In light of this, The Sunday Morning Brunch reached out to Hemant Dadlani, the Co-founder of The Banquet Company, a wedding and event planning company that organises local and destination weddings. Dadlani explained that the coming year will be a lot busier, with a majority of 2020’s weddings being pushed to the first half of 2021.

End2End Events Managing Director and Creative Consultant Melisha Yapa shared that while traditional wedding seasons will still somewhat apply for 2021, we are more likely to see a more “year-round” season. Until the situation settles down and the world figures out what the “new normal” is, at least, the scale of weddings will drastically reduce and 500-guest weddings will not make a comeback until 2022. This will see lots of couples opting to use unconventional venues as well as a rise of intimate registrations with larger receptions being held at a later date.

Wedding design and decor consultant company 90F Weddings shared it is likely that weddings in the near future will depend more on locally sourced flowers and décor, with non-essential imports being cut, although how this relates to importing items like flowers is yet to be defined. 90F Weddings Co-founder Nilanjan Jayawardena also said simple, elegant weddings are likely to become the norm until restrictions are lifted.

Furthermore, personalisation and philanthropy are also features that we can expect to become more important to couples, with guests being appreciated with things like personalised wedding favours and thank you notes as well as more couples building in engagement with charitable causes to their weddings.

While it may be a novel attempt, the concept of transmedia storytelling has been in practice for some time around the globe with the emergence of new media courtesy of the internet.

Not to be confused with the advertising terminology of cross-channel marketing, transmedia storytelling is the technique of developing a single narrative that spans many user touchpoints. The goal is to create an engaging experience for the audience and blur the lines between fantasy and reality, where eventually the content will fit together like pieces in a puzzle.

For example that is often shared, by Deshapriya himself too, is the universe-building works of Star Wars or Marvel’s superhero characters. In the case of superheroes, the relative company will release comic books or build on comic book stories already released, prior to the release of the final films in an attempt to provide the audience the opportunity to become familiar with a character’s backstory.

This technique allows the audience to delve deeper into a story, by focusing on not just singular characters but by focusing on a larger complex world with multiple characters and intertwining plotlines.

9NINE, since its inception, has been hit hard by the effects of the pandemic, a few have come to an absolute standstill the way many industries have.

Lots of weddings the world over were cancelled after lockdowns and curfews were put in place in March, with things growing Meaker at time were on and the long-term ramifications of the pandemic became clearer and clearer.

Now, with the ban on weddings being lifted, what will the post-pandemic wedding look like?

The new world order

The Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services on Wednesday (27) released instructions for selected public activities/work settings for the prevention and control of Covid-19. Guidelines for weddings state that the number of guests should be 50% of the seating capacity of the hall, totalling up to a maximum of 100.

Adequate physical distancing is to be maintained between different action areas in the event, such asporous, registration, tables and chairs, and buffet area. The number of guests permitted should be calculated by the management of the hotel or reception hall based on the space, adhering to the one-metre distance. Seating arrangements should adopt the one-metre policy as well.

Handwashing facilities should be provided before entering the premises and hand sanitiser bottles can be kept at several places at the reception.

Food is to be serviced by a dedicated staff member at the buffet. No self-serving is allowed. All visitors are encouraged to wear masks.

Dance floors are discouraged, owing to the fact that they don’t allow for the required physical distancing. Only the bride and groom will be allowed on the dance floor. A dance group can be allowed, but with the restriction of a maximum of four dancers and they are advised to use their own makeup.

Consumption of liquor isn’t allowed. A health and safety officer is to be appointed at each wedding and it is advisable to have him liaise with the client during preparation for the event. Shaking of hands and hugs are to be avoided.

(Visit www.health.gov.lk for the full set of guidelines for hotels/reception halls as well as the clients)
Your wedding has been...

Contd. from page 1

The stories

Durga – inspired by Radhika Devi Das, a speech and hearing-impaired woman living the life of a hermit. She suffers from a traumatic childhood, with her past being intertwined with the P/P (Paluva Vannikitha Perumal) riot that took place, and it shows her outward persona is in conflict with her inner demons.

Kavertha – a former LTTE Tamil Tigress. Her character was inspired by a real-life character from her country, and she created a story that revolves around the life of a hermit.

Rithu – a transgender woman who was raped in late 2016. The narrative follows a woman who lost her father, is living with a man who is 20 years older, and is trying to find love.

Madhu – a former LTTE Tamil Tigress. Her character was inspired by an article he read, and she created a story that revolves around the life of a hermit.

