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SRI LANKA'S ENGLISH NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION

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BACHELET'S REPORT IGNORES TRUE GROUND SITUATION

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PERMITTING RELIGIOUS CULTS IS DANGEROUS

PAGE 7

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EASTER SUNDAY TERROR ATTACKS

AG PERUSING EIGHT PCOI FILES

CHARGES TO BE FILED AGAINST 32 PERSONS

By **Uditha Kumarasinghe**

Minister of Public Security Rear Admiral (Retd) Sarath Weerasekera said the Attorney General (AG) is currently studying eight files submitted to him on the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCOI) mandated to probe the 2019 Easter

Sunday terror attacks to frame charges against the suspects.

All eight files of the Easter Sunday terror attacks have been forwarded to the AG and charges filed against 32 persons for conspiracy and murder. The AG has sent these files back asking for minor things such as photocopies and downloading certain doc-

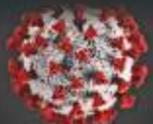
uments into CDs, the Minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

The Minister said in addition to the eight files submitted to the AG, there may be some fresh evidence in the report of the PCOI which investigated the eight multiple terror attacks on Easter Sunday in 2019. Asked whether... **SEE PAGE 2**



NEW UK STRAIN VIRUS IN SRI LANKA

TESTS TO BE PERFORMED IN A WEEK



By **Aanya Wipulasena**

The health authorities will perform another genome sequencing in a week to test the severity of the highly contagious coronavirus variant that was detected in the country recently.

The new variant identified as the UK Strain was found in 12 out of 92 persons when a sequencing was conducted on samples collected in January this year.

Director of Immunology and Molecular Medicine Dr. Chandima Jeewandara of the Sri Jayewardenapura University told the ... **SEE PAGE 2**

"A PLANT FOR LOVE" ON VALENTINE'S DAY

The Environment Ministry has launched a tree planting program to mark Valentine's Day in a meaningful manner.

The program themed, "A Plant for Love" is being launched parallel to the Government's *Husma Dena Thuru* tree-planting program.

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera will inaugurate the program in where 5,000 *Mee* plants will be planted in the surroundings of the Weerawila Lake today. Couples will plant these *Mee* plants and the elderly farmers in... **SEE PAGE 2**

ONLY ONE JAB NEEDED FOR COVID-19 INFECTED

- **FRANCE'S HEALTH AUTHORITY**

PARIS, Feb. 13 (BBC) - France's health authority is recommending that anyone previously infected with Covid-19 should only receive one vaccine jab, instead of the normal two doses.

People who recover from Covid have some immunity and should be inoculated three-six months afterwards, a spokesman for the health authority said.

France is the first country to issue this advice. It has delivered nearly 2.8 million vaccinations so far, the Health Ministry said. "The single vaccine dose will thus play the role of a booster" for someone previously... **SEE PAGE 2**



National heritage sites in Sigiriya, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and other ancient towns managed by the Central Cultural Fund were opened after the international airports in Katunayake and Mattala started operations for air traffic. Here a group of tourists from Kazakhstan who visited Sigiriya on Friday under strict health guidelines supervised by the Sigiriya Police and the National Archaeological Department regional office. Special measures were taken to separate foreign tourists from the locals due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

TRUE POSITION WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE MAJORITY

Lanka seeks opportunity at Geneva debate

- **Foreign Minister**

By **Uditha Kumarasinghe**

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said that if the Government is provided with an opportunity for a reasonable and fair debate to exchange views at the upcoming United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) sessions, the country's position will be accepted stronger by the majority. "Sri Lanka has always won the support and solidarity of our



friendly nations as a pioneer of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a member of the Commonwealth and... **SEE PAGE 2**



By **Shirajiv Sirimane**

Sri Lanka must include private and foreign terminal operators when it comes to Port related

"COUNTRY ALONE CANNOT HANDLE CARGO BUSINESS" Lanka needs foreign, local expertise for Port development

- **Nalaka Godahewa**

development, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness, Dr. Nalaka Godahewa said on Friday.

The main reason that Port related development needs foreign

technical expertise is because cargo is a global business and a single country without global network/connections cannot succeed. "This is very important when it comes to terminal management. The Port management... **SEE PAGE 2**

TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAST COMMISSIONS Commissioner appointed for PCoI

A Commissioner has been appointed to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) to implement the recommendations of past Commissions which probed allegations of human rights excesses in the country.

In a Gazette notification issued on Friday (February 12), Secretary to the President, P.B. Jayasundera stated that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed former Mayor of Jaffna Yogeswari Patku-

narajah as a Commissioner to the three-member panel. The PCoI probing alleged human rights violations, serious violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and other such offences in Sri Lanka was appointed in January.

