

# RedPower

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THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT (JVP) - SRI LANKA

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## Keep off Our Resources!

**The people of our country face many problems. Lack of nutritious food for children. Youth unemployment. Business collapse, no new product. There is a shortage of medicine in hospitals. Our country is immersed in such a severe economic and social crisis.**

All these social crises are created from two sources. One is the amount of money the government receives is insufficient for annual expenses. That means that the rupee is in crisis. According to the budget proposals presented by President Ranil Wickremesinghe as the Minister of Finance,

the revenue expected by the government is four thousand three hundred and sixty-four billion. This amount will not be received. It has already been reported that the expected income for this year will decrease by 16.3%. Even if we assume that we get it, even if the government looks at the

total primary expenditure, investment expenditure and capital expenditure, it is four thousand three hundred and fifty-eight billion. And let's leave the loan instalment payments aside. But the loan interest payment is two thousand six hundred and fifty-one billion. In that case, the government's total expenditure is seven hundred and nine billion. The government earns seven thousand four thousand one hundred sixty-three billion. That means the government is in a rupee crisis. The country is in a dollar crisis as well. The foreign

debt to be paid is about thirty-six billion dollars. In addition, the amount of outstanding foreign debt is three billion dollars. It is 3753 in millions and we will not be able to earn the amount of dollars we need.

As a means of getting over the debacle Ranil-Rajapaksa government has planned to sell several national resources. Some of them are the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) Sri Lankan Airlines Ltd including Sri Lankan Catering Ltd, Sri Lanka Telecom, Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd,

Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hilton Hotel Colombo, Litro Gas Lanka Ltd., including Litro Gas Terminals (Pvt) Ltd., (LPG retailing), and Lanka Hospital Corporation.

According to Ranil Wickremesinghe, "If we can't pay off our loans, we might have to sell something in the house and pay it." He said, "The state has no business engaging in business."

A team from Amul of India has already in Sri Lanka to assess the assets of Milko and 31 farms belonging to the National Livestock Development Board (NLDB) that the

government plans to hand over to India.

Massive opposition to the move is developing, and thousands of farmers engaged in livestock and other farming activities have participated in agitations and protest demonstrations against the government's move.

Namal Karunaratne, former Parliamentarian and the National Organizer of All Ceylon Farmers' Federation, affiliated to the JVP, speaking at a protest rally, warned those expecting to take over the farms,

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A Rational Land, a Just Society and a Liberated Human Being!

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## 2024 is only a few weeks away

The budget debate for the year 2024 was held for a month from November 13-December 13. It was Sri Lanka's 78th budget. It was the second budget to be presented after Sri Lanka officially declared itself bankrupt on April 12, 2022 and Ranil Wickramasinghe was appointed 8th President.

Ranil Wickremesinghe has admitted that the economic policy followed by Sri Lanka from 1947 till now is wrong, just like in the budget he presented as President and Finance Minister in November last year. While confessing it, he has presented budget proposals that move in the same direction. The summary of his budget is as follows.

- 1) **Increasing tax revenue to Rs 4000 billion through tax proposals, including making VAT 18% and continuing PAYE tax on professionals.**
- 2) **Domestic and foreign borrowing of 7000 billion rupees**
- 3) **sale of NLDB Farms, Sri Lanka Telecom, Sri Lanka Insurance, Sri Lanka Airline, Airport, Mineral Resources like Ilmenite Apatite, and strategically important Lands.**
- 4) **Reducing the provisions of ministries related to production, such as agriculture, plantations, fisheries, livestock, irrigation, technology, etc., beyond the year 2023.**

These proposals are not at all aimed at recovering Sri Lanka from the economic crisis it has fallen into. The country's continuous implementation of these policies, especially after 1977, led to the country's bankruptcy for four decades. Dr Sharmini Cooray, in the keynote address of the 73rd anniversary of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, held recently, stated the extent of the enormous economic crisis that the Ranil Wickramasinghe-led government is trying to cover up with fairy tales and jokes. She said, "According to the IMF's debt sustainability analysis, even if we successfully restructure our debt and adhere to tight policies that generate primary fiscal surpluses of 2.3% of GDP from 2025 to at least 2032, our public debt will decline to only about 95% of GDP by 2032. To put this debt level in perspective, in 2022, government debt to GDP averaged 65% in emerging and developing economies and -looking at our neighbours - 55% in India, 40% in Indonesia, 54% in Thailand."

Dr. Shaimini Cooray is the first Sri Lankan to represent the senior management of the International Monetary Fund.

If so, the solution lies in increasing the gross national product in the planned implementation of the production of goods and services aimed at the needs of the country and the export market. The government is responsible for preparing the economic plan aimed at this production. To implement the plan, the private sector of the country, as well as foreign investments, must be summoned.