Patalee – a former LTTE Tamil Tigress. Her character was inspired by a real-life character from her country, and she created a story that revolves around the life of a hermit.

Sushmitha – a former LTTE Tamil Tigress. Her character was inspired by a real-life character from her country, and she created a story that revolves around the life of a hermit.

Yashoda Wimaladharma as Kaveetha – a former LTTE Tamil Tigress. Her character was inspired by an article he read, and she created a story that revolves around the life of a hermit.

Kaveetha

Vimala Periyar who is the Tamil Tiger women’s movement’s founder, and a die-hard feminist and leader. Her character was inspired by a real-life character from her country, and she created a story that revolves around the life of a hermit.

Rithu

Sushmitha

Madhu

Patalee

Simpler decor that can be prepared after the wedding. Many wedding-related businesses are facing the challenge of adapting to meet travel and living restrictions, and that as restrictions are lifted, so it will be interesting how the post-pandemic environment affects weddings in the longer term.

When it comes to rescheduling weddings, it is important for couples to try as much as possible to keep the same vendors when rescheduling or if they can refer vendors who they know are also planning their weddings. Many wedding-related businesses are also small businesses looking to make it through troubled times.

Financially, it is also important to be clear with vendors and professionals on timelines, budgets, and constraints. With the entire economy taking a major hit, it is likely that budgets will decrease while the costs of goods and services will rise. In the planning stage, being mindful of this will allow couples to make the best decisions possible and make weddings truly memorable.

The “purpose of a wedding is to be a public declaration of commitment and enduring love,” shared 9NINE Weddings, and this will not change. The post-pandemic weddings will still hold these values at its core while finding creative ways around the pandemic and its aftermath.

What about destination weddings?

As Lanka has been very popular as a destination wedding spot for couples of the new consumer, and while 9NINE may be the first to attempt it, it’s possible that it would spark a new wave of local creatives to overcome their perceived limitations and start creating.

The Banquet Company

A key piece of advice to couples looking to plan their wedding is to keep in mind that many vendors have been laid off due to the pandemic, and that as restrictions are lifted, so it will be interesting how the post-pandemic environment affects weddings in the longer term.

When it comes to rescheduling weddings, it is important for couples to try as much as possible to keep the same vendors when rescheduling, which is why the 9NINE Weddings team is working hard to help couples make the best decisions possible and make weddings truly memorable.

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Being present at work post-COVID-19

In light of this, Galle Face Hotel Group Head of Legal Affairs Thilani Samaratunga explained that as a rule, workdays tend to be shorter due to fewer interruptions and more streamlined and scheduled meetings.

This isn’t the case for all industries though, as the shift in how businesses are operating since Covid-19, says the Creative Director of Cyaniq Global, a permanent content creation company. “Cyaniq Global has been practicing remote work way before the pandemic. When it comes to calls and communication, we have learnt how to effectively communicate with our team members and clients through various platforms explained. Weerasinghe elaborated to the Sunday Morning Brunch, Zimantra Leisure (Pvt) Ltd. Managing Director Migara Gunatilaka explained that as for the clients, they would have to schedule their time and come into the gym, and once their time is over, they would have to leave.

Gym owners are willing to abide by these (guidelines) because having the business closed for so long means we will open in any case. Even if we take five people at a time, we will reopen,” she stated. Additionally, Gunatilaka mentioned that as for the clients, they would have to schedule their time and come into the gym, and once their time is over, they would have to leave.

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Gunatilaka explained that the maximum capacity would vary for each gym depending on the availability of space. “For High Octane, we have 25,000 square feet and it’s divided into sections. Based on that, we can accommodate 1,000 people comfortably,” she said, adding that they anticipate that gym will be used more for both personal and group workouts.

A lack of regulatory body

Weerasinghe elaborated that there is a difficulty in registering gyms as there is no regulatory body when it comes to the fitness industry in Sri Lanka. Additionally, with the shift in how businesses are operating since Covid-19, we haven’t really emphasised upon the general aspects such as how it boosts productivity and quality of life during the pandemic. It is likely that not only will lecturers push for the option to work remotely, but the government and those with long commutes, will prefer the option.

Having a portion of a company’s workforce working remotely could also be beneficial to companies in terms of infrastructure investment. Samaratunga noted that companies that invest heavily in infrastructure like office spaces, and with portions of the workforce working remotely, it would be possible to save money by reducing physical office spaces. Theirs would also need to be additional support given to remote workers, especially with the increased need for internet and electricity costs incurred while working from home.

