

'Village to Home' recommenced at Cargills Square Dematagoda



"Village to Home" is an initiative by Cargills that was created with the intention of strengthening and building the country's budding small and medium enterprise (SME) entrepreneurs by offering them a platform to engage with a wider network of customers. Launched in September 2020, this program had to be put on hold for a short while due to the constraints of the pandemic. Previously held at Pelawatte, Kandana, Malabe, Rawathawatta, and Koswatta, these programmes were well received by the general public.

This initiative was recommenced at Cargills Square Dematagoda over 13 and 14 November, inviting a selected few local entrepreneurs as partners to promote their diverse range of products in demarcated stalls. An exciting array of products including handloom and handicraft, cane and reed craft, mushroom-based products, traditional Ayurvedic herbal products, sweetmeats, and a variety of snacks were on offer.

On the first day of the programme, Central Bank of Sri Lanka Regional Development Unit Additional Director Nihal Liyanage graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Cargills Ceylon PLC Deputy Chairman Ranjit Page, Cargills Bank Managing Director/ CEO Senarath Bandara, along with team members from both organisations were also present, joining the customers who supported local entrepreneurs by trying out their products.

The local SMEs who participated in this two-day programme, were very grateful not just because of the lucrative income they managed to generate – which is a rarity given the difficult times they are facing due to the pandemic – but also because of the technical expertise they gained working closely with the Cargills team.

Moving forward, Cargills will continue to host "Village to Home" at selected Food City outlets, broadening their reach to as many local SMEs as possible.

PMF launches the 'Navodaya' partnership for rural transformation



Inaugural Navodaya entrepreneurship loan being handed over to R.M.N.Dayarathna (left) by PMF Chairman Chandula Abeywickrema (right) and PMF CEO Nalin Wijekoon (centre)

People's Merchant Finance PLC (PMF) aligned to their new turnaround strategy and to continue their vision of catering to the diverse financial needs of all Sri Lankans, launched the "Navodaya" entrepreneurship loan scheme on 15 October, taking a responsible approach by holding hands with micro small and medium enterprise (MSME) entrepreneurs.

PMF since mid-2020 traversed a path of revitalising the MSME sector. Accordingly, PMF is building a portfolio of loan products to suit the changing economic climate and cater to the needs of their chosen market space. Furthermore, as a responsible Sri Lanka corporate citizen, PMF is building financial products to support the Sri Lankan government's economic development agenda.

The Navodaya entrepreneurship loan scheme with several unique features is not a simple financial product and PMF has spent months researching and identifying the needs of emerging entrepreneurs. This will offer them a turnkey customised solution from offering a competitively priced loan product, educating entrepreneurs on handling financial and business matters, to guiding and supporting them on their business journey.

This entrepreneurship loan scheme is designed to be commercially viable and sustainable, growing and changing aligned to the development of the client's business needs. Considering the importance of technology in this digital age, PMF will provide tech support in partnership with emerging technology companies.

Innovative business ideas awarded at the 2021 Uber Entrepreneurship Challenge

Uber awarded 10 merchant partners, driver partners, and couriers with prizes ranging from luxury hotel stays, smartphones, and a motorbike, to recognise their innovative business ideas at the Uber Entrepreneurship Challenge 2021. The awards ceremony was held at the Park Street Mews, Colombo with the esteemed presence of the Chief Guest Minister of Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa, who handed out awards to the deserving winners.

The Uber Entrepreneurship Challenge, an industry-first event, was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and provided merchants, drivers, and delivery partners alike, with a platform to showcase their entrepreneurial spirit and innovation. Emerging as winner of the merchant category for her unique recipe of submarines and hotdogs made with local, plant-based ingredients, Shani Dias was

awarded a two-night full board stay at Heritance Kandalama and a Samsung Galaxy S7 Tab. Additionally, Nimesh Sandaruwan was named winner of the driver/courier category for his concept of expanding services through the Uber platform. He was awarded a brand new Mahindra Centuro motorbike.