There is nothing wrong with taking loans bilaterally and multilaterally negotiated subsidized interest for projects under this plan. It is the government's responsibility to lead all sectors, such as the public sector, private sector, cooperatives, people, foreign service, etc., to implement this plan. Only a government can take to society the benefits of production and the growth of production. That is the core of the economic programme presented by the National People's Power, which includes the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna, to recover from this deep abyss.

Dr Shaimini Cooray says, My point today is that we need to be more explicit, not just about economic policies -for instance, whether an interest rate or tax rate should be raised or lowered or whether a particular public enterprise is privatized or not. We must also be explicit about how those policies are decided and implemented. It is very likely that if we improve the process -that is, we make policy making and implementation more accountable, transparent, adhere to the rule of law and so on-the resulting policies will improve as well. It is also likely that if we have good policymaking processes and strong institutions, good policies will continue even if the politics turn difficult.

In the coming year, there will be an opportunity for the country to enter the path of recovery from the profound economic, political, and socio-cultural crisis that has afflicted Sri Lanka. It is a constitutional requirement to hold the presidential election between September 17 and October 17, 2024, which is to be announced in the middle of July or at the beginning of August.

It is not a decision based on the likes and dislikes of President Wickremesinghe or the Pohottu government. The national movement for the country's recovery should be built within eight months of the coming year with the people's dedication. A few years later, the national movement will be able to build Sri Lanka as a rich country with rich people.

## Doctors Strike in Italy against Pension Cuts



Thousands of doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers staged a 24-hour nationwide strike in Italy on 5 December, demanding better working conditions and improvements to the public health system.

They also protested against proposed pension cuts in the 2024 budget bill that have

been proposed and are to be approved by Parliament. Besides their specific economic demands, Italy's healthcare professionals also urged more investment in the SSN to prepare it for current and future challenges.

According to health unions, more than 85 per cent of National Health

Service (SSN) staff and private medical facilities stayed away from work on the 5th.

As a result, some 1.5 million health checks and surgeries planned for the day had to be postponed despite critical healthcare services being available. A major rally was held in Rome to support the strike.

## Indonesian Workers Strike Demanding Wage Increase



Millions of workers in Indonesia are holding a national strike starting on November 30 2023. This action is a form of protest against the size of the minimum wage increase in 2024. Workers from various regions, including industrial areas in the Bekasi regency in West Java, are advocating for this wage increase. They insist that the governors adhere strictly to the recommended figures and avoid any alterations.

Their demand for a 15% increase reflects their

dissatisfaction with the current wage structure, with Central Java cited as having some of the lowest wages in the country.

The strike in West Java later extended to several other cities, including Banten and DKI Jakarta. Workers in East Java, Makassar, and Banjarmasin also participate in this campaign, highlighting its national scope. The nationwide strike is expected to cause significant traffic congestion, particularly around protest hotspots like the Gedung Sate area in Bandung.

# Govt's unstoppable wasteful indulgence, even in the face of evaporating trust

President Ranil Wickremesinghe was in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to attend the United Nations Conference on Climate Change. The media reported that 80 people had gone to participate in the conference with him. These 80 people are said to include political representatives, government officials, technical and business representatives and civil society activists.

The United Nations must be proud to have so many delegates from a country officially declared bankruptcy. But when the country is immersed in such an economic crisis when they see the generous spending of foreign money, the citizens of the bankrupt country have to cry. It must be because so many people have been taken because, although the citizens do not know it, there are great benefits to be gained from it; Investments may be starting to flow in! However, assuming all this is happening for the country's sake is wrong. If these leaders had worked for the country in the long run, there would have been no possibility of the country becoming so bankrupt. Therefore, it is also possible that the country's people will have lost the right to the World Heritage Sinharaja Forest after this climate change conference.

Ranil Wickramasinghe is engaged in his 13th foreign trip after sitting in the presidential chair. Ranil may expect to engage in the maximum number of trips as the head of state because his tenure is fast passing by. There is no reason for Ranil not to understand that the current government's health condition is getting worse and worse. On the one hand, the people are rapidly rejecting the government. That is with all the political parties related to the government.

On the other hand, the internal crises within the government and within the government parties are intensifying. Just three years after Gotabaya Rajapaksa assumed the presidency, people protested against the Rajapaksa regime. The result of that protest was that Gotabaya had to leave the position of the President and



**If they want, those in Pohottuwa can bring an impeachment and remove Ranil from the presidency. Also, Ranil now has the power to dissolve this Parliament at any moment. But neither of these parties would do anything to topple the apple cart. For, all of them have the desire to be in power, and the fear of losing power is stronger than all other contradictions.**

flee the country. The Rajapaksa appointed Ranil Wickramasinghe, who did not have even a mandate, to the presidency to fill the vacancy caused by Gotabaya's getaway. When Ranil became the President, some people in the society believed in his promises and thought he would rebuild the country. But right now, the country is rapidly moving towards destruction and an economic abyss. The people who believed in Ranil have now lost their faith. Accordingly, the people's trust in the government has dropped drastically. Recently, the results of a public opinion survey conducted by the Verity Research Institute were published. According to it, the public's government approval has fallen from 21% to 09% compared to the beginning of this year. Citizens are losing faith in the

government. It is not only the government that has broken the people's trust. People's trust has been damaged by the UNP, PSLPP (Pohottu party) and other parties related to the government, in the small gangs that have left and in Sajith's opposition. It is in such a situation that recently conducted public opinion surveys show that the people's approval of Comrade Anura Dissanayake has increased to 51%.

