

## Advertorial

# Eric Rajapakse launches Belton hearing aids

Eric Rajapakse Opticians is specialist eye care institute which has gained reputation by providing best and affordable care over hundred years, a spokesman for the company said. Spread over Colombo district is our newest Hearing Care network which is dedicated to your service strengthened with experienced audiologists and hearing instrument specialists.

Belton hearing aids are made to

address these specific issues using latest sound processing technologies.

Connectivity with mobile phones through Bluetooth is also available.

Bringing "Clear Hearing" back to your life through modern technology is our goal. This goal has been realized due to our partnership with Belton Hearing Aids made in Denmark. With the internationally recognized reliability of Belton, you can now buy hearing

aids with a two-year warranty at Eric Rajapakse. Eric Rajapakse Opticians is now present at their head office in Colpetty with branches in Dehiwala, Wellawatta, Kiribathgoda and Malabe all of where Belton hearing aids are available. We are committed to solve any hearing related issue of any age from children to older adults at Eric Rajapakse Opticians



# AIA Insurance 'The workplace for millennials'

In another HR achievement, AIA Insurance Sri Lanka has been recognized as a 'Best Workplace for Millennials' by the Great Place to Work® Institute. This first-time award for AIA Sri Lanka, is a true testament of the company's diversity and progressive culture.

As CEO Nikhil Advani pointed out, "Millennials make up a huge percentage of our employee base. They are a purpose led generation and are more motivated to work with employers that makes a positive impact on society. This resonates with AIA's overall purpose of helping people live healthier, longer, better lives be it with our customers, employees or the communities in which we serve. Based on the feedback we get from our millennials, they require us to engage with them in a different manner when compared to people in my generation. This award clearly demonstrates that our approach



is working and the young, dynamic millennials who work for AIA Sri Lanka thrive here."

AIA's Director HR Thushari Perera acknowledged that "AIA recognises that millennials are goal oriented with an entrepreneurial mindset and so we offer rewarding career experiences

while focusing on their development and enriching their skills to be future leaders."

"At AIA, we have a culture which is flexible and less formal and this appeals to the millennials. We further empower people with their job roles and promote leadership at all levels,

ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to be the best of themselves regardless of their age or tenure in the company.

"AIA's digital transformation journey is constantly evolving with special attention to technology, data and analytics- which keeps things up to date and top of the game, making it attractive to the millennial generation," she said.

This 'Best Workplace for Millennial Awards' follows hot on the heels of AIA Sri Lanka being recognised in the Best Workplaces™ in Asia list - Large Category, awarded by Great Place to Work® in addition to being recognised as a Best Workplace by Great Place to Work® in Sri Lanka for the ninth consecutive year. These accolades are an immense honour for the company, especially considering that they were achieved amid the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

# Akshata introduces black rice to Sri Lanka

For the first time, Sri Lanka has its own brand of black rice grown organically. With a sales growth of 35% from the time of its introduction to the market, Akshata owners Grains 'N' Green (Pvt) Ltd. has also seen a growth of its rice brand to the country's Top 5. Akshata has achieved a considerable brand growth.

The healthy black rice variety is grown in its own fields and is available at high-end supermarkets such as Spar, Glowmart and askshatastore.com and is promoted by Akshata as 'Forbidden Rice.'

Black rice is known as the Caviar of Rice not only due to its high price, but also because of its rarity.

Managing Director of Grains N Green, Roshan Perera states, "It was a proud moment for the company and Sri Lanka as this type of rice was thought of as virtually impossible to grow here, but after two years of trial and error a select group of farmers were able to harvest it with our guidance which goes to prove that nothing is impossible in this blessed land."

Perera said, "Akshata was also the first to harvest large scale heirloom rice varieties such as Suwanda, Kuruluthuda and Pachchaperumal which are now household names although they had been grown over 2000 years ago but had unfortunately become almost redundant once the chemically dependant rice varieties were introduced for commercial benefits.

"Many companies have now followed suit and have flooded the market with lower standard products, I would not put it past them to now steal these seeds from our farmers and copy this variety as



Akshata Black Rice - 'Forbidden Rice'

well, but as you know the best form of flattery is imitation," he said. Food nutritionists consider black rice as a modern super food. Researchers have found that black rice reduces Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS), the free radicals produced in the body which is the cause of many diseases. Black rice is black in color due to the presence of the anthocyanin pigment on the outer layers (bran) of the rice kernel. Black rice is rich in tocopherols (vitamin E), iron and antioxidants. Black rice has high levels of protein, fiber, vitamins (Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, folic acid) and minerals (iron, zinc, calcium, phosphorous and selenium) compared to that of white rice.

