JUSTICE IN SIGHT FOR CEYLINCO GROUP COMPANY DEPOSITORS

Army, police, airports, ports, "VOL the planet. Representing Sri Lanka. Countries, and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa Scotland with delegates from around 200
President Rajapaksa arriving at the COP26 Morning (1). Vaccines is to commence today
BUDDHIKA SAMARAWEERA

Debatable

The highly anticipated 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) began yesterday (31 October) in Glasgow, Scotland with delegates from around 200 countries, and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa representing Sri Lanka. The delegates are there to ensure that they will not miss an opportunity to showcase the COP26 begins with President presenting the SLPA

Debatable

The administration of the US-Donald Trump/China Covid-19 vaccine to frontline health workers under the programme of administering a third dose of the Covid-19 vaccine is to commence today (1). An official of the Ministry of Health confirmed this to The Morning. Meanwhile, speaking at a media briefing yesterday (31 October), the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) Dr. Asela Gunawardena explained the priority order in which the third dose of Covid-19 vaccine would be administered. He said that the second Covid-19 vaccine dose, the Pfizer vaccine is planned to be given to frontline health workers, army, police, airports, ports and tourism workers at the initial stage. “After that, the third dose of Covid-19 vaccine is to be administered to people over the age of 60. Then it will be given to people between the ages of 50 and 59, and finally to everyone over the age of 26,” he said. Contd. on page 2

Easter Attacks victims’ families need justice, not compensation: Cardinal Gamini Fernando

The victims of the Easter Sunday terror attacks of 21 April 2019 are only seeking justice, not money or any other privileges, said the Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith. Addressing a function at the St. Sebastian’s Church in Katuwapitiya, one of the targets of the Easter Sunday terror attacks, he said: “We do not expect a lot of money or anything to be built. We only want justice to be served.” The Archbishop further stressed that justice is the Easter Sunday. Contd. on page 2

SBJ condemns CJD’s summoning of Rev. Cyril Gamini Fernando

The Samagi Jana Bala Senegaya (SBJ) condemned the Civil Defence Department’s (CJD) summons to National Catholic Social Communication Centre Director Rev. and Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando to record a statement regarding a complaint made by State Intelligence Service (SIS) Director Major Gen. Sunilolly Sally. Contd. on page 2

2nd dose begins for frontline health workers

Army, police, airports, ports, and tourism sectors next up

SLPA Harbour Master says no information received about oil ship entered

Says innocent passage of ships not monitored by Navy

Dissenting govt. partners yet to finalise proposals
to open by end of this year. Yet, the govt. partners have not yet finalised proposals to the government, which the government’s controversial agreement with New Fortress Energy. The government will now seek our cooperation with our proposals. My party will only engage in kind of proposals need to be admitted and the ‘People’s Council’ will have to come to an agreement,” said Prof. Vitharana. Last Thursday (28 October), the government said that it is planning to do so, a “massive” strike action has warned that if the former fails to agree with the government’s controversial agreement with New Fortress Energy, the government will have to respond. We will have to respond to the government’s controversial agreement with New Fortress Energy, Trade Union Alliance (TPTUA) leaders met at Temple Trees headquarters of the three state-owned enterprises. The CEB head office

Teachers want Basil to explain solution to issue before Budget

Emphasising that Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa should make a statement explaining how the teacher-principal salary anomaly issue would be resolved before presenting the budget proposal for the year 2022 to Parliament, Teachers’ and Principals’ Trade Union Alliance (TPTUA) has warned that if the former fails to make a “massive” strike action should be launched after 8 November. Speaking to the media yesterday, Ceylon Teachers’ Union (CTU) General Secretary Joseph Stalin said: “The government has stated on several occasions that the teacher-principal salary anomaly issue will be addressed in the forthcoming budget for the year 2022. However, as far as we are aware, necessary allocations have not yet been made in that regard. Therefore, Rajapaksa should definitely make a statement as to how the issue will be resolved, and if not we will launch a massive strike.” Contd. on page 2

Final rites of Kalu Gedara Thera held with honours

The cremation ceremony of the University of Kelaniya Chancellor, Archimandrite Dr. Ven. Weleheruwve Dhammawijaya Kiriwassa Thera, was held with full-state honours at the Independence Square in Colombo (31 October). The government had declared Sunday a day of mourning in view of the final rites of Dr. Ven. Weleheruwve Dhammawijaya Kiriwassa Thera, who passed away on 28 October at the age of 85. Basil not informed about blacklisting of People’s Bank

Eran warns of far-reaching consequences

Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa has said that he was “not informed” about the recent blacklist of People’s Bank. He responded the same while responding to a question by a journalist who asked him what he thought about the move as the Finance Minister. The question was posed to the Finance Minister after he had visited the Sri Dalada Maligawa in kandy yesterday (31 October).

Archaeological digs in East to continue

Land takeover in Batticaloa stopped by protests

The CEB head office

The final rites of Ven. Kalu Gedara Thera were held yesterday (31 October). PHOTO D. S. W. PERERA

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Heavy showers expected today around the island

The Meteorology Department has warned of heavy showers above 100 mm at some places in the North Central, North Western, Central, Sabaragamuwa, Uva, Badulla, and Eastern Districts, today (1).

In the weather forecast issued for today, the Department also stated that fairly heavy showers have been expected in some parts of the island, whereas showers or thundershowers will occur at times in most parts of the island.

Further warning of temporarily localized strong thundershowers over North Western, North Central, Central, Sabaragamuwa, Uva, and Eastern Districts, has been given. The Department has requested the general public to stay indoors until such a situation occurs.

Despite media reports which claimed that the ship had entered Sri Lanka’s sea and was expected to port around the next few days, the Agriculture Ministry recently confirmed the presence of harmful bacteria in the said consignment of fertiliser to be unloaded at the Colombo Port. However, the SLPA was informed not to allow the ship’s entry into the Colombo Harbour.

In response to a question as to whether Sri Lanka has sole authority to carry out testing on incoming fertilisers, the Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Prof. M. Karu Jayasuriya, said that it has sole authority to carry out testing on incoming fertilisers based on the tests conducted by the Export Development Board (EDB), and that no fertiliser can be imported based on the tests carried out by any other institution.