While the people's trust in the government and the parties in the government is rapidly collapsing, many internal problems and contradictions have emerged within the government and within Pohottuwa, the main faction of the government. As such, the problems within the government have turned into external problems as well.

Now, the government is facing

a nightmare. The government's ruling period is scheduled to end in 2024. The government cannot avoid those barriers as it did by postponing local elections. For, the President and government's term of office is determined by the constitution itself, which is the fundamental law.

Ranil Wickramasinghe said that the presidential election will be held next year in his speech presenting the budget document. He also said in the Parliament that there will be two elections next year. It could be the presidential election and the general election. The presidential election must be held in the middle of October next year, and the winning candidate will dissolve the Parliament. As such, the parliamentary election will also have to be held next year.

But the problem is that the people affected due to the biggest economic crisis in the country are angry with the government. Therefore, the next elections are not auspicious for the government when people's trust has been severely broken.

At other times, when an election is approaching, the government spends public money and government money holding various ceremonies, foundation stones laying, openings, distribution of goods, etc., to deceive the people and get them to vote for them again. But now, the government parties

are not able to do it. Because the people do not participate in such events, and in some instances, the people strongly protest the ministers and heads of the government. The opposition of the teaching staff of Ibbagamuwa Central College to the local politicians, including the former sports minister who recently went to open a sports field and auditorium, is just one example of this. Due to many such incidents, the ministers have given up going to meet the people. Public meetings, constituency meetings, district meetings etc. held by the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna and attended by its leaders, including Namal Rajapaksa, have also been abandoned due to poor public participation. The public meetings of the UNP and the SJB have also met with the same disastrous situation.

Due to the lack of support and opposition from the people, political activities have weakened, and the government has to limit itself to speeches in parliament and voice cuts. The internal conflicts of the government have also put them in a crisis. Ranil, who had only one Member of Parliament, was appointed to the position of President by the Rajapaksa government. For that purpose, more than 130 MPs of pohottuwa raised their hands and voted for Ranil in the election held in the Parliament. But after becoming the President, Ranil is now behaving by using his executive power. Ranil is doing the presidency without any regard for the Rajapaksa.

Other than complaining publicly about it from time to time, there is nothing the Rajapaksa regime can do about it now. While some in the government criticize Ranil in public, some have made deals with him. The funny thing here is that even those who publicly criticized Ranil's activities raised their hands in favour of Ranil in Parliament. It does not mean that Ranil and the Rajapaksa are very good friends; Both these parties have to depend on each other for power and protect each other. That is the reality.

If they want, those in Pohottuwa can bring an impeachment





# US-Adani gang up

# a harbinger of ruin!

**The report names several family members—like Gautam Adani’s brothers, Rajesh and Vinod Adani, as well as associates of the Adani Group—for their involvement in major bribery and tax evasion cases. Members of the Adani family have been the subjects of past corruption investigations carried out by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Directorate of Review Intelligence.**

The US has joined the Adani Group with a \$500-million loan to build a new deep-water shipping container terminal at Colombo Port to counter China’s partial acquisition of ports in Colombo and Hambantota.

The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has announced its \$553 million finance on the Colombo West International Terminal Private Limited (CWITP), Sri Lanka’s biggest foreign direct investment of \$750 million to develop the port.

The US has joined in the venture between Sri Lanka and India with Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones Limited (APSEZ), which owns 51 per cent of the shares in the project.

Announcing the partnership in Colombo, DFC CEO Scott Nathan said, “DFC works to drive private-sector investments that advance development and economic growth while strengthening the strategic positions of our partners. That’s what we’re delivering with this infrastructure investment in the Port of Colombo.”

Sri Lanka is one of the world’s key transit hubs, with half of all container ships transiting through its waters. DFC’s commitment of \$553 million in private-sector loans for the West Container Terminal will expand its shipping capacity. Adani Group already has 14 ports in India.

According to reports, Adani Group engaged in stock price

manipulation and accounting fraud. There are also claims that Adani had engaged in market manipulation and accounting malpractices. It has been said in India that Adani Group’s port operations potentially threaten national security.

