

Act (PTA).

This was among three priority issues identified by the committee for the Government to address including the Human Rights Commission of Sri

ISSUING its concluding observations following the review of Sri Lanka's sixth periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR) has reminded the Sri Lankan Government of the need to repeal the draconian Frevention of Terrorism discourse the HRCSL, the CCPR called on the Government of the need to repeal the draconian Prevention of Terrorism discourse of the country. Lanka (HRCSL), counter terrorism measures, and date effectively and independently in all parts of the country. Commenting on country argeing of minorities particularly Muslims and Tamils, Government of the country.

liberty and security or persons.
With regard to the HRCSL, the CCPR called on the Government to ensure that the body fully complies with the Paris Principles, ensures transparency in the appointment process of its members, and pro-

the country.

Commenting on counter-terrorism measures, ter-terrorism measures, the CCPR was concerned that the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) con-tinued to allow for pro-longed pre-trial deten-tion without charge of

up to 12 months and contained a broad definition of terrorism, and was used to legitimise the targeting of minorities, particularly Muslims and Tamils, Government critics, and leabing, agy, bisexual and transgender individuals, and to extract confessions through torture.

Human Rights Watch says
Government must ensure
policies to enhance revenues
do not further worsen
economic and social rights
situation of the people
Highlights official corruption
and tax rules benefitting
wealthy were key drivers of
country's economic crisis
Says civil society must play
a more prominent role in
IMF reforms process
Stresses Government must hold
corrupt officials and private
businesspeople to account,
including for past malfeasance

IMF loan risks eroding rights of Sri Lankans: HRW



THE Government of Sri Lanka should ensure tha es to enhance revenues do not furth Imic and social rights and that anti-c

ted the wealthlest were key drivers of \$1 Lanka's economic crisis, for which \$7 Lanka's economic crisis, for which \$7 Lankans struggling make ends meet should not have to carry the burn den," the Human Rights Watch South Asia Directo Meenalshi Ganguly said.

Expolanka acquires Canadian logistics major for Rs. 22 b

company, Expolanka Holdings PLC, has signalled its aggressive expansion by acquiring a Canadian logistics giant LEI Group for a staggering Rs. 22 billion.

mion. The company said fully The company said fully owned subsidiary EFL Global Logistics Ltd. (EFL Singapore) has acquired 100% equity interest of LEI Group for a purchase consideration of CA \$90 million (around Rs. 22 billion).

\$ 90 million (around Rs. 22 billion) on a cash free debt free basis on 30 March.

"As part of the company's North America strategy, the acquisition enables EFL Global to expand its footprint



in the Canadian market and strengthen capabilities to pro-vide end-to-end logistics solu-tions to customers across vari-Group is a family-owned

Canadian logistics company with a history of nearly 47 years offering a full suite of logistics services, including ocean freight, air freight, warehousing, customs brokerage, rail service, distribution, fulfilment, domestic trucking, and drayage. Considered as one of the largest Canadian owned freight forwarders, it has branches across the country and internationally. Investor reaction yesterday to the biggest ever acquisition was somewhat muted as the Expolanka share price gained by only Rs. 7.50 or 5.7% to Rs. 138.

COYLE urges Government to engage biz leaders in policy-making

Stresses such approach will ensi fair, sustainable and economically sound decision

THE Chamber of Young Lankan Entrepreneurs (COYLE) has urged the Government to engage business leaders in policy making process to ensure fair, sustainable and economically sound decisions. This call was made during its 24th Anniversary Celebrations held recently. The event was attended by the Chief Guest, and the Chief Guest, and the Chief Guest of the Chief Chief

liamentarians, command-ers of the Sri Lanka Armed Forces, Government offi-cials, and business leaders.

cials, and business leaves as The hambers leaves. The hambers leaves as The hambers leaves as Lankan Entrepreneurs (COYLEs comprises more than 116 prominent indi-viduals who serve as chair-men and controlling share-holders of some of the most influential companies in Sri Lanka. It has over 500 member organisations and is affiliated with nearly 50 business chambers in the

country. The organisation is managed and controlled by young entrepreneurs but also boasts a number of but also boasts a number of senior and respected business leaders who joined the organisation during its formative years to help shape COYLE into what it is today. The Chamber actively promotes entrepreneurship, the development of rural communities, and thought leadership. More Page 2

PickMe reduces prices further on km rate to Rs. 68

PICKME said vesterday it will continue to be market leaders in price

PICOME and veterdary it will continue to be market leaders in price in the tast halling market with them further bringing down the charpe per kilometre to 16 x, 68.