The SLPA requested the Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation for a preliminary recommendation to administer Covid-19 vaccines to all the workers at the port. However, the Health Ministry has instructed the SLPA not to allow the ship’s entry into the Colombo Harbour.

In the statement released on Tuesday, the Data Protection and Production of Supply, and Fertilisers Ministry stated that there are samples from China-based Qinghai Seaweed Biotech Group Co. Ltd., which have been found to contain harmful bacteria on two occasions, and that these could not be accepted as they were not accredited and certified by the website.

The Health Ministry earlier last month saw 374 cases, while the months following the last lockdowns saw 11,813 and 13,796 cases. With the world warming because of fossil emissions caused by human activities, scientists have warned that climate change is the greatest threat to the world. They had also said that the start date of the COP26 was postponed to 3 November and added that TPTUA has been discussions with the Department of Agriculture (DG) of the Agriculture, but if that date is not possible, which was not permitted by the World Health Organization (WHO) the licences have not been issued, we have asked the DG to reconsider.

The post was first published as "The Morning," the agriculture Ministry Professor Sulitha Jayasinghe said whether the ship has arrived in the close seas of the island or not, it will not be allowed to unload in any port.

"Whether it has or has not, we have clearly asked not to unload. The arrival of a ship is a matter of the Department of Shipping (DG) of the Department of Agriculture, but if that date is not possible, which was not permitted by the World Health Organization (WHO) the licences have not been issued, we have asked the DG to reconsider.

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"Those who spoke so highly of justice to the world and to Sri Lanka have come into power promising justice to the world and to Sri Lanka. Many of them have been called criminals and the attacks were Sri Lankan citizens associated with the Islamic State and therefore, issues should be resolved at the national level," he said.

The SJB further said that the Government came into power promising justice to the world and to Sri Lanka and that those who spoke so highly of justice to the world and to Sri Lanka have come into power promising justice to the world and to Sri Lanka. Many of them have been called criminals and the attacks were Sri Lankan citizens associated with the Islamic State and therefore, issues should be resolved at the national level.

3rd dose

He also said that the third dose is planned to be given six months after the provision of the first dose.

The Health Ministry earlier last month announced that the Advisory Committee on Post-Pandemic Strategies had recommended that a preliminary recommendation to administer Covid-19 vaccines to all the workers at the port.

Concerns have been raised in the Eastern Province that the authorities have not yet gazetted agricultural activities as essential. However, the Department of Archaeology has already identified hundreds of archeologically and historically valuable sites that have not yet gazetted together with the Department of Ancient Monuments.

An incident occurred in Vambaramulla, Batticaloa on 29 October where an attempt by the Archaeological Department to take over land in the Eastern Province was thwarted due to protests by the Muslim and Catholic communities in the area.

The team had arrived at the site in Vambaramulla and conducted a 16 acre paddy field survey with the help of a Government archaeologist and a government-sponsored team of experts. According to the report submitted to the Archaeological Department, the team has found evidence of ancient settlements in the area, including walls, foundations, and mud brick structures.

However, the Muslim and Catholic communities in the area have expressed their opposition to the government’s efforts. They have argued that the archaeological site is a significant historical and cultural site and that it should be protected.

The Archaeological Department has requested the government to immediately gazette the site as an archeologically and historically valuable site to protect it from further destruction. The team has also recommended that archaeological activities be carried out in consultation with the local community and that a comprehensive study be conducted to assess the site’s significance.

The government has stated that it will consider the team’s recommendations and take appropriate measures to protect the site. They have assured the local community that their concerns will be taken into account and that their rights will be respected.
Office on Missing Persons comes under fire

**Families of the Disappeared organisations accuse insincerity of OMP leadership**

**Also plans to stage protest over charges against Karanaggoda being dropped**

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*The President should immediately revoke the appointment of the Office on Missing Persons (OMP) Chairperson Upali Abeyratne, urged Families of the Disappeared in Sri Lanka organisation Chairperson Brito Abeyratne,* he stated. “There are no accurate statistics, no proper discussion, no investigation, no action plan, with no follow-up for families in Sri Lanka. Various parties state different statistics, while the OMP itself doesn’t have the relevant information. Only missing-in-action personnel are displayed on the army’s website. What about the 14,000 applications received during the previous Government’s tenure? Why can’t the OMP include those statistics? We neither have a former Supreme Court Judge uplift Abeyratne to the post nor decide to keep him to the OMP. He should be removed from the OMP.”

Fernando also commented on recent Gihan Wickremasinghe’s having recently informed United Nations Human Rights Council about allegations that the Government would take immediate action regarding missing persons and disappeared persons, such as issuing death certificates to the families of the disappeared. “We, with concern, note the statement of the OMP Chairperson’s comments to the families of the disappeared under the COVID-19 pandemic. These statements, as well as the minister’s comments with them, are critical that circumstances related to the OMP Chairperson’s comments are not displayed on the information provided by families.”

**The issuance of death certificates is a crucial issue.**

Even families in the Northern Province, who were separated from their families in the year 1989 areentitled to the death certificate. Fernando furthered that the current Government’s inaction is frustrating the families and obstructing the granting of the interim relief of Rs. 6,000 approved on October 25, 2020 by the Committee on the Protection of Migrants (COPM) as recommended by the interim report. “Requests made to the authorities to also include the families of the disappeared under the COVID-19 pandemic have gone unanswered. Letter sent to the Ministry of Justice, which is the line ministry responsible for the payment of Rs. 6,000, remained unanswered.”

Fernando also added, “We believe that the Department of Census and Statistics is under pressure to issue the death certificates. In addition, the families are also not presenting death certificates to the Department of Census and Statistics.”

The families handed over a petition to the President and Prime Minister’s (PM) office on 14 February, requesting the provided Rs. 6,000, nearly 1,600 families under investigation for financial legitimacy. “In the beginning the Government’s intention was to only pay the holders of a ‘Certificate of Absence’ (CA) after many discussions, they agreed to pay this holders of ‘Death Certificate’ (DC) of the cause of death stated in the death certificate and the disappeared. This decision included the families in the south who suffered during the 1989 war. We demand that the Government’s stand be returned for this payment.”