The Uber Entrepreneurship Challenge was an effort to engage, inspire, and motivate its partners to achieve their goals and dreams.



Shani Dias who emerged as winner of merchant category of the Uber Entrepreneurship Challenge 2021 receiving her award from Chief Guest Minister of Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa

Black Friday experience at CCC mall

Black Friday is all set to take place at Colombo City Centre (CCC), where shoppers can enjoy the best deals and special events.

Shoppers who spend over Rs. 9,999 and enjoy free parking, while shopping for over Rs. 15,000 enables them to win CCC gift vouchers. Shoppers who spend between Rs. 15,000-19,000 will get CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 500; Rs. 20,000-24,999 will receive CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 1,000; Rs. 25,000-29,999 will get CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 1,500; Rs. 30,000-34,999 will receive CCC gift vouchers worth

Rs. 2,000; Rs. 35,000-39,999 will get CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 2,500; Rs. 40,000-44,999 will receive CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 3,000; and between Rs. 45,000-49,999 will get CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 3,500. Shoppers simply have to present their invoices of the shopping done on 26 November 2021 to the concierge desk, to benefit from the CCC Black Friday promotion and receive the CCC gift vouchers.

Furthermore, shoppers who spend over Rs. 50,000 stand a chance of winning the Black Friday Special Bonanza – which is the valuable prize of receiving CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 50,000. The lucky winner for this special promotion will be selected via a raffle draw. CCC Black Friday Promo is a chance to shop and be benefitted by fabulous deals and the special Black Friday promotions.

Black Friday at CCC takes place on 26 November from 8 a.m. to midnight.

Crysbro follows protocols to produce nutrition-filled poultry

Crysbro is committed to following constituted protocols, in place to maintain high standards in food safety for producers.

The importance of food safety is undisputed, as it is directly reflected in the quality of the final product that reaches the end-consumer. For large-scale producers like Crysbro, food safety has always been at the forefront of their attention, since its inception.

Poultry products are now a common source of

nutrition in the average Sri Lankan's diet, with sufficient nutritional benefits and high protein. Crysbro's commitment to secure and safe production and handling of poultry makes for an end-product with nutrition and freshness.

Crysbro has identified how to enrich and heighten the nutritional value – the maize used to feed the chickens is particularly rich in pro-vitamin A carotenoids, which are converted into Vitamin A once they enter



the human digestive system.

In addition, Crysbro introduced a state-of-the-art molecular laboratory facility to its processing plant, to use the PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) system to

detect common foodborne pathogens such as salmonella, listeria, and campylobacter, which are three extremely common types of bacteria which cause food poisoning.

In terms of food safety, this new facility has enabled Crysbro to accurately monitor the health of its poultry flocks and assess any potential risks in advance, without having to compromise on operational productivity, along its production chain.

SLT-Mobitel rewards new 'Fibre Triple Play' subscribers

SLT-Mobitel is gifting customers who subscribe to the new SLT-Mobitel "Fibre Triple Play" service in November with promotional SLT-Mobitel PEO TV packages ranging from "PEO Family" upwards and a TeDiSmart IR Blaster smart device.

The TeDiSmart IR Blaster smart device is offered free-of-charge through a collaboration with The Connection Workshop (Pvt.) Ltd. Available at SLT-Mobitel e-Teleshop, the TeDiSmart IR Blaster is valued at Rs. 3,745 for retail buyers.

The TeDiSmart IR Blaster powered by Tuya, is a compact smart remote controller to activate home appliances from anywhere at any time. The portable and handy device enables customers to control and operate air conditioners, TVs, fans, DVD players, set-top boxes, and more. The remote controller is supported through the TeDiSmart app.

The SLT-Mobitel "Fibre Triple Play" service offers three unique experiences via best-in-quality telephone connections through voice capabilities, uninterrupted high-speed broadband connectivity, and personalised entertainment with SLT-Mobitel PEO TV with high definition (HD) capability.

This offer is available only for the first 100 customers who meet the eligible criteria and the gift will be couriered to the selected customers at the end of promotion. Subscribe to the SLT-Mobitel "Fibre Triple Play" connection with the premium PEO TV packages and be among the first customers to receive the free TeDiSmart IR Blaster.