The report names several family members—like Gautam Adani’s brothers, Rajesh and Vinod Adani, as well as associates of the Adani Group—for their involvement in major bribery and tax evasion cases. Members of the Adani family have been the subjects of past corruption investigations carried out by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Directorate of Review Intelligence. The

Hindenburg report also claims that Adani family members allegedly cooperated in creating offshore shell entities worth \$4.5 billion through forged documents, primarily in tax-haven jurisdictions like Mauritius, the UAE, and the Caribbean islands.

There is also opposition in India to Adani’s redevelopment plans for slums. Protesters, including many opposition members in Parliament, have marched to Adani’s premises carrying flags and banners with slogans.

Meanwhile, the media, the Development Finance Corporation is supposed to prioritise advancing US national security goals and counter growing Chinese Belt and Road Initiative investments and influence in the region. An adequately focused Development Finance Corporation could play an important role in serving US strategic interests and foreign policy goals. When Adani Group has 14 ports in India alone and several in other countries, why do they have a keen interest in having a foothold in Colombo? Moreover, with the ability to acquire so many ports and other financial interests, why would

Adani Group get an interest in a part of a port in Sri Lanka, and why would it need a loan from the US? Also, why would the US’s DFC want to provide a loan to Adani Group to develop the terminal?

It is obvious that the move is a manipulation to tie down Sri Lanka to the geo-political agenda of the imperialists. India already has a foothold in Trincomalee and adjacent areas. A new Framework Agreement on Trincomalee oil tank farms, based on the agreement of January 2022, was one of the pacts signed during Ranil Wickremesinghe’s recent visit to India. Speaking at a seminar last month on Sri Lanka’s strategic geography in the Indian Ocean, India’s Vice Admiral Anup Singh (retd) has said the Indian Navy could make former Chinese President Hu Jintao’s Malacca dilemma come true as 80 per cent of Chinese oil tankers passed below Hambantota. Trincomalee Harbour is recognised as an unspoken part of New Delhi’s Indo-Pacific strategy. The ISLA and Trincomalee Framework Agreement have revived and reinforced India’s vital interests in it.

Already, India has shown concern regarding Chinese ships

docking in Sri Lanka’s harbours. It was shown when Shi Yan 6, a geophysical scientific research vessel, reached Sri Lanka on an expeditionary voyage in the eastern area of the Indian Ocean. When India and China have footholds in Sri Lanka’s territory and ports, and the USA gets strategically involved, the possibility of Sri Lanka getting entangled in any conflict that would flare up is high.

It would severely harm the non-align stance Sri Lanka should play to avoid unnecessary and cumbersome involvements as a country that needs the cooperation of all democratic nations. It will also jeopardise the expectancy to make the Indian Ocean free from nuclear weapons as US involvement in our ports could make way for Aukus fleet of nuclear-powered submarines to dock in our ports, endangering Sri Lanka getting entangled in a USA – China conflict. It is obvious that the imperialists’ wish to create another ‘Israel’ to police the Indian-Pacific region. Letting our ports and areas open to foreign powers would ease the manipulations of the imperialists’ agenda.

The proposed increase in the cost-of-living allowance and salaries for public sector employees does not match the severe destruction of the drop in purchasing power due to the massive inflation during the last year. In addition, the increase of VAT rate up to 18% will further limit people's purchasing capacity so that fiscal decisions are unlikely to help induce economic growth, which is one of the common objectives of a government budget.

**Hasn't the government been able to do the required fiscal adjustments as recommended by IMF in its bailout deal?**

Revenue-based fiscal consolidation has focused on increasing tax revenue by 47.15%, with an estimate of Rs. 3,820 billion, up from Rs. 2,596 billion, compared to the previous year. It is beyond reality as the records over the last 20 years show that the government has never been able to collect its estimated tax revenues. Even the IMF review in September 2023 revealed that the tax revenue for 2023 would be short by 15%, which is likely to happen. On the other hand, the economy is expected to grow at 1.8%.

The government intends to achieve this high tax revenue target by imposing more taxes on domestic goods and services, thus passing the entire burden of fiscal adjustment on people with low incomes. It is evident by the fact that the VAT rate has already been increased to 18%, and some of the goods and services were from the existing VAT exemption list with effect from 1.1.2024 by expecting Rs. 1,400 billion, which accounts for more than 100% YOY increase. Further, social security contribution levy of 2.5% (SSCL), which has a cascading effect, is expected to collect Rs. 250 billion.

On the other hand,

# Increasing VAT to 18% further limits people's purchasing capacity

no steps have been taken to stop leakages such as tax evasion, tax fraud, write-offs, undue tax concessions, tax holidays and inefficiencies in tax administration. Further, the tax threshold of Rs. 1,200,000 and advanced personal income tax (APIT) with a ceiling of 36% for individuals significantly affect the disposal income of the middle class given the context of high inflation experienced.

Hence, the fiscal adjustment proposed by the government will drastically erode the purchasing power of people directly and, in turn, will indirectly decrease the aggregate demand of the country, resulting in an economic contraction as well. Fiscal adjustments that pass the entire austerity burden on people with low income violate the basic principle of fairness in taxation, and that is regressive.