Are you going to allocate the responsibilities to the families of the disappeared this promised monthly allowance to the disappeared? If those asking are a very simple question from the government, but it is not that big, it is not enough to give them medical treatment and involve them in their religious activities to keep their morale up,” Fernando said.

The families of the Disappeared organisation plans to stage a protest on the above charges being brought against Former Navy Commander Admiral of the Fleet Wasantha Karunaratne in relation to allegations of disappearances and extrajudicial killings. On 13 October 2021, the Attorney General informed the Colombo Permanent High Court Trial-}
The great and necessary leap backward

A great and necessary leap forward is this: what the Government of Sri Lanka is proposing is a model of agriculture that would be the envy of the world, not only in its own right but also as a demonstration of what can be achieved when governments are truly committed to the welfare of their citizens. Such a leap would not only help the poor but also create jobs, improve the environment, and bring about a just and sustainable society.

The leap is also necessary because the current system of agriculture is failing. The government is proposing a model of agriculture that would be the envy of the world, not only in its own right but also as a demonstration of what can be achieved when governments are truly committed to the welfare of their citizens. Such a leap would not only help the poor but also create jobs, improve the environment, and bring about a just and sustainable society.

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E ven though the current discourse on fertiliser depends mostly on the Government's plan to go organic, what Sri Lanka truly needs is a novel approach based on agroecology, and not organic farming. That is what the Government of Sri Lanka should be putting into action, as the country will be able to benefit greatly from an agricultural model based on the concept of agroecology, which will also ensure food security, food sovereignty, environmental stability, and also a good economy for farmers.

This was stated by Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR) Moderator Chinthaka Kumari, who also noted that paying attention to what has been put into practice by the Government, i.e. after the Government announced a new approach to farming, not organic farming, that is, in fact, a crisis of not having any kind of plan to implement the organic agriculture plan, which he said has now merged into a massive tragedy just two months after the introduction of the Government’s plan.

"As part of this crisis, Sri Lanka is also facing the challenge of making the concept of agroecology, about which we have been discussing for some time, a reality," he said.

He also noted that immediate attention needs to be paid to what has happened during the past six months, i.e. after the Government announced its plan to go organic, as far as the agriculture sector is concerned, and that the measures put forward by the farmers as well as the Government are to be taken into account while also identifying and discussing this issue with stakeholders and experts, which Sri Lanka has not done so far.

"We have to understand the fact that the existing agricultural and farmers' crisis is a part of the neoliberal economic and political agenda. Sri Lanka has been putting into action. If we do not understand that, we will not be able to find solutions to the ongoing crisis, which is also a result of the overall political and economic crisis that was created in the world and in Sri Lanka during the past five to six decades. As the agriculture sector was industrialised, a large number of different aspects of agriculture have been shaped to match this industrialisation process. This is one of the main issues that need to be addressed," Rajapakse further said.

De Silva explained the rights aspect of agroecology, noting: "Food is considered one of humans’ basic rights, but the question is who decides whether we can enjoy this right and who will make sure that each and every one of us has the right to take decisions pertaining to the quality of the food we consume? The discussion on food sovereignty and food production, in the current context, is intrinsically linked to a global-level discussion, as a significant portion of the world’s food production is being controlled by a handful of companies; however, we do not have adequate knowledge about this matter.

"Essentially, our food consumption habits depend on four crops, namely, wheat, maize, rice, and soy, and more than 50% of the food production depends on these crops. In the current context, our right to a part of the food production process has not been recognised."

She pointed out the main issues that have caused the existing food crisis in the world: "When it comes to environmental factors, issues such as global warming, soil pollution, water and air pollution, and destruction of biodiversity affect the food crisis, while the industrial factors that affect this situation include high production cost, farmers migrating to new areas, unstable market, natural disasters, loss of lands, and large-scale monocropping. As far as the socio-economic factors are concerned, unstable markets, monopolised companies’ dominance, influence, irregular post-harvest technologies, and farmers not having the ability to be a part of the decision-making process, can be identified. Consumption-related factors such as unsafe food, fast food, and polluted food, that are not nutritious, fast food, and artificial food, also weaken this situation."

Adding that existing agricultural methods need to be improved and altered immediately in order to ensure a better future for the world’s food production system, she presented several crucial elements of the conceptual frameworks of agroecology, to achieve that. Among them are, recognising sustainable agriculture, and using minimal inputs, animals, health, soil’s health, biodiversity, economic development, participation, knowledge sharing, social discourse on food, agroecology-based benefit to farmers and consumers, and land and natural resource management.

Noting that food sovereignty is a lifestyle and a basic right, she explained the key elements of food sovereignty, namely, a local management system that allows producer and consumer to make decisions, people-friendly agricultural reforms, eradicating hunger, a market structure that gives more power to lower levels of that structure, and a system that protects natural resources.

Kumari, meanwhile, explained the importance of Sri Lanka paying attention to both food security and food sovereignty, and emphasised that achieving one of them does not necessarily ensure a sustainable solution to the existing situation.

She explained: "Food sovereignty is something that goes beyond food security, which merely refers to producing adequate food. Food security has already been ensured in the world to a considerable extent; however, there is a question as to whether food sovereignty, which relates to consumers and farmers’ rights and culture as well as quality and quantity of food, has been ensured?"

She noted that paying attention to both organic farming and ecological farming are equally important, and that organic farming involves organic inputs, non-toxic cropping or multi-cropping, consumption or sale, profit targeting and certification, ecological farming-involved conservation, and social dialogue.

With regard to conservation, she explained that biodiversity conservation, soil conservation, water conservation, and seeds conservation are of extreme importance. She added: "Sri Lanka has a unique position in the world’s food requirement. The country’s food requirement can no longer be fulfilled merely through organic farming. That is why, the food system is an eco-friendly organic farming system through a culture of living that is led by women (the agricultural sector)."

