

PCC APPROVES PETROLEUM PRODUCTS BILL

Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera said amendments to the Petroleum Products (Special Provisions) Bill, paving way for new suppliers to enter as importers, distributors and retail operators for Petroleum products, was approved by Parliament Consultative Committee (PCC) on 4 October.

He said he hopes to have the Bill on the agenda for debate in

Parliament for the third week of October.

He said the Petroleum Products (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill was approved at the ministerial consultative committee on Power and Energy with amendments in accordance with the decisions given by the Supreme Court.

The approval for this was granted when the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power and Energy met in Parliament on 4

October under the chairmanship of Wijesekera.

This Petroleum Products (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill provides for the importation, supply and distribution of fuel to parties other than the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and the Lanka Indian Oil Company.

State Minister D.V. Chanaka and MPs Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda and M. S. Showfeek were present at this Committee meeting.

Türkiye says it will not back resolutions against Sri Lanka

Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Colombo noted that Türkiye has not co-sponsored any resolution adopted on Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), neither in the past, nor during the 51st session of the council.

In a press release it said Türkiye has made an intervention in the interactive dialog on Sri Lanka held on 12 September during the UNHRC session. In its statement, Türkiye highlighted that given the enormity of the social and economic challenges that Sri Lanka is facing, the Sri Lankan Government should be given time to fulfil its obligations and supported during these difficult times.

Couple who ran foreign jobs scam arrested

BY AMITH MADURANGA GAMAGE

Officials of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) arrested a couple in Embilipitiya who fraudulently charged people Rs 500,000 each promising jobs in Japan.

The SLBFE's Special Investigation Division received five complaints about the duo and the couple was arrested in a raid on 4 October following a probe.

The couple told the

Ambilipitiya Magistrate's Court that they would return all the money to the victims by 18 October. They were released on two personal sureties of Rs 200,000 each, with the next hearing set for 20 October.

The Bureau had tried to arrest the husband and wife duo on several occasions but they had eluded its officials each time.

The woman was arrested in Embilipitiya city and her husband surrendered soon after following a meticulous investigation by the Bureau.

Tourists to get new 'Tap & Go' fuel passes

BY ALOKA KASTURIARACHCHI

A fuel pass system for foreign visitors was introduced yesterday (5), Minister of Tourism Harin Fernando said.

Speaking in Parliament yesterday, he said the 'Tap & Go' Fuel Pass for tourists is being launched in collaboration with a leading telecommunications

partner and Minister of Energy Kanchana Wijesekera.

The Minister further said that tourists could get fuel for power generators with this new system.

He said that a trial was conducted with those in the tourism industry.

The Minister added that measures are being taken to attract more tourists and spread

positive information about Sri Lanka.

While adding that a contingency plan is being made for December, he revealed that Sri Lanka will record historical tourist arrivals by the year end. He also requested opposition parties not to sabotage the developments in the tourism industry by holding protests and events that would turn tourists away from the country.

14th Cargills Village to Home



The Cargills Village to Home program supports the country's small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) by providing them with a platform to engage with a larger network of customers.

As a company which has continuously engaged with and invested in rural agricultural communities across Sri Lanka, Cargills launched this program initially in September 2020 in the aftermath of the pandemic to provide local SMEs who had lost access to markets with a platform to showcase their products.

In addition, Cargills leverages its vast expertise in product development, marketing, and finance to support local entrepreneurs improve their product offerings. The Cargills Bank provides financing and banking assistance to the SMEs. The program has been able to open export markets for certain SMEs while some have become listed suppliers at Cargills Retail outlets due to their popularity.

The 14th Cargills Village to Home was held on the 1st and 2nd of October 2022 at the Bauddhaloka Mawatha Cargills Food City

premises, with an interesting array of traditional Sri Lankan foods and handicrafts.

Among the SMEs featured this week was young Sasindu Thathsara from Bibile, Monaragala. Sasindu is the developer of a water filtering system known as Mannussakama, aimed at providing clean drinking water at a reasonable price to those struggling to find safe drinking water. His innovation is inspired by the challenges faced by people in his hometown to find clean drinking water. Kandy handicrafts by Asanka Priyalal was also featured in this program. Asanka markets a variety of coconut shell products as well as Batik fabric-covered notebooks. Saman Dhammika was another entrepreneur who was part of the program this time, marketing his household cleaning products Derma Care. His products included bathroom cleaners, hand wash, and tile cleaners. Maui Creations marketed products such as bedsheets, tablecloths, and clothing made from batiks and handlooms. The rural township of Manikhinna Kalasirigama also participated in the 14th Cargills

Village to Home program, displaying their handicrafts made out of Hana plants including bags, table mats, pouches, wall hangings, mats.

Earth and Fire by Dumindu had several interesting types of pottery and jewellery. Nalin Kumara's Healyo products included natural bee honey, bottled food items made of kochchi, sesame, and garlic. UNIQ Ayurvedic cosmetic products by Naomi Perera, a young female SME, showcased various types of unique ayurvedic cosmetic items. Sugar Galaxy by Dennis Thushanthani, a business that produces cakes, sweets, and traditional Tamil food items was also present. Rusteaks Wooden Décor by Shehara Fernando showcased wooden decorations made out of scrap wood. Derani plants by Himashi Ranasighe, another young female SME, had several types of flowers and vegetable plants, seeds, and organic fertilizer. Two Cargills Lak Bojun SMEs also participated providing healthy, traditional, Sri Lankan breakfast meals for customers who visited the event.



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