While remote working has its many benefits, it can also be daunting for employees and the option to work from home (WFH) virtually will need to be handled carefully. Remote workers are often a part of a remote working culture, but it will need to be done so that employees are both happy and productive.

In this backdrop, the Sunday Morning Brunch, Zimantra Leisure (Pvt) Ltd. Managing Director Migara Gunatilaka elaborated that there is a need to take a strong look at how the fitness industry in Sri Lanka is structured. “In the case of a lockdown, the expectation of being on call increased because all communications that would have been done in a physical space have shifted to video phone calls. Cyaniq Global Creative Director Nitishka Gamage shared that the company, which has taken quite a lot of preventive measures.

Will companies adapt to working remotely?

According to a recent news report, there is an increase in the number of remote companies in Sri Lanka. While it may not be as widespread as it has been in countries like China and the U.S., the number of remote companies is slowly starting to resume normal life overnight, unless physical presence is strictly necessary.

For many industries that were hit economically in this country. Furthermore, with the lockdown, the expectation of being on call increased because all communications that would have been done in a physical space have shifted to video phone calls. Cyaniq Global Creative Director Nitishka Gamage shared that the company, which has taken quite a lot of preventive measures.

Waiting to open?

Weerasinghe explained that at High Octane, they are planning on issuing a guideline (guidelines) because they are taking their premises.

The trainers will be there to guide on how to stand in the disinfecting of the premises. Furthermore, Gunatilaka explained that at High Octane, the gym was taking their premises. “On the financial side, we have taken quite a lot of preventive measures to see if remote working is an option for them and what they can expect to make of it. We are also required to wear masks at all times when working with the Sri Lankan Government are planning on issuing a guideline soon. We have already received the draft of it and it covers a wide range of aspects. Gunatilaka added. Continuing, he explained as to how the government was taking their own preventive measures to ensure the safety of everyone within the premises.

With regard to processes, Gunatilaka explained that at High Octane, the gym was taking their own preventive measures to ensure the safety of everyone within the premises. “On the financial side, we have taken quite a lot of preventive measures to see if remote working is an option for them and what they can expect to make of it. We are also required to wear masks at all times when working with the Sri Lankan Government are planning on issuing a guideline soon. We have already received the draft of it and it covers a wide range of aspects. Gunatilaka added. Continuing, he explained as to how the government was taking their own preventive measures to ensure the safety of everyone within the premises.
There is no absolute in-between for a woman.

Ngagoda cop asked with a wry note why the hotel man offered his woman to call the Police.

They described their disdain and, unfortunately, the fact that they were not even surprised at the reactions of the Police, citing how Sri Lankan culture has made it so that independent and self-sufficient women are a myth and not complete without a male in their lives for support or protection.

Best Devindra: “The main reason for me to never move back to SL. The patriarchal mindset is real, active, and strong. And I don’t see that changing in the near or slightly distant future. I’m so sorry this happened to you. However, I am no way shook about this situation or how it was handled.”

Another stated: “We are living in a banana republic. We have to look for someone outside the country. Fix your glasses on your windows. Have a CCTV system installed. Get another lady as a lodger in your apartment.”

There is no other acceptable reason why women are murdered. Only as a result of the situation we are living in. We need to feel the need to protect themselves with no trust in the authorities that are specifically appointed to protect the public is a heavily weighted cause for concern.

“I questioned this reason to University of Colombo Department of Sociology consultant Dr. Eurasia Set Heriti, who shared his thoughts on the matter with regard to its sociocultural context.

Prof. Heriti shared that before we discuss the cultural communions and respect there is no doubt that many attempts to include the study of sociology in the curriculum in schools, however, this has been delayed and time and time again, the public is looking for answers in opening up our minds. A thinking society is elevated and harder to deceive. Society is an essential component of the culture. Prof. Heriti shared that many of the things that we need to understand are disconnected from the culture. We have to look at the way that we need to respond to it. It has to be connected to the culture. The culture is an essential component of the society. We have to look at the way that we need to respond to it. It has to be connected to the culture. The culture is an essential component of the society. We have to look at the way that we need to respond to it. It has to be connected to the culture. The culture is an essential component of the society. We have to look at the way that we need to respond to it. It has to be connected to the culture. The culture is an essential component of the society.
With the Covid-19 outbreak, the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCD) has never been more important. Government of Sri Lanka had enforced strict measures to minimize the spread of Covid-19. The number of people to curtail the spread of the disease could lead to an outbreak epicentre. Therefore, telemedicine services which included phone calls, video consultations, and interventions became less accessible to those who were more at risk for complications such as heart disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer.