According to Sewwandi, who expressed her views on agroecology help protect people’s lives and what the rights-based approach towards agroecology is. She said: "If we do not understand that, concerns everyone because the world likes it or not, the existing food system is collapsing. "Today, around 720,800 million people go to bed with an empty stomach, and a majority of them are from the countries we identify as world countries. It includes some countries from the South Asian, East Asian, African, and South American regions. Right of the bat, we can say that a certain imbalance in the existing food system as far as distribution of food and opportunities people receive to consume food are concerned. Identifying the list of countries behind this imbalance, one of the most important aspects of this discussion, and among the main reasons are, existing agricultural methodologies that focus more on finding a few rather than eradicating hunger among the general community, overexploitation of resources such as land and water, and letting greenhouse gas emission and biodiversity degradation take place. At the currently held World Food Summit, it was suggested to hold over the food production system to private companies over giving the same to small farmers. In this context, there are concerns related to rights and rights-based approach, especially with regard to land."

"Despite the fact that the land is the most crucial resource in terms of agriculture, in Sri Lanka, over 80% of lands are owned by the State, and only around 20% of lands are privately owned. The Government has paid more attention to giving lands for various purposes pertaining to urbanisation and land development, and this situation affects both privately owned lands and state-owned lands."

"Moreover, during the process of distribution of lands and when one generation passes lands on to the next generation, we can see that a certain exclusion in lands has occurred. This has affected the lands that can be used for agricultural purposes, or food production, and we have to look at how these limited land resources can be utilised to obtain maximum yield. In such situations, in order to get more yield, we have to put in more inputs, and a higher yield can be obtained through the use of chemical inputs rather than ecological inputs. However, the question arises when evaluating the long-term impacts of this practice is, how long can we do this (without causing damage to the land)? In fact, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTC’s) 2012 reports have shown that around 20% of the world’s lands have been degraded (owing to practices mentioned above), and another report predicts that by 2050, over 20% of the world’s lands, especially those receiving water through irrigation systems, could face salination. In a context where lands keep facing degradation, we have to find new methods on how to use lands for agricultural activities in an effective manner.

She noted that there is also a question as to whether Sri Lanka’s food sovereignty can be ensured in a context where the use of synthetic fertilisers is needed for commercial agricultural activities is one of the existing challenges.

Adding that farmers are also facing an issue related to their right to land, she said: "In agroecology, an approach aimed at protecting soil, and not the chemical fertilisers, is farmers’ ownership of the lands as well. When it comes to food production, the existing market influences farmers to choose monocropping and also, consumption of food produced at the regional level within the same region has been limited.

"In the current market, rights of several farmers who are unable to ensure their livelihood are being violated (within or outside the context where farmers remain the last stakeholders in the value chain). In such a context, farmers merely produce food to meet the needs of the market. We have to give more priority in ensuring that farmers are in a position to ensure their family-level food security and economy, before releasing produce to the market.

"Countless unforeseen challenges, developments, and the Government determined to go ahead with the plan to stop the use of chemical fertiliser and establish an organic farming culture in the country. The situation that we are currently in does not seem to be encouraging. However, as has been noted by many researchers, we need to find answers to the question as to how long we can do so (without causing damage to the land).

Sri Lanka needs to pay attention to food sovereignty and food security: Nadera Kumari

"However, as has been noted by many parties since the beginning, including the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development’s process of the Government’s plan to go organic, would perhaps turn the situation for the better."

Farmers’ status in food production process should be further uplifted: Chathu Sewwandi

[SPOTLIGHT]

Nurturing the concept of AGROECOLOGY

● Bringing people back into the process of food production

What Sri Lanka needs is an agroecology-based new approach to farming, not organic agriculture: Chinthaka Rajapakse

Agroecology seeks to create a sustainable relationship between plants, animals, people, and their environment

PHOTO © L M V KASUN PERDARAKUMAR
The case of a newborn affected by alcohol

**Local psychiatrists advise those intending to get pregnant to cease social drinking**

Alcohol is known to cause subtle neuro-cognitive changes in the fetus even before birth because the embryo is at risk of having a child with foetal alcohol syndrome with the risk being greater, the higher the amount of alcohol that is consumed. Hence, if women are pregnant or think they might be pregnant, they should speak to their healthcare provider about the risks of alcohol use.

**Background**

Alcohol is known to cause subtle neuro-cognitive changes in the fetus even before birth because the embryo is at risk of having a child with foetal alcohol syndrome with the risk being greater, the higher the amount of alcohol that is consumed. Hence, if women are pregnant or think they might be pregnant, they should speak to their healthcare provider about the risks of alcohol use.

**Case report**

A 34-year-old woman had been dependent on alcohol since the age of 27. She claimed to be abstinent from alcohol since getting to know of her pregnancy in March 2012. Although it is quite certain that the foetus has been exposed to alcohol, the period of exposure cannot be determined accurately as she was unaware of her last regular menstrual period. The foetus was exposed to alcohol for five to six units of alcohol daily in the form of binge (a daily beverage made by fermenting the sap of the coconut palm tree). The mother had not attended antenatal care and a low-birth-weight pre-term baby was born through normal vaginal delivery. The baby failed to thrive and had frequent respiratory tract infections for which it was subsequently admitted with a lower respiratory tract infection. Although the mother denied the use of alcohol, the attending house officer reported a strong smell of alcohol and therefore referred her to the psychiatric unit.

On examination, features of foetal alcohol syndrome were present. Microcephaly, micrognathia (small head, small upper jaw, smooth and thin upper lip), and absent corpus callosum (connects the left and right sides of the brain to the right hemisphere) were not present. The patient was motivated to stop alcohol use. The patient did not need detoxification as she did not have withdrawal symptoms. According to Suraweera and Hanwell, although fluvoxamine is known to improve mood, it is one of a handful of therapies that could support the treatment of alcohol use disorder and reduce cravings and feelings of negative affect. In a randomized controlled trial, they found that the use of alcohol was significantly lower in the fluvoxamine group than in the placebo group. The team’s study included 1,497 people in the United States. The only early-stage treatments that factors into the assessment of death from Covid-19 and the need for intensive Covid-19-related medical care fell by roughly 90% and the need for intensive Covid-19-related deaths fell by roughly 89% in the five states that have used the drug as directed and did so in the early stages of the disease. Covid-19-related deaths fell by roughly 90% and the need for intensive Covid-19-related medical care fell by roughly 90% in the five states that have used the drug as directed and did so in the early stages of the disease. Covid-19-related deaths fell by roughly 89% in the five states that have used the drug as directed and did so in the early stages of the disease.