**How do you assess the government's effort to increase the tax base, which is not broad enough at present?**

Any genuine steps to increase a county's tax base fairly and efficiently would increase the government revenue, which is essential to meet the primary expenses of a county for common prosperity. However, the government has proposed only limited measures, such as making it compulsory for people to have a tax identification number (TIN) when they open a current account, buy a motor vehicle, request a construction permit and acquire land instead of taking adequate measures to integrate income generations points with a unique fiscal code with appropriate use of technology. On

the other hand, no effective measures have been taken to broaden the tax net over the informal sector and other sources of income which easily evade taxes. The present tax system in Sri Lanka is complex, with many loopholes, and is not transparent. Fiscal transparency is a key in such an effort to broaden the tax base. However, the steps taken in the budget 2024 do not show such efforts. Instead, they are seen as actions to showcase, especially to IMF, the government is in a move to do so.

**The government has taken measures to allocate significant amounts of direct cash transfers to vulnerable groups of people in the context of heavy austerity measures under the "Aswasuma" programme. Don't you think that it is a good move?**

At this decisive juncture where most are suffering, it is a good move when it is considered by referring to the present context, no matter whether it is a step to comply with IMF proposals. However, the project does not show how vulnerable people would be economically empowered and connected to economic engagement effectively after this. There are many concerns about how beneficiaries are selected, the likelihood that the program would be directed towards the government's political motives, especially in 2024, an election year, and its adequacy in facing the severe economic consequences of austerity measures and inflation.

On the other hand, budget 2024 has an allocation of Rs. 300



**[An interview 'Red Power' had with Professor Anil Jayantha Fernando, Professor in Accounting, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Member of National Executive Committee of NPP].**

billion compared to 130 billion last year under the vote of contingencies. It is an increase of 130% compared to last year. It is sceptical whether the government would utilize this money to gain political millage during the pre-election period to bribe voters by covering to social safety net as contingency can be interpreted at the discretion of the authorities.

**What is your overall view about the budget for 2024? Is it indicative of a path to stabilization and recovery?**

This budget, as in other previous budgets, puts the blame on previous regimes and wrong policies of the past and is coated with cultural, emotional, and religious phrases to divert public attention somewhere else, ignoring the substance and significance of public finance.

It is wrong to evaluate an annual budget in isolation. It should be one period of a

continuing journey of the state. As in previous budgets, the budget for 2024 disconnected it from long-term economic development and basic objectives of a budget, such as effective reallocation of resources, stabilization of the economy, achieving sustainable economic growth, maintenance of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), reduction of regional disparities and minimization of inequality.

The reduction of capital expenditure by 1.3% is clear evidence that the government has ignored the significance of economic revival. Almost 70% of the budget has been allocated to the president and ministries headed by the president. Is that democratic and fair? No, it is not. On the other hand, I do not see any attempts to establish the economy. Proposals to establish the financial sector itself will not solve the problem. Even the amount of Rs. 450 billion allocated for the recapitalization of banks does not provide

more details as to how and on what basis it will be utilized, thus creating uncertainty and skepticism in the market.

In a simple analysis, the budget has been prepared to comply with most IMF requirements, mainly focusing on revenue-based fiscal consolidation and using such allocations as leverages for the government to gain political advantages in possible elections in 2024. Hence, it is likely that more and more taxes will be imposed on goods and services, either on consumption or income, as the economy is not expected to grow, and the tax base is unlikely to encroach the territory of people who amass enormous wealth and income into their pockets. Essential primary expenses such as education, health, infrastructure, and other public services will likely be curtailed further. However, it is obvious that there would be an expanding budget deficit, which would be financed by more and more borrowings.

The borrowing limit for the year has been increased to Rs.7,350 billion, thus indicating the severeness of the pressure for borrowing. This would result in more interest expense for the public. The interest expense on government borrowing for the year accounts for Rs. 2,651 billion, which accounts for almost 70% of the total tax revenue. Even though the policy rates, standing deposit facility rate (SDFR) and Standing lending facility rate (SLFR) have been brought down to 9% and 10%, respectively, it would be hard to keep those **Page 07 >>>**

# Rising of Nazism in Europe and North America, Whose Child?

- **22nd of this November in the Netherlands extreme rightwing party, according to the new vocabulary, Neo Nazi party, won the Parliamentary elections gaining 37 seats in the legislature. It is the most extreme right-wing party that won a parliamentary election in the Netherlands after WW2.**
- **In September, every member of Canada's parliament, along with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, took part in a standing ovation for Nazi war criminal Yaroslav Hunka, whom the Speaker of the Canadian parliament declared a hero.**
- **The gradual increase of 'No' votes of the US and collective West on Russia-backed UN resolution which states, 'Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance'**

Now let us briefly study these three recent developments on rising of Nazism in Europe and North America while keeping in mind that there is much more evidence to prove this argument. Let us begin with the last one since it is the oldest evidence among these three.