The major essential amino acids present in black rice are lysine and tryptophan. It also possesses lot of health benefits such as antioxidant activity, anti-inflammatory properties, lipid oxidation, anti-diabetic, anti-ageing and anti-cancer effects.

# Black Friday at Colombo City Centre

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

All you have to do is shop to your heart's content at Colombo City Centre, and also be rewarded with the fantastic Black Friday promotions taking place.

Spend over Rs. 9,999 and enjoy free parking; while shopping for over Rs. 15,000 enables shoppers to win CCC Gift Vouchers. Shop between Rs.15,000 - Rs. 19,000 to get CCC gift voucher worth Rs. 500; Rs. 20,000 - Rs. 24,999 to receive CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 1,000; Rs. 25,000 - Rs. 29,999 to get CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 1,500; Rs. 30,000 - Rs. 34,999 for CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 2,000; Rs. 35,000 - Rs. 39,999 to receive CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 2,500; Rs. 40,000 - Rs. 44,999 to get CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 3,000; and between Rs. 45,000 - Rs. 49,999 to receive CCC gift vouchers worth Rs. 3,500. Shoppers simply have to present their invoices of the shopping done on the 26th of 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. So, here's your chance to splurge on yourself and your loved ones, and be benefitted by fabulous deals, plus the special Black Friday promotions.

In addition to the best deals in town, there are more fun activities

planned to amplify the shopping experience on Black Friday at Colombo City Centre; including DJ music in the morning, an appearance by Naomi and Luke, a hip hop dance performance, a magic show for kids in the evening, and a performance by a band towards the night. Black Friday at Colombo City Centre takes place on 26th November from 8.00 a.m. to midnight. So, save the date and get ready for the best shopping experience of the year. For more information and updates, check out Colombo City Centre's Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Colombo City Centre is the safest environment for visitors to shop, dine and enjoy world-class entertainment; ranging from an exclusive selection of retail stores, entertainment options like bowling and a gaming arcade; plus, a plethora of food and beverage outlets providing the best of local and global cuisine. Don't miss out on Colombo City Centre's incredible Black Friday events and promotions. Head over to Colombo City Centre with your family and friends to enjoy the best Black Friday experience under one roof.

# Access Projects creates innovative spaces

The Access Group consists of some of the country's pioneering and innovative companies that have contributed to Sri Lanka's corporate landscape.

Access Projects is among them - they commenced their own unique journey into creating iconic buildings with their flagship Access Towers 25 years ago. At the time, it was a unique building with its own footprint.

Heading the Access Projects is Managing Director Dilshan Ferdinando who has been associated with creating architecturally exceptional innovative spaces that have gone on to be some of the finest buildings in Sri Lanka. The company made their mark in the field of construction in the leisure industry - from the interior fit out of the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel, to the lobby refurbishment and improvements of Chaya Blue in Trincomalee and Chaya Tranz in Hikkaduwa.

Another project was The Water's Edge Golf Club, Club House and the banquet hall, undertaken personally by Dilshan himself to transform a marshy land into Colombo's second Golf Course.

This was a sustainable venture that was spread over 160 acres with an engineered set of water ways, lakes and canals. It involved removing perimeter urban waste and dredging 50 acres and using that material to create the golf playing fields. It still stands today with every tree retained and functional as a banquet facility.

"This was at the time when the war had ended and the hospitality industry was taking off," recalls Dilshan, "We went on to do several banquet halls for city hotels as well as the renovations of the villas of Club Dolphin at Waikkal, yet another iconic hotel."

The interiors of Waters Edge Golf & Country Club including the ban-

quet hall was designed and built by Access Projects initially.

Another venture undertaken by Access Projects was the construction of Cape Weligama, a 50-key ultra-luxury resort for The Dilmah Group. "The project involved creating one of a kind, iconic villas with 13 swimming pools - the moon shaped pool was the largest infinity pool in Sri Lanka at the time, in 2014. The projects sought to use timber and locally sourced material for sustainability. It came with specific attention to detail," he added.

When the iconic Galle Face Hotel sought restoration and renovation to meet the design elements of the Fifties, they chose Access Projects to handle the construction.