**Conclusion**

Fluvoxamine is highly effective at preventing mild to severe Covid-19-related medical care. Moreover, while the drug is not meant to be used alone, it is one of a handful of therapies that could support the treatment of alcohol use disorder and reduce cravings and feelings of negative affect. In a randomized controlled trial, they found that the use of alcohol was significantly lower in the fluvoxamine group than in the placebo group. The team’s study included 1,497 people in the United States. The only early-stage treatments that factors into the assessment of death from Covid-19 and the need for intensive Covid-19-related medical care fell by roughly 90% and the need for intensive Covid-19-related deaths fell by roughly 89% in the five states that have used the drug as directed and did so in the early stages of the disease.

References


(Appearance of the first publication in Nature on 29 October 2021)
ANANDA COLLEGE’S 134TH ANNIVERSARY

Memories of Ananda College from 1914-1926

A
nanda College was just 28 years of age when it had the good fortune of throwing itself into service as a member of the tutorial staff under Principal Fritz Kunz in 1914 — the beginning of the next line of persevering principals whose leadership ensured the survival and growth of the college. M.J. Muir, who, having, during a period of just three years, not only continued the yeoman service of his predecessor, but also gave the institution impressive academic and administrative prospects, was the principal whose tenure was marked by the establishment of a hostel for outstation students and the establishment of a hostel for outstation students and the enactment of rigorous regulations. However, environmental regulations are not always easy to implement, and enforcing them can be challenging. One such alternative employment opportunity is introducing replanting schemes, which can not only help the communities but also regenerate the deteriorating ecosystems in the country. There are several such community-based and community-involved reforestation projects initiated by state and private organisations. However, environmental conservation projects must be limited to a certain area, but the implementation of different projects across localities and even districts. For instance, the Great Wall Green Wall project in Africa, which is an initiative to restore 8,000 km across 11 countries to prevent the flourishing of the Sahara Desert, has created 10 million jobs in rural areas. Such large-scale projects can help any person irrespective of their gender, religion, and social status to earn a livelihood by engaging in a better cause for the future.

It must also be ensured that such efforts by a certain sector would not be destroyed by the negligible activities of another sector. The success of these projects is fulfilled by implementing rigorous regulations. It is also important to promote awareness among the white high school students, particularly state, local governments, civil society organisations, etc. It is evident that on many occasions, people do not acknowledge the importance of ecosystems and only contemplate the short-term economic profits and their convenience.

Communities can be educated through local, municipal, or other government officials to ensure that they understand the significance of protecting the marine environment. The principal’s room stood at the right end of the horizontal wing. There was no staff room as such.

The front portion of this two-azeb block building comprised of a ground floor, and the glass building had been added to the playground. It looked like a virtual jockey virtual jockey virtual jockey that was not being taught in the school’s early cricketers, amongst whom was the first All-Ceylon player, D.L. Gunaratna, who is known for being a well-known lawyer practising on the South Bank Courts. On the Mackwoods side of the vertical wing of the main building, Principal Kunz managed to build the Perform Hall, the first major addition to the college, after nearly ten years. Shortly after its completion, the Dina Memorial laboratory was put up on the highway end of the Hall through the munificence of the Jeremiah Dias family.

It was after the construction of two buildings that the college was registered for a government grant as an elementary school with a systematic department run by the Cambridge examiner, the examination which had determined the Government Scholarship on its results for the year. Amongst his many commitments, Kunz laboured more than any of his predecessors. His recognition is that he started teaching sciences with the help of his brother—without any teaching certificate or laboratory in a classroom. He established a model school for outstation students, and social scientists, and potential examiners, with the help of the Cambridge examiner’s office, with a well-structured laboratory, which would not have been possible but for his vision. How to protect the environment in specific areas, identifying invasive organisms and the resilience and stability of marine ecosystems, community needs of those areas, and thereby finding applicable solutions. This intellectual analysis and statistics work in parallel to research on the amendments and new regulations.

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Contd. from page 4

National...
Monday, November 1, 2021

The views and opinions expressed in this publication reflect those of this publication. The views and opinions expressed in this publication reflect those of this publication.
Justice in sight for Ceylinkron group company depositors

The Independent Association of Depositors of F&G Property Developers (Pvt) Ltd., the Maldives and Sri Lanka Co-operative Credit Associations Ltd., as the association is highly optimistic that the acknowledgement of the shareholders of F&G Property Developers was the moral victory for the investors. The associate mandated the shareholders to provide their address by ZBA Holdings under the investment agreement with the group company depositors.

Initially, concerns arise when shareholders, including Lalith Kariyawasam, S. Thilak, Mano, Suresh, and Maheen Subasinghe, refrained from granting their acknowledgement on the ground that they need time to consider the court order and the investment agreement proposed to set another date for the meeting which is set to be held tomorrow (2).

Steps are being taken to convene the meeting on the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Tourism Ministers as early as next month, as the meeting is set to convene regional tourism ministers, according to the Tourism Ministry working group's latest report.

The decision in this regard was taken at a meeting attended by Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Tareqmd Ariful Islam and Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga last Friday (20) during a meeting of Tourism ministers.

Both sides are also considering to convene a tourism ministers' conference next month, which will be held in conjunction with the tourism ministers' meeting in Colombo and Dhaka, Bangladesh, accordingly, a joint action plan between the countries in the region to revive the tourism industry, which was devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Bangladeshi High Commissioner also informed that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was expected to be signed between the two countries. The MoU has been decided upon during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official visit to Bangladesh last March, the Bangladesh High Commissioner said, adding that the MoU has been drafted and is expected to be signed soon.

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JAT Holdings’ CEO Nishal Ferdinando

The company, which is already a leading exporter of goods and services in Sri Lanka, has achieved record-breaking figures over the second half of the year, and it has been able to achieve this despite the pandemic.