Teejay Lanka achieves 81% emission reduction from sludge disposal



Sri Lankan textile manufacturer Teejay Lanka PLC has announced the achievement of an 81% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the disposal of sludge waste, after one year of sustained operation of industry best practices.

This milestone in eco-friendly waste disposal was made possible by the investment of \$ 450,000 (approximately Rs. 90 million at current exchange rates) in a steam-powered sludge dryer at Teejay's factory at the Seethawaka Export Processing Zone (EPZ) that enables the company to convert a daily output of wet sludge into dry powder which is then incinerated at a cement manufacturing facility.

Working with a Sri Lankan

cement manufacturer in this process, Teejay Lanka had eliminated an independently-verified 1,744.57 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions (tCO₂e) between 1 November 2020 and 31 July 2021, which translates to an annual emissions reduction of 2,326.09 tCO₂e.

The Sustainable Future Group (SFG), which was appointed by Teejay Lanka to verify the reduction of GHG emissions from the switch in the company's sludge waste disposal method has issued an independent GHG verification statement covering the first nine months of the sludge drying and incineration procedure, using auditing practices as specified in the ISO 14064-3:2019 Standard.

Nation's leading business rankings place Hayleys as No. 1 corporate

Capping off a year of record-breaking, export-led growth, both *Lanka Monthly Digest's (LMD) Top 100* and *Business Today Top 40* ranked Hayleys PLC as Sri Lanka's No. 1 corporate for 2020-21.

This marks the fifth consecutive year and eighth occasion in total that Hayleys has been honoured with the top spot within the *LMD100*. Considered Sri Lanka's version of the Fortune 500, the No.1 ranking endorses the group's sustained position as one of the nation's most dynamic, innovative, and resilient corporates.

In addition, Hayleys has been ranked No. 1 in *Business Today's* Top 40 outstanding listed companies, for having driven social and national interest in its business endeavours amidst a remarkably challenging operating environment – a key criteria of the publication's ranking this year.

In clinching the top honours of two of the island's leading annual corporate rankings, Hayleys was also recognised for its agility and resilience to rise above the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Made up of over 30,000 employees, Hayleys has focused on prioritising people safety, ensuring supply chain demands are met, and keeping sustainability commitments at the forefront amidst global disruption.

Hayleys reported significant growth in the core performance of its value-added export-oriented businesses, accounting for \$ 600 million of the country's foreign earnings and 4.2% of the nation's total export income as stated in its 2020-21 annual report.

Covid-19 Integrated Home-based Care Solution helps over 100 K patients

The Covid-19 Integrated Home-based Care Solution conceptualised and implemented effectively by the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced administration of care to over 100,000 home-quarantined Covid-19 patients last week. This initiative was supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA), and powered by Dialog Axiata PLC, Bank of Ceylon, and Wavenet International (Pvt.) Ltd.

The 1390 toll-free trilingual hotline and the patient management system was launched to support the patient management efficiently by implementing an integrated digital platform to manage the home care of PCR/RAT positive patients. The toll-free 1390 hotline and all connectivity requirements are sponsored by Dialog Axiata PLC, the patient management system is sponsored by Wavenet International Pvt. Ltd., and the call centre is sponsored by the Bank of Ceylon. The patient management system was led by specialised consultants and over 600 trained medical doctors were deployed with the co-ordination of GMOA under the guidance of the Ministry of Health to provide individual care.

The execution of the integrated home-based care programme has also reduced the burden to hospital care systems during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the spread of new variants of the virus. The solution was also successful in reducing the workload of the frontline healthcare providers by providing a platform to manage asymptomatic and non-critical patients remotely. The solution was quickly adopted by the healthcare workers which aided in digitising the manual process of patient data management, record keeping, and turnaround time in administering home-based care to patients.



Hayleys PLC Co-Chairman Dhammika Perera



Hayleys PLC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mohan Pandithage