Cautious against this backdrop, telemedicine services have come to the forefront in aid of overcoming this gap to patient care. We spoke to Ministry of Health NCD Director and consultant community physician Dr. Vindy Kaumapeli, on initiating telemedicine services for patients, managed and followed up at Batticaloa Teaching Hospital.

Co-morbidities and Covid-19

Currently, there is a perception of less severity when compared to that of the risk factors. Those who are immunocompromised, such as patients suffering from other diseases affecting the kidneys, especially patients who have undergone kidney transplant or those on dialysis (haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis), have reduced the ability to fight infections and have been-hit harder by the virus, making them most vulnerable to adverse outcomes even more so than others with Covid-19. Hence, managing these conditions is the secret to managing the complicating factors.

Maintaining continuity of care

Dr. Kaumapeli mentioned that this is where technology can assist in the least invasive way. In addition to the essential medication and diagnostics usually prescribed by the doctor, where there were hospital policies for patients who could have needed to have an additional healthcare burden. Several initiatives were implemented, or the Ministry of Health to ensure those with NCDs were still taken care of while decreasing the distance was maintained. Those who are immunocompromised were given high priority. A free teleconsultation service via MyDoctor app was established at 16 nephrology clinics in government hospitals across the country. Namely:

- National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo
- National Hospital, Kandy
- National Institute for Nephropathy Dialysis and Transplantation
- Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalutara
- Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Kalutara
- Kandana Divisional Hospital
- Kurunegala Teaching Hospital
- Peradeniya Teaching Hospital
- Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo
- Kandy County Teaching Hospital
- Army Hospital, Nalanda
- Vavuniya District General Hospital
- Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital
- Sri Jayawardanepura Hospital
- Batticaloa Teaching Hospital

As a result of a public-private partnership (PPP) with Dialog, Samsung Global, and MyDoctor.lk together with the Ministry of Health, 16 Samsung tablets were applicable to government sector hospitals. MyDoctor app was developed in partnership with Dialog, Samsung Global, and MyDoctor.lk. A telehealth platform, MyDoctor, enables doctors to directly communicate with their patients via audio/video calls, send text messages, share pictures, and conduct lab investigations through this app after a consultation. This app also facilitates health promotion and awareness with MyDoctor's NCD Telemedicine Collaborative Unit of the Ministry of Health. With any health-related information to patients. Users will also be able to upload and maintain all their health records and prescriptions in the app for continuous care remotely.

This way to provide specialist care for those who require a kidney transplant or are on dialysis. Furthermore, this service will be extended to other specialties such as cardiology and high-risk patients who shouldn’t get exposed to Covid-19. For example, it could be a pregnant mother with diabetes being followed up at the diabetes clinic, or a heart patient who had undergone cardiac surgery and being followed up at the cardiology clinic. As telemedicine services applications in many fields of medicine and the Ministry of Health is hoping to yield its benefits to provide universal healthcare.

MyDoctor application

This is a model telemedicine solution developed by MyDoctor (My Health Solutions). This service is provided free of charge for all patients, especially those suffering from chronic kidney disease. This app enables doctors to directly communicate with their patients via audio/video calls, send text messages, share pictures, and conduct lab investigations through this app after a consultation. This app also facilitates health promotion and awareness with MyDoctor's NCD Telemedicine Collaborative Unit of the Ministry of Health. With any health-related information to patients. Users will also be able to upload and maintain all their health records and prescriptions in the app for continuous care remotely.

Common skin issue often mistaken for cancer

I have brown spots over the top half of my body, which my doctor says are seborrheic keratoses and are harmless. What causes them, and is there a way to prevent more from appearing?

Seborrheic keratoses are a common skin condition that often occurs in older adults. While they do pose any health risks, these skin growths can be mistaken for a potentially more serious problem such as skin cancer. Therefore, patients often seek care from a dermatologist when seborrheic keratoses develop.

Seborrheic keratoses usually appear as brown, black, or light tan growths on the chest, back, shoulders, or back. They can vary in size, slightly elevated appearance. These skin growths develop in all, often after the age of 50, and they usually become more numerous with age. They occur in men and women equally, and the condition tends to run in families.

It’s not clear why seborrheic keratoses develop, although genetics seem to play a role. They don’t appear to be related to sun exposure or other environmental factors, so there’s no obvious way to prevent their appearance and growth.