1. Russia backed UN resolution on "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

**The Commission on Human Rights (by resolution 1993/20) says,**

the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism is an independent human rights expert appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council. In 1994, the mandate was defined more precisely by resolution 1994/64 renewed by resolution 52/36, adopted on April 4, 2023.

**The purpose of mandate says,**

Millions of human beings continue to be the victims of varied forms of racism, racial discrimination, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and related intolerance. These scourges not only persist, but they are continually assuming new forms. The mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of

racism was created to intensify international efforts to combat these violations of fundamental human rights.

This special Rapporteur has to evaluate the findings, complaints and situations based on the International Standards.

The Russian Federation has been vocal in the UN general assembly as well as in UNSC, especially after 2004, the year of the so-called Colour Revolution Ukraine backed by the CIA, which imposed an unelected regime in Ukraine with the backing and strengthening of the Neo-Nazi and far-right groups. Since 2012 aligning with the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, which was created in 1993, Russia

various forms of racism had been gaining ground in the EU. On 25th of October European Parliament passed the resolution 2018/2869/RSP naming it as "Rising of Neo-Fascist Violence in Europe", admitting its failure by adopting this text "whereas the lack of serious action against neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups has enabled the occurrence of the current xenophobic surge in Europe."

In 2022, the resolution was adopted by 130 votes for, two against (United States and Ukraine) and 49 abstentions.

It has been clear that gradually, Europe has been drifting towards the USA's position though Europe itself was experiencing the rise of Nazism and its various contemporary



has been bringing a Resolution condemning the glorification of Nazism etc.

When we examine the voting patterns of the USA and collective West on this resolution, in 2014, 155 countries backed the motion while Ukraine, Canada and the United States voted against. It was the year of Euromaidan.

In 2016, the resolution was approved by the UN's Human Rights Committee with 131 in favour, 3 against, with 48 abstentions. USA, Ukraine and Palau were the 'No' votes.

In 2018, 54 states became co-authors of this resolution. A total of 129 States voted for while the USA and Ukraine voted against it. 54 delegations, including all the member countries of the European Union, abstained.

Even though the whole EU abstained from this resolution, it was a fact that Nazism and

forms.

It has been evident since 2000, US imperialism has been reinventing and strengthening Nazi groups and extremist groups everywhere. It was disturbed by the 9/11 attacks, but after a few years of so-called war on terrorism, US again gave the green light to this neo-Nazi justification and glorification. Its western satellite states also started this process at the same time. In Europe, 9th of May is the Anti-Fascist victory day, the day commemorating the liberation of Europe from Nazi and Fascist Invasion. So, for many decades, this day has been celebrated and taught to the students of Europe as an important day. However, by 2005, they changed the day's name from anti-fascist victory day to Europe Day, which hides the political significance of the great event.

By 2010, the whole US-controlled imperialist block wanted to weaken Russia and China, naming China as its strategic enemy and Russia as the enemy of Europe.

Therefore "the realization of these revanchist goals requires the rehabilitation of Nazism. In Ukraine, the imperialist powers rely on the same fascist forces with which Hitler's Germany made a pact during the invasion of the Soviet Union. Already at the beginning of 2014, Washington and Berlin orchestrated an anti-Russian coup in Kiev, in which fascist forces such as the Svoboda Party and the Right Sector played the decisive role. Since then, they have been supporting and arming

came in the socially liberal Netherlands, where hard-right icon Geert Wilders and his anti-European Union, anti-Muslim and anti-immigration Party for Freedom landed a shocking first place finish this past week in parliamentary elections.

However, the unexpectedly strong showing by the "Dutch Donald Trump," who has long pledged to ban the Quran and halt acceptance of asylum seekers, amounted to a powerful warning to mainstream Europe states. The Washington Post.

Many experts think Wilders' partial victory (23 per cent of the total votes) is mainly due to the bad economic condition, the rising cost of living, especially after the Nato Russia Ukraine war and repercussions of self-introduced sanctions as well as his anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Not only this, we think the failure of the Green Left/Dutch Labour party to government betrayed its last portions of social welfare policies as well as became more submissive to NATO war in Ukraine. In 2023, military aid to Ukraine was 2.5 billion Euros; in 2024, it will be 2 billion Euros from the Netherlands, while 14.5 per cent of the population is at risk of poverty, the highest since 2006. For example, food inflation reached an all-time high of 17.90 per cent in February 2023. Even this September, food sector inflation was 9.4 per cent.