JAT Holdings’ CEO, Nishal Ferdinando, said: “We are pleased to report that our company has achieved record-breaking figures over the second half of the year, and it has been able to achieve this despite the pandemic.”

Firstly, for the period under review, stood at 27%, highlighting the gross margin in our operations. Furthermore, our results were also achieved amidst the challenging conditions, which are a result of increased market penetration and pricing strategies.

The enhancement of origin capabilities in Sri Lanka, India, Vietnam, China, and new markets such as the USA and the UK was a result of the company building infrastructure and capabilities in those markets.

EFL also carried out several charter operations for the company. Further evidence of the company’s agile operation and market environment to meet customer expectations. The Northern Division of the company, which is to deliver extraordinary growth, Whilst the Eastern and Intra-Asia Trade Lanes are still strong. EFL completed two key acquisitions during the year. The acquisition of the company’s controlling share in EXCO, a leading shipping service, and the acquisition of a shipping service in Europe. This acquisition is also part of the company’s strategy to expand into the key Asian market. EFL’s business in the region has also grown steadily, and the company is optimistic about the future.

However, the company’s management also stressed that the rise in fuel costs has been a significant challenge. Moneta has already implemented a number of measures to offset these costs, including increased efficiency and cost reduction efforts. The company is also exploring opportunities for partnerships and collaborations to further improve its operations.

Since none of the EOIs submitted presented an appropriate plan to achieve the contract, the director-in-charge of the investor’s liability, the inter-branch of F&G, under the guidance of the Monetary Board, entered into an agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), Herat KPMG to carry out an independent investigation into the affairs of F&G Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd. was selected, as it provided the best assurance of a resolution plan. The Board of Directors of F&G Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd. was instructed to hold a meeting of shareholders to ascertain whether such intention by the new investor.”

CBSL issued five authorised orders for the company to call for shareholders to vote on the issue of proposed capital increase to the shareholders. The other members are CBSL Deputy Governor Dharma Dheerasinghe. The Committee comprises experts from the banking sector, the insurance sector, and the corporate sector.

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### CSE Corporate Debt Securities

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### SLT-Mobitel MBS partners Zoho to offer business solutions to SL

SLT-Mobitel MBS (Mobile Business Solutions) announced the tie-up with Zoho recently, a global technology corporation, to offer an extensive array of business solutions to facilitate the digital transformation of Sri Lankan companies.

Expanding its portfolio of global partnerships, SLT-Mobitel MBS is introducing three key cloud solutions: Zoho CRM – a world-renowned management system that helps companies serve more and build strong customer relationships; Zoho Desk – a help desk and customer service software that delivers top-quality customer support to their clients; and Zoho Analytics – a digital analytics solution designed for businesses to close deals faster by easily managing agreement and other document signing processes.

Off-the-shelf cloud solutions enable businesses to pivot towards a no-touch, adopt work model with delivering and maintaining their services. This partnership enables Zoho solutions to SLT-Mobitel MBS to provide local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and large-scale enterprises with a range of custom-focused, digital-driven business tools, empowering them to provide an exceptional experience to their customers in catering to the rapid business transformation taking place due to the prevailing global pandemic.

The new CRM, Zoho Desk, and Zoho Sign solutions are not only easy to use, but also integrate with the MBS’s CRM and POS solutions to form an ecosystem.

This new partnership with Zoho is an outcome of the MBS’s new offerings, Zoho’s applications have been certified and ISO 27001:2013 standard and have also obtained ISO27001:2013 compliance for security and privacy.

### Dialog Gaming powers MegaPlay

Dialog Gaming is in collaboration with Gameloft, a global leader in digital entertainment, to launch MegaPlay, an all-in-one gaming mobile platform created by Sri Lankan game developers, to the global gaming market.

Powered by Dialog Asia LLC, MegaPlay extends more than 50 exciting hyper-social casual (lightweight games with simple to complex games) that offer instant gameplay developed by Sri Lanka-based developers, from casual puzzle games, jigsaw, word puzzles, crossword, racing, arcade, and more. MegaPlay’s launch will mark the first time local game developers and gamers can cash their ideas and games into digital revenue, enabling players to cash in on their passion for gaming and developing as games. At this time only, Dialog Gaming is rewarding every new MegaPlay account holder with free 1 GBT anytime data and they will also get immediate access to MegaPlay’s entire library of interactive games.

This exclusive offer will only be available for the first 10,000 MegaPlay account holders via the Google Play Store or www.megaplay.lk. More details are available on the Google Play Store. For more information visit us at www.megaplay.lk.

### Sapphire Residences completes three new show apartments

Welikulitha Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, announced the completion of three new show apartments on the 35th level of the Sapphire Residences Tower at Galle Face Guts. Prospective buyers can now view these apartments in the picturesque views of the apartments with spectacular panaromic views.

The stunning new show apartments bring an exceptional array of features, amenities, and services to the region, and are available to view in the five distinctive styles by YOO Inspire by Starck:

- Classic
- Deeply tactile and sensual
- Minimal
- Warm and inviting
- Warm and homely

The building is the perfect marriage of past and present, coming together the most elegant and exquisitely produced objects and ideas to create a contemporary design along the finest design of today.

This style has already been available for viewing at the Sapphire Residences Tower in Marathahera/Galle Face Central Road, receiving widespread acclaim.

To schedule a personal viewing, email: info@sapphireresidences.lk

### Oriel IT expands with a branch office in Singapore

Oriel IT recently established operations in Singapore, a major technological hub among Asia’s nations, with the expansion of its technology investment in the Asian region with the view of expanding its services to the customers based in the area.

The newly opened branch caters to the Central Region, Singapore, where there is a huge demand for its IT services. Oriel IT will go on to roll out its full suite of IT solutions to customers in the domain of AI solutions, data services, and managed services including

- Oriel IT CEO Udaya Perera managed services
- Oriel IT Data Centre

Additionally, the company is also looking to provide further support for its clients in AI consultation, data collection, data analytics in research, and analytics including research facilitation.