Seborrheic keratoses do not turn into skin cancer, but they can become raised. And they don’t raise your risk for developing skin cancer or other skin problems. They are not contagious. Typically, the lesions aren’t painful, but they may itch. Be careful not to scratch, scrape, or pick at them, though. This can lead to bleeding, swelling, and an increased risk of infection. Depending on their size and location, seborrheic keratoses can become irritated or blistery. If that happens – or if you would like to get rid of the growths for cosmetic reasons – you can discuss options to get them with your healthcare provider.

Several removal methods are available, including freezing the growths using liquid nitrogen – a procedure known as cryosurgery. Cryosurgery can be effective, but it doesn’t usually work on mid-sized growths. And after the area of skin treated may be lighter than the surrounding skin. For small flat growths, a special instrument with a sharp black tip can be used to shave the growth off the skin. This technique is called shave biopsy.

An approach called electrocautery also may be effective. It uses a cutting current to burn the growth. Laser treatment can be used to remove seborrheic keratoses as well. In some cases, a combination of these techniques may be most effective.

There is one approved treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration for topical treatment of seborrheic keratoses. This medication, a form of hydrogen peroxide, needs to be administered in your healthcare provider’s office as an outpatient treatment. This is true for most treatments, although the most effective approach and not the only one that’s available.

Most of the time, seborrheic keratoses don’t cause much concern. They change in appearance over time, and they may fade away on their own. However, if you have any suspicious changes, such as changes in color, size, or shape, you can talk to a dermatologist. Other challenges can be signs of a more serious skin problem that requires evaluation.

Lawrence Gibson, MD, Dermatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. © 2020 MAYO FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DISTRIBUTED BY TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
Firstly, it is non-biodegradable, it properly; some individuals had that 44% of the individuals who had used five to 10 masks, while the remaining percentage had not had used over 20 masks. With a sample population shared that firstly they tested how, and April, 5% had used over 20 species of dragonflies and butterflies. Even identifying the proper value of that species, be. Because of this, they are also unable to identifying the species once caught. “An that had been collected by this group, informed that is how I got involved with it and close as possible to their habitat. Department of Wildlife Conservation or a local, they are committing a crime that irrespective of whether they are a foreigner to collect and take animals away from their law and no one has the ability or right our legal system, all wildlife is protected by Society of Sri Lanka. Involved with the Butterfly Conservation following his Master’s in Philosophy at conservation of insects, shared that the main on the taxonomy, biogeography, specimens with them. The closing time of 6 p.m. It is at this instance that the park authorities intervened and allegedly found hundreds of collected specimens with waste. Field and conservation biologist Amila Sumanapala, whose work is mainly on the taxonomy, biogeography, habitat preferences, natural history, and research being done on these lesser known insects or the insect group in general. Furthermore, he mentioned that research is rarely conducted to identify new species. What are the laws? Environmental lawyer Jagath Gunasankar shared that the rare family that they would park stay of beyond its closing time is an offence under Section 1 of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance. In addition to this, the collection of animals can be punished under this Ordinance. Also, as they have collected insects that are verminous, they have violated Section 31B of the Ordinance as well. Because they are foreigner and also reported to export these collected insects, they are further violating Section 40 of the Ordinance. Even if this is not proved to be true, they can be punished for the first three violations, he explained. Gunasankar reminded from mentioning the punishment for these offences and stated that once the case is heard, the judge can decide the size of the fine depending on the charge sheet and gravity of the crime. When asked about serving time, he explained that jail time is not given even for minor and counterproductive as well as become a huge financial burden, adding that it is a possibility nevertheless. He went on to state that the DWC has not closed its eyes over the years, but with the Department being severely understaffed, their capabilities are limited, which is why Gunasankar himself has always voiced the need to increase their manpower and enhance their training and capabilities. Problem lies with law enforcement According to Gunasankar, the positive thing is that the laws required to protect these animals within the country are in place. Furthermore, he mentioned that most of the animals are also protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a multilateral treaty introduced to protect endangered plants and animals. The legal framework to stop the illegal trade is in place, but the problem lies actually with enforcing it. For example, you are not checked at the customs office, so the traders manage to take specimens out of the country easily, he said. Former Deputy Director of Customs Samanath Gunasekara, who was also among those who initiated and led the world’s first biodiversity protection unit (BPU) in Sri Lanka which monitors and controls biological materials and wildlife trade at borders, shared: “Preventing collecting in the wild is what should be stopped. In most cases, the animals are kept alive as it increases the value; there are also some animals that are traded for their body parts and then killed. Saving them in the wild will also save the animal’s life.” Gunasekara’s experience with wildlife detection, investigation, and prosecution has greatly helped feed this model. It is also the first of its kind in the world, putting Sri Lanka in the forefront of fighting the battle against wildlife trafficking. He is currently working closely with the Environmental Foundation Ltd. (EFL). He said the importance of protecting species of the wild before they make it to the airport. “Knowing or unknowingly, this illegal trade happens. We cannot do this reality, there are many species endemic to Sri Lanka that are available for purchase in the international pet trade. They are also available in large numbers, which also prove that once smuggled, these species may thrive in this new alien environment and increase their numbers,” he stressed. Appeal to the Govt. Sumanapala further said that he believes they can propose for the authorities to continue to work within the CITES and enlist as many species as possible under their endangered groups. In order to do that, there are certain criteria that have to be met and the local focal point of the CITES is the DWC. “They have to make a proposal and submit it before the convention (CITES), which meets once in every three years. During the convention, it will be approved if the criteria is met,” he added. In the most recent convention, both Sri Lanka and India had managed to list a certain type of tanninula found in trees as an endangered species under CITES. Interestingly, they are also endemic to the two countries, therefore if found anywhere else in the world, it would breach the agreement and he identified as an illegal action. This process will help to protect our species in international animals. “This process is something that can focus on a national level in order to reduce the illegal trade. Apart from this, the Government can also assist with creating interest in these research, increasing facilities, and promoting more research. It is also equally important to increase awareness among the people about this illegal activity,” he further explained. Appeal to the citizens “I am not proposing anything so slightly suspicious or observe that someone is always going to the airport, and report it to the authorities. This process will definitely happen with the help of the local people. It is quite unlikely that a foreigner with no knowledge of local areas can propose for the authorities. Representatives of the Government on this issue can pay the local people for their assistance. Repayment for services rendered makes it easier for the authorities to take action,” asserted Sumanapala.

The Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ), while on a quest to play a well-known and trusted role in the environment as a result of people being homesteaded for a significant period of time, found that we are posed with a new challenge brought on by the disposal of surgical masks. Wilansinghe said this kind of disposal of clinical masks is harmful to a number of individuals, firstly. It is non-biodegradable, therefore it pollutes the same way.
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Across
1 Swahili boss 6 Canasta combination 10 Cockatoo feature 15 Boring tools 19 Many a surfer 20 Others, in Latin 21 Vigor 22 Acquire, as an advantage 23 My crayon ___ 25 Pay television 26 Designated space 27 Four-wheeler, briefly 28 My ruler ___ 31 Step on it when you need to step on it 33 Carnival city 34 Applies henna to, say 35 Mink cousin 38 Sack lead-in 41 Mount north of Redding, California 46 Golf course rental 49 Blunted sword 51 Text sent with x's and o's 54 Cultural character 55 Felt remorse for 56 My needle ___ 59 Quacked company name 61 Computer instructions 62 Courtyard 63 Dramatic offering

Down
1 Lacking talent for 2 Deserving of 3 "All Day Strong" brand 4 Not seen before 5 Longtime PLO chairman 6 Mauritania neighbor 7 Airline to Israel 8 Hard-hit batted ball 9 Small antelope with an echoic name 10 First name in design 11 Wander aimlessly 12 Reporter at the front 13 Spread outward 14 Academic research papers 15 Jellylike alga extract 16 Goods suffix 17 Stead 18 Start of a football play 24 Poured juices over 29 Bar mixer 30 Director in the theater?

Solutions for 17 May
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156

Please note: The numbers in the grid are placeholders and do not represent the actual numbers that should be filled in the grid.
Niva Sri Lanka expands market presence online

Niva has partnered with multiple e-commerce platforms to expand its market reach. This initiative is driven by the growing demand for personal care products, particularly during the ongoing pandemic.

The partnership with Daraz, one of Sri Lanka’s leading e-commerce platforms, allows Niva to reach a wider audience. The consumer can easily order Nivea products through Daraz’s platform, which provides a convenient and contactless delivery service.

Speaking on the partnership, a Niva official stated, “We are thrilled to collaborate with Daraz. This partnership allows us to connect with the consumers on a larger scale, making it easier for them to access our products.”

Niva’s market presence has significantly expanded with this initiative, making it more accessible to Sri Lankan consumers. The company continues to innovatively adapt to the changing market dynamics and consumer preferences.