Three months ago, the PM of the Netherlands had to resign over its policies on the war, and the results of this election will make all previous governments go home. However, on the other hand, the average voters of the Netherlands had voted in some desperation for the far-right PVV party that follows anti-people economic policies. This electoral victory in the Netherlands will boost the Nazi and other far-right political groups in the EU and North America in immediate future elections. Finally, most of the European and North American governments that created, backed and pushed the Nato Russia Ukraine war by not allowing Ukraine to sign a peace deal and dragging the war for 20 months to guarantee the profits for their military hardware industries would be sent home by the people but unfortunately electing their versions of Donald Trumps!.

### 3. Hunka Controversy of Canada.

In September, every member of Canada's parliament, along with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, took part in a standing ovation for Nazi war criminal Yaroslav Hunka, whom the Speaker of the Canadian parliament declared a

### 2. Elections in the Netherlands

"The latest Fascist victory

Keep off...

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saying, "No matter what agreements you make to get these resources, which are the lifeblood of the country, keep off from our resources. They belong to the future generations of our country."

"These resources belong to our future generations; No outsider will be allowed to enter them!" It is the sentiment spreading among the progressive sections of our people. Though it is submerged at present, it definitely would flare up and enslave the Nation in the coming year, which is also an election year. National People's Power, which has the backing of a vast majority of the people in the country – a survey carried out by the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and released in August this year shows NPP Leader Comrade Anura Dissanayake polling 48.5%, while a survey conducted by Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS) in November shows he has the support of 51% of the population. – would definitely fall in line with the aspirations of the masses in this country.

Increasing VAT ...

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rates low and new borrowing needs are increasing. The market determinants would push the rates up, thus causing high inflation again. The present budget does not show how the new borrowing will inject money into economic stabilization and growth. However, on the other hand, they are used to repay existing loans and ever-increasing interest costs. It is unlikely that budget proposals and resource allocation would push the country to be trapped in the vicious circle of debt.

As the last recourse, the government will eventually take measures to sell off all possible public assets at any cost to recoup the budget deficit and to build foreign exchange reserves as the sole motive of the government is to cling on to power and to find ways to return to power disregarding the consequences that people will have to face with precarious socio-economic conditions.

Raise salary by Rs. 20,000 & restore pension rights

An agitation was held by the Trade Union Alliance at the Parliament Roundabout at Battaramulla, demanding a minimum allowance of Rs. 20,000 for all employees and the restoration of the pension system, which government employees have been deprived of since 2016.

Agitations were also held in about 300 government institutions across the

country by all the State and Provincial Public Service Trade Unions demanding the government to provide a minimum allowance of Rs. 20,000. These protests were held in various institutions, including Setsiripaya, Narahenpita and Town Hall in Colombo city, centring on district and divisional secretariats nationwide.

Petition against selling Milco

A campaign to collect signatures for a public petition to oppose selling Milco and farmlands belonging to the National Livestock Development Board (NLDB) to Amul of India commenced from Kurunegala on 15 December. It was organized by the People's Movement to Save Local Dairy and Farmland.

Speaking at the occasion, Comrade Namal Karunaratne, former

Parliamentarian and the National Organizer of All Ceylon Farmers' Federation, affiliated to the JVP, warned those expecting to take over the farms, "No matter what agreements you make to get these resources, which are the lifeblood of the country, keep off our resources. They belong to the future generations of our country."

Govt's unstoppable...

From Page 03

and remove Ranil from the presidency. Also, Ranil now has the power to dissolve this Parliament at any moment. But neither of these parties would do anything to topple the apple cart. For, all of them have the desire to be in power, and the fear of losing power is stronger than all other contradictions.

On November 27, President Ranil Wickremesinghe removed Roshan Ranasinghe, who held the position of Sports Minister, from the Sports Ministership. That is because Roshan, as the Minister

of Sports, appointed an Interim Committee for Sri Lanka Cricket without Ranil's permission. But Roshan and Pohottuwa were unable to do anything about it. It reveals the contradiction of the government. Although the former sports minister is trying to free himself from the responsibility of these crises, all of them are responsible for this disaster.

However, the government is being rejected by the people, and the crises in the government parties have created a political

crisis and anarchy in the country. This country can be saved from this devastating economic crisis as well as from the current political crisis and anarchy only by defeating the current regime and building a people's administration. It is the people's responsibility to use that opportunity appropriately. If not, the people, even though the country falls further into the abyss, will have to watch the bankrupt leaders travel abroad with huge numbers of their lackeys and sigh.

Rising of Nazism...

From Page 06

hero. This heinous and shameless glorification of a Nazi holocaust criminal by the entire Canadian is a clear piece of evidence that indicates how much the European and North American ruling elites have become indulged in Nazism and fascism. After protecting and feeding the Nazi war criminals secretly, especially by US and Canadian regimes for decades (thousands of pieces of evidence are available), these war-mongering imperialist centres started to whitewash the crimes and rewriting a pseudo-history of WW2 events with the objective of acquitting the Nazis from their war crimes. After doing 3 decades of brainwashing and

allowing Nazi groups to commemorate Hitler and others publicly, allowing them to erect monuments of Nazi war criminals in many cities in Europe and Canada under the slogan of 'freedom of Expression', now the European capitals want to walk the talk.