Established in the year 2015, Oriel IT presently serves a wide range of businesses in all base prevalent in Europe, Asia, and the Americas, in the industry providing quality solutions across 12 diverse industries. Owing to its strategic market positioning together with generating huge revenue inflows to the country while also serving the Sri Lankan IT industry, also has the company recognised with numerous titles from various local and global award bodies in recognition of its efforts on corporate tenure.

### Lanka Hospitals completes 140 minimally invasive spinal fusion surgeries

Lanka Hospitals completed 140 minimally invasive spinal fusion surgeries from Left: Consultant Neurosurgical Surgeon Dr. Prasenika Gunaratne, Lanka Hospitals Consultant Neurosurgical Surgeon Dr. Lakesh Kodikara, Lanka Hospitals Registrar, Consultant Neurosurgical Surgeon Dr. Udumali Wijeratne, and CEO of Lanka Hospitals (Sri Lanka) Dhammika Dodage. This surgery is a state-of-the-art medical procedure carried out for spinal diseases with minimal invasion.

The procedure is carried out with the assistance of advanced equipment and surgical monitoring, which ensures the best chances of nerve damage during the minimally invasive spinal fusion surgery. This procedure is performed on an individual undergoing the surgery to recover much faster than when undergoing a traditional surgery.

Additionally, the company has recently moved from a diagnostic center to a correct diagnosis prior to minimally invasive spinal fusion surgery.
Olu Swim Week Colombo: Luxury resortwear edit

BY VENESSA ANTHONY

It’s that time of the year again, Colombo Fashion Week will be presenting Olu Swim Week, with a special focus on luxury resortwear, on 12 and 13 November at Shangri-La. This season is CFW’s 18th year since inception, and this particular show is the second one within this environment. CFW remains committed to mentoring, fine-tuning, and uplifting with a key focus on sustainability, especially circularity.

Alec Baldwin breaks silence over film set death: ‘She was my friend’

Alec Baldwin has made his first comments since police issued the fatal shooting on the set of the film production, in which a 42-year-old married mother of six, who was held at the Brunson family ranch in 15 December, 2015.

Wanniarachchi lighting the oil lamp

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga and Transport Minister Pavithra still plant my world would go to pieces, I would know that tomorrow the King Jr. said of Hutchins, a 42-year-old married mother of six, who was killed at the Brunson family ranch in 15 December.

Minister of Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa riding an ATV

Minister of Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa riding an ATV at ATV (Adventures at ATV) adventure centre. Speaking to Colombo Dunes by Crate Adventure Manager and Director Ranul Thantilage, he shared that while the sand dunes ATV adventure centre is the first of its kind on the island, Crate Adventure had previously launched their first ATV adventure centre in Gampaha known as “Colombo Mountain”. He shared that at the time of launch, it was South Asia’s first ATV adventure park.

Brave the Colombo dunes

Colombo Dunes by Crate Adventure at Port City opens to the public

Colombo Dunes is Sri Lanka’s first sand dunes all-terrain vehicle (ATV) adventure centre. Speaking to Colombo Dunes by Crate Adventure Manager and Director Ranul Thantilage, he shared that while the sand dunes ATV adventure centre is the first of its kind on the island, Crate Adventure had previously launched their first ATV adventure centre in Gampaha known as “Colombo Mountain”. He shared that at the time of launch, it was South Asia’s first ATV adventure park.

Contd. on page 14
Anton looks into environment-friendly innovations with uPVC

Anton is a 100% Sri Lankan household solutions manufacturer with over 70 years' experience in the industry. ANTON offers professional services in the educational sector as a lecturer, mentor, and facilitator specialized in educational psychology, currently serving as the Director of Academic Partnerships. He holds a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Education Management at Leeds University.

In conclusion Owens stated: "Educators, learners, and parents must support each other. There is a large community of instructional designers and instructional technology. A wide range of resources are also available. Therefore, if educators feel unprepared, reach out; there is always someone willing to help you. Online educators are doing an amazing job. We need to understand that this is a huge change to help a lot of people and to adapt to change takes time. Each role, implementation, and support. It's important for educators to give themselves some grace. I would request leaders and parents to give some grace to the teachers and not expect them to be 100% on point at all time. This is a community effort and we all do it this together."

Holly Owens is a Senior Instructional Designer at Academic Partnerships. She has over 15 years of experience in education in various roles, including high school educator, instructional technology, and project book. Her business, Holly Jolly Educational Services, offers professional services in instructional design. Holly has a Bachelor's degree and a master's degree and is currently pursuing her doctorate in Education Management at Texas A&M University. "The writer is creating for her dissertation. She has over 15 years' experience in the education sector as a lecturer, mentor, and facilitator specialized in educational psychology, currently serving as the Director of Academic Partnerships. Colombo, Sri Lanka"

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Between colourism and a lack of confidence, women are buying into the skin bleaching industry at an alarming rate. Skin whitening has become a routine throughout Asia. The belief and practice of having lighter skin has been deeply rooted from ancient times. For example, parrot beaks, pearls and jadeite are all symbolic of beauty across cultures. Mercury has been a well-known agent for skin lightening since 1429.

The dark side of skin bleaching

Olu Swim Week...

He further observed that over the last year or so, fashion took a massive plunge towards women, and because they don't know any other way of living, they tend to let out their feelings. "Men then feel like they can't relate to women, nor empathise with women, nor again because they don't want to cause a surge in harassment response; 'What were you wearing?' They would answer: 'What were you wearing when you were clad in school uniform, 12, in a bus, even when she was clad in school uniform, after that, even when I was on the beach, they would experience some form of harassment."

Shrining a personal experience, she said that the fact that awareness on non-consensual sexual violence is the age of 12, in a bus, when she was in school uniform, after that, even when I was on the beach, they would experience some form of harassment. She also explained that, adding this, this is the very reason that women should be educated that awareness is raised on therapies and not just taught to begin sexual education. Because, otherwise, then we can work towards a harassment free society towards women, towards space for women and girls, and towards the society.

She added that the initial information is very valuable as we know that even in our Constitution, women are the right to equality and not recognized as a human right.

The event expressed that, adding this, that work should be done from the grassroots and only the women and the space for women's participation is effective implementation of this. Also, awareness in all levels is the key to transformative development and societal change, society, one of education at all levels.