"The current stalking of pertol prices by CPC will be passed down to the passenger and new will continue to give value to the driver who works in the gap comount, The authorities have stignated that the maximum price for tristius ha were starting price of 88. 100 followed by 88. 80 from the excell discinute; Were also be 15 xight will be bloom the rate of the maximum price for tristius has not sattling price of 88. 100 followed by 88. 80 from the excell discinute; Were also be 15 xight will be will be started to the started by 88. 80 from the excell discinute for the conditionate of the conditionate of the started by 88. 80 from the excell discinute of the started by 88. 80 from the excell discinute of the started by 88. 80 from the excell discinute of the started by 88. 80 from the excellent started of the started by 88. 80 from the excellent started of the started by 88. 80 from the excellent started of the started by 88. 80 from the excellent started of the started by 88. 80 from the excellent started of the started by 88. 80 from the excellent started of the started by 88. 80 from the excellent started of the started by 88. 80 from the started by 88. 80 fr

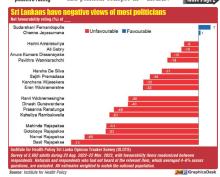
DSI obtains enjoining order against infringement of its **AVI Brand**

THE Commercial High Court Judge Priyantha Fernando earlier this week Issued an enjoining order against the Defendant AVI Clothing, for engaging in the business of selling clothing with a brand name identical or containing similar to the AVI trademark and brand. This was consequent to action filed in the Commercial High Court of Colombo by DSI through its lawyer Sudath Perera Associates, against an entity operating an e-commerce business on Facebook and Instagram under a purported name of "AVI Clothing." The action was filed for the infringement of DSI's AVI trademark and brand on the basis of makir competition and passing off.

D. Samson & Sons Lid., widely known as DSI, in 2008 incurbed 1-34, 11, abcal sportswear brand and, owing to its tremendous success, goodwill and reputation, in 2022, an AVI exclusive brand outlet was opened in Colombo 7.

Sri Lankans continue to hold unfavourable views of all political party leaders

Most more unpopular than French President Macron, with only a few having a small positive rating



Dilmah Tea threatens to quit Australian supermarkets in cost dispute with major retailers

THE Australian: One of the world's biggest tea companies, Dilmah Tea, has threatened to pull its products from Australian supermarket shelves unless the major retail chains agree to pay more for its handcrafted brands of Ceylon teas and cease their demands for discounts.

Leading Srl Lankan businessman and Dilmah Tea Chief Executive Dilman Fernando, said the company had been losing money in Australia for more than a decade and its market share continued to fall as it refused to compromise its commitment to

promise its commitment to sustainability and ethical

sourcing.
Dilmah, Sri Lanka's big-gest global brand, is sold gest global brand, is soid in over 100 different coun-tries around the world



Dilmah CEO Dilhan C. Fernando at Dilmah Head Office

and is among brands globally. Towever Fernando and is among the ton 10 tea

brands globally.

However Fernando
revealed Dilmah would
be prepared to pull out
of mainstream retail and
become a super-premium brand for sales just
through hospitality venues

and online unless retailers stopped pushing the firm to commoditise its brand and compromise its unique supply chain through dis-counting.

wounting. "We have been told in no "We have been told in no uncertain terms that we have to change our model. But we would rather close our doors than compromise," Fernando told The Australian during a visit to Australia last week, his

to Australia last week, his third since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. "It is not fair or ethical to have a fundamentally unfair trading system. The producer needs to be empowered to offer a product with passion where corners are not cut. That can only happen when there is a fair price paid for the product."

Trump indicted, first US President to face criminal charges

NEW YORK, AFP: A New York grand jury indicted Donald Trump on Thursday over hush-money payments made to a porn sta during his 2016 campaign, making him the first former US President to face criminal

charges.
The historic indictment of the 76-year-old
Republican — who denies all wrongdoing in
connection with the payments made ahead of
the election that sent him to the White House certain to upend the current presidential race in

which Trump hopes to regain office.

And it will forever mark the legacy of the former leader, who survived two Impeachments and kept prosecutors at bay over



everything from the US Canitol riot to missi 44-year-old adult movie actress.
Trump's lawyer Susan Necheles told AFP
she expects he will be arraigned on Tuesday
next week.

More Page 2 THE Colombo stock market managed to close with a gain yesterday with improved investor sentiment. Both indices gained by 0.7% whilst turnover rose to a three-month high of Rs. 4.2 billion that to a transfer of 28% due to a transfer of 26% stake in LOLC General

stake in LOLC General Insurance.
Asia Securities said the indices ended the week on a positive note as investor concerns over domestic debt restructuring subsided following the investor presentation held on Thursday, in

CSE rebounds; LOLC General Insurance boosts turnover to 3-month high

which the Central Bank ensured the proposed debt restructuring strategy will not impact the country's banking sector, which was seen as a key positive during the session.

Resultantly, bank-toseks DIB (+3.4%), INBN (+3.0%), NTBN (+3.3%), CALT (+5.5%), and PABC (+5.0%) and AHUN (+3.3%) saw renewed retail buyand PABC (+5.0%)

LIOC (-1.0%), SLTL (-2.3%), TKYON (-1.6%), RCL (-1.1%), and PACK (-1.4%) ended in red. HNBN (+25 points), EXPO (+13 points) ended as the major index drivers for the day. The breadth of the market ended positive with 93 price gainers and 73 decliners.

More Page 2