Now they want to clean the last dust over Nazi war criminals. For that, Hunka, a war criminal who is regarded as one of the responsible Nazi officials for murdering thousands of Polish, Ukrainian and Russian people during ww2, is being honoured in the Canadian parliament. Finally, due to a massive uproar from the Canadian people, the PM and the whole parliament had to

apologize for honouring a war criminal. When questioned about this, the Canadian PM said his knowledge of history was not sufficient to know about the atrocities done by Hunka and his master Hitler. Even if this is true, his eligibility to govern a country like Canada is questioned. When Canadian people rejected this shameless act, these politicians were exposed and cornered. Then they had to reverse their glorification of Nazism project for a moment until people would forget it.

Therefore all these three essential examples and many others are proving the political elites of Europe and North America have

been rejuvenating Nazism and Fascism as their final steps before a global war fair. The whole world is under serious threat due to the war-mongering political elites of the imperialist centres. They talked about climate default at cop20 to distract the public opinion while promoting Nazism and sending weapons to Ukraine, ISIS to Israel etc. Their climate talks are also not to save the environment but to compete with global renewable energy giant China.

It is high time the people of the world relieve themselves from this war-mongering political establishments, whether they are in North America, Europe or Russia.

Teachers & Principals agitate



The Teacher-Principal Trade Union Alliance held a protest demonstration on 5. 12. 2023 at the Parliament Roundabout at Battaramulla despite various obstacles and hindrances from the police. A large number of teachers, principals and trade union representatives, including Comrade Mahinda Jayasinghe and Joseph Stalin,

participated.

Their demands included paying the remaining 2/3 of the wage disparity, a Rs. 20000 living allowance, removing the burden of school maintenance from parents, allocating 6% to education, and halting the sale of education.

The women's section of the National People's Power held a protest near the Parliament Roundabout against several severe measures being taken by the government, including the massive cut in the allocations allocated to the Ministry of Children and Women's Affairs in next year's budget.

A large number of members of the NPP, including Member of Parliament of the NPP Dr Harini Amarasuriya, National Executive Members of the National People's Power Samanmalee Gunasinghe, Saroja Savithry Paulraj and members of Women for Rights Organization, the Socialist Women's Association and the Progressive Women's Union participated.

When the participants were about to disperse after protesting for more than an hour, Sri Lanka Police carried out a brutal attack with water cannons on the participants of the peaceful protest despite the heavy downfall that existed at that time.

Speaking immediately after the attack on the protest during the debate on the expenditure heading of the Ministry of Children and Women's Affairs for the 2024 budget in Parliament, Dr Harini Amarasuriya said that the water attack on women's protest has given more determination than ever before to establish a regime where all those who are victims of the existing system can live as human beings.



## Comrade Saroja Paulraj meets Sri Lankans in France

**National Executive Member of the National People's Power met Sri Lankans domiciled in France at a meeting held at 6 rue Saint Lug, 75018 Paris on 10.12.2023.**



## Swiss Ambassador & British High Commissioner meet NPP Leaders

**Meetings between Ms Siri Walt, Ambassador of Switzerland to Sri Lanka and Mr Andrew Patrick, the British High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, met Comrade Anura Dissanayake, the Leader of the JVP and National People's Power at the JVP head office at Pelawatta on 13 November and 22 November respectively.**

**Ms Justine Bollit, the First Secretary (Political Affairs) of the Swiss Embassy, and Mr Tom Soper, the first secretary of the political department of the British High Commission, were with the Ambassador and the High Commissioner. Comrade Vijitha Herath, Member of the JVP Political Bureau and National Executive Member of the National People's Power, was present on both occasions.**

**They discussed the current economic crisis and political situation in the country. Comrades Anura Dissanayake and Vijitha Herath pointed out the oppressive situation the people in Sri Lanka are confronted with due to the heavy tax burden imposed by the government following the conditions of the IMF. Also, they drew the attention of the Ambassador, the High Commissioner and their First Secretaries to the government's move to postpone the elections, which denied the people their right to vote.**

## Comrade Bimal Rathnayake meets officials of Yanzan Chamber of Commerce

Comrade Bimal Rathnayake, national organizer of the JVP, on a visit to South Korea, met a group of officials, including Mr. Pak Byung Dae, the Chief Chairman of the Yanzan Chamber of Commerce.

About 5000 major companies are coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce, chaired by Mr. Pak Byung Dae.

At this meeting, much attention was paid to

the political and economic situation in Sri Lanka. The Chamber of Commerce officials pointed out that political stability is essential for investment in a country. South Korea has made investments in major countries and has also said that it hopes to intervene in investments in our country in the near future. Also, attention was paid to providing more job opportunities to Sri Lankans.