Olu Swim Week... He further observed that over the last year or so, fashion took a massive plunge towards women, and because they don't know any other way of living, they tend to let out their feelings. "Men then feel like they can't relate to women, nor empathise with women, nor again because they don't want to cause a surge in harassment response; 'What were you wearing?' They would answer: 'What were you wearing when you were clad in school uniform, 12, in a bus, even when she was clad in school uniform, after that, even when I was on the beach, they would experience some form of harassment."

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Pakistan ‘A’ take honours in drawn match
- Take 183-run first-innings lead before Lankans fare better in second essay

Pakistan ‘A’ took major honours in the first four-day cricket encounter against Sri Lanka ‘A’ which ended in a draw at the Pallekele International Stadium in Kandy yesterday (31 October).

Sri Lanka ‘A’, sent into bat first, were bowled out for 141 runs in their first innings as left-handed opening batter Bin Yousuf shared a valuable 206 runs for the second wicket with Lahiru Udara. The left-handed opener Saud Shakeel claimed 5/53.

Second and final four-dayer: 4-7 November

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England
Played: 3, Points: 0, NRR: -2.00, Remaining matches: vs. Bangladesh, Australia

England have won in outstanding form so far, winning each of their three matches with plenty to spare but they aren’t quite assured of a semi-final place yet. If they lose their last two matches – as ridiculous as that sounds in a tournament where it is possible for both Australia and South Africa to leapfrog them and finish on eight. One more win should suffice, though even then they could still be tied on eight with Australia and South Africa, their net run rate should be enough to take them through.

South Africa
Played: 3, Points: 4, NRR: 0.210, Remaining matches: vs. Bangladesh, England

South Africa have won two and lost one, and one of their remaining games is against the former team of their group. If they beat Bangladesh and lose to England, they will be at the mercy of other results, as both England and Australia can move up to eight points. Even with four wins, it could come down to NRR if Australia wins their last two, and if England wins Sri Lanka’s.

Australia
Played: 3, Points: 4, NRR: -0.627, Remaining matches: vs. Bangladesh, the West Indies

Australia’s net run rate has taken a beating after their defeat against England, but despite this huge loss, they are still comfortably placed with two wins in three games. Their last two games are against the bottom two teams in the group, so their net run rate shouldn’t be a problem, despite winning on a relatively light, Australia will want to win both, because it is possible for England and South Africa to get up to eight points.

Sri Lanka
Played: 3, Points: 2, NRR: -0.350, Remaining matches: vs. England, the West Indies

Sri Lanka will have to win their last two matches and then hope other results go their way. Their best-case scenario will be if both Australia and South Africa lose their second remaining matches. In that case, England (9 points) and Sri Lanka (6) will qualify, with all the other teams stuck on four. There is a possibility of five teams being on four points each if England finish on 10, but that is not a fight Sri Lanka will want to get into.

West Indies
Played: 3, Points: 2, NRR: -1.300, Remaining matches: vs. Sri Lanka, Australia

If England win all their matches and other teams distribute their wins evenly, it is still possible that five teams will finish equally placed with two wins in the second semi-final spot. Bangladesh, though, will also have to win big to improve their NRR, which is currently languishing at -1.009.

Bangladesh
Played: 3, Points: 0, NRR: -1.000, Remaining matches: vs. South Africa, Australia

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**Quote from a legend**
“I’ve faired over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed”
- Michael Jordan
Army and Tamil Union to top points table

SLC MAJOR CLUB 50-OVER CRICKET

Action from SLC-organised Major Club 50-over Tournament

Afghanistan bounce back to beat Namibia

The Kiwis dealt a killer blow to Afghanistan's T20 World Cup campaign with an emphatic 8 wicket victory over the hosts in the Super 12 Group-2 game yesterday (31 October) at Delta Stadium in Colombo. Afghanistan were all out for 160/5 in 20 overs as India's campaign as they did it again. India won by 8 wickets.

Williamson and Co. walk over Kohli's India

New Zealand won by 8 wickets as the Indians made a change at the top, with Indian skipper Virat Kohli adding to his problems. New Zealand has been a major contender in this tournament, and their victory over India will be a huge boost for their chances of winning the title.

99TH NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP: STAGE 2

Five Sri Lanka records were set by young athletes in the women's 5,000 metres during the final National Athletics Championship of the year, the final National Athletics Championship (Stage 2) yesterday (31 October) at Sugathadasa Stadium, Colombo. The top six athletes were awarded the country's first Sri Lanka records for 2021.

Zverev wins fifth ATP-level title

Alexander Zverev won his fifth ATP-level title in Paris yesterday (31 October) when he defeated Hubert Hurkacz in the final of the Paris大师賽. Zverev overcame 13-year-old American qualifier Alex De Minaur in the final to claim the title after having been a runner-up in the Dubai Desert Classic earlier this season.

Empathic win by Airmen over Police

For Afghanistan, it was a momentous victory, as the team managed to secure their first win over India in the T20 World Cup. Afghanistan's bowlers bowled out India for 160/5, and the hosts were unable to score more than 50 runs.

However, Zverev's victory continues his dominance in the sport, as he has been one of the most consistent and successful players in recent years. The German's victory at the Paris大师賽 is his fifth ATP-level title of the season, and he is currently ranked fourth in the world. Zverev's win also marked his second consecutive title, after winning the French Open earlier this year.

Sri Lanka’s record-breaking loop in women’s 5,000m yesterday was 14.78 seconds. The previous record held by Tania de Silva was 14.79 seconds. This is the fifth best time in the world this year.

Zverev’s victory in Paris is his fifth ATP-level title of the season, following wins in Acapulco, Madrid, Cincinnati Masters, and Tokyo. His dominant performance in Paris further cements his status as one of the top players in the world. His victory against Alex De Minaur, a young and talented player, highlights Zverev’s exceptional skills and consistency in his play.

Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain took the lead in the second round of the tournament, as he defeated German David Goffin in straight sets. Zverev's victory also marks his first win over top-seeded Novak Djokovic, adding to his impressive list of accomplishments this season.