It will investigate, inquire into and report or take action on the findings of past Commissions or Committees which probed alleged human rights violations in the country. The Commission chaired

by Supreme Court Judge A.H.M.D. Nawaz consists of retired IGP Chandra Fernando and retired District Secretary Nimal Abey Siri.

The mandate of the Commission includes:

- Finding out whether preceding Commissions of Inquiry and Committees which were appointed to probe human rights violations have revealed any human rights violations, serious violations of international... **SEE PAGE 2**



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News

Only one job needed... From page 1

... infected with coronavirus, the Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS) said. The recommendation comes as Governments around the world are rushing to vaccinate people and try to return life to normalcy.

At least 3.4 million people in France have had confirmed Covid-19 infections but the true figure is thought to be higher. Around 81,000 people have died - the seventh-highest figure in the world.

France's inoculation program began in December but is lagging behind that of other countries such as Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the UK.

The three main vaccines used globally are administered in two doses, delivered several weeks apart.

But HAS said that four studies suggest that a single dose in someone who has recovered from coronavirus produces a sufficient immune response to protect against further infection.

"People who have already been infected retain an immune memory," HAS said in a press release. "The single dose of vaccine will thus act as a booster."

The agency has not said how this recommendation could be acted on or how France would identify who has already contracted Covid-19 and when.

People with suppressed immune systems should still receive two doses, the agency

added.

Vaccines work by mimicking the infection that they are designed to protect against. They teach the body how to recognise and fight the real disease. But it can take time for the immune system to learn this lesson and, often, a booster shot is needed to create a lasting immune memory.

It's reasonable to assume people who have already caught and recovered from coronavirus will have some of this immune memory. Scientists think that memory could, perhaps, be sufficiently reawakened with a single shot of vaccine.

A couple of studies have already looked at this - giving a single dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccine to people known to have had coronavirus in the past. In both of these studies, the vaccine appeared to work well, prompting their immune systems to quickly make lots of antibodies against the virus.

The large quantities seen suggest their body was already "primed" by the natural infection to respond.

More studies are needed to confirm this, but it might be one way to free up extra vaccine doses to share around the world. Confirming which people have definitely had coronavirus takes time and tests. Pragmatically, it may still be simpler and faster to give everyone two doses, as already recommended.

Commissioner appointed... From page 1

...humanitarian law and other such serious offences.

Identify what are the findings of the said Commissions and Committees related to the serious violations of human rights, serious violations of international humanitarian laws and other such offences and whether recommendations have been made on how to deal with the facts.

Look into the manner in which those recommendations

have been implemented so far in terms of the existing law and what steps need to be taken to implement those recommendations further in line with the present Government's policy.

Oversee if necessary action is being taken.

They have been directed to submit the final report with its investigations, inquiries and recommendations within six months from the date of appointment.

Lanka seeks... From page 1

... the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The dedication which Sri Lanka has been working for over 60 years has also contributed to make the United Nations (UN) network", the minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

"However, let us not forget that the UNHRC is holding discussions in Geneva on February 22 as a virtual conference where foreign delegations, ministers and representatives will not be able to gather, discuss, negotiate or debate issues as we have done before."

Minister Gunawardena said the former Yahapalana Government's anti-democratic and anti-people's measures paved the way to co-sponsor the UNHRC resolution 30/1 against our own country. Our Security Forces had achieved victory after 30 years by defeating LTTE terrorism. Therefore, inviting foreign judges to make judgements on our internal matters is not permitted in our Constitution.

He said when Sri Lanka withdrew from the co-sponsorship of the resolution 30/1 at last year's UNHRC session, the President pledged that a Supreme Court Judge will head a Commission of Inquiry and a domestic mechanism to go into any so-called violations that are being put on Sri Lanka. There have been

confidential reports of the British Foreign office that were released and quoted in the House of Commons by Lord Naseby which gives a new opening to the realities of those who have praised the battle launched against the LTTE by our Security Forces.

The minister said that our war heroes acted on behalf of the entire nation. They also protected the Tamil political leaders. We will not provide any room to initiate any action or take them before any international courts. Our war heroes were engaged in a humanitarian mission. Therefore, we have requested that these baseless allegations levelled against our war heroes be withdrawn.

Commenting on certain Tamil political parties in the North such as the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) which also backs the UNHRC allegations levelled against Sri Lanka, Minister Gunawardena said the TNA has been always taking an extreme position as their goal is not the day-to-day development, better livelihood and better prospects for our countrymen who are living in the North, East or the rest of the country. They are only interested in their political agenda which they canvass and mislead