Accredited with ISO 9001 - 2008 and ISO 14001 - 2004, and accredited to CIDA (Construction Industry Development Authority), Access Projects specialises in mid-scale specialist construction projects.

# Samsung unveils Galaxy A22 5G in Sri Lanka

- First Galaxy A Series smartphone to offer 5G connectivity with 11 bands' support for super-fast speeds and ultra-low latency
- Features 6.6" FHD+ screen with 90Hz refresh rate and 48MP triple camera for high-resolution photographs

Samsung launched the sale of Galaxy A22 5G, a future-ready device offering 11 bands' support for 5G experience with the promise of two-year OS upgrades.

Galaxy A22 5G is the first smartphone with 5G connectivity in Samsung's Galaxy A series portfolio and extends its philosophy of Awesome is for Everyone. Galaxy A22 5G sports a stunning 6.6" FHD+ display with 90Hz refresh rate, versatile 48MP triple-camera, awesome symmetrical design, powerful 5000mAh battery, and a host of other innovative features.

"With Galaxy A22 5G, Samsung reaffirms the Galaxy A philosophy of making innovation accessible to all. Galaxy A22 5G is the first 5G-ready Galaxy A Series smartphone and is now the most affordable smartphone in our vast portfolio of 5G devices. Galaxy A22 5G has been designed keeping in mind evolving consumer needs and comes with segment leading features like smooth 90Hz display, versatile



camera, and a fast and efficient processor. It is a perfect choice for customers who want their device to be future ready with its 11 bands' support and the promise of two-year OS upgrades," said Kevin SungSu You, Managing Director, Samsung Sri Lanka.

Galaxy A22 5G sports stunning 6.6" FHD+ Infinity-V display with high 90Hz refresh rate for real smooth scrolling and gaming. It offers immer-

sive viewing experience and is a delight for binge-watchers to enjoy their favorite content on the go.

Galaxy A22 5G also features Dolby Atmos support on wired and Bluetooth headsets, and gives excellent audio and cinematic viewing experience. The dark mode minimizes eye strain during extended usage and conserves power, making the battery last longer.

Galaxy A22 5G features a versatile triple-camera setup for taking fabulous pictures. On the rear, Galaxy A22 5G has a 48MP main camera to capture high-resolution and clear photos through the day. The 5MP ultra-wide lens adds additional perspective to photographs.

The 2MP macro lens takes crystal clear close-up and bokeh shots. There is an 8MP front camera for high-clarity, eye-catching selfies.

Galaxy A22 5G comes in a range of vibrant colours - Grey and Violet - offering users another way to express themselves. Combined with a smooth symmetrical form and round comfortable edges, Galaxy A22 5G fits comfortably in the hand. The symmetry design gives an aesthetic feel while holding and using the phone.

It is powered by Media Tek Dimensity 700 processor.

# 'Village to Home' relaunched at Cargills Square, Dematagoda

"Cargills: Village to Home" - an initiative by Cargills was created with the intention of strengthening and building the country's budding 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 programs were well received by the public. We recommenced this initiative at Cargills Square Dematagoda over the last week end (13th and 14th of 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 & handicraft, Cane & Reed craft, Mushroom based products, traditional Ayurvedic herbal products, sweet meats and a variety of snacks were on offer. On the first day of the program, Nihal Liyanage, Additional Director, Regional Development Unit, Central Bank graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Cargills Ceylon PLC Deputy Chairman Ranjit Page, Cargills Bank Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer Senarath Bandara along with team members from both organizations were also



present, joining the customers who supported our local entrepreneurs by trying out their products.

Given the ongoing situation, all the necessary health and safety guidelines were strictly adhered to during this program in order to ensure a safe environment for all those who visited these stalls.

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

The thinking behind this initiative was to broaden the reach of our

local SMEs by giving them a broader marketplace. We also strive to further improve their livelihoods by sharing our technical expertise in terms of packaging, marketing and quality assurance. Cargills Bank has continued to provide financial support to SME entrepreneurs, helping them to grow and serve a larger market allowing them to take their businesses to greater heights.

"Moving forward, we will continue to host Cargills: 'Village to Home' at selected Food City outlets broadening our reach to as many local SMEs as possible, and working closely with them. We warmly invite you to join us supporting our local entrepreneurs," a company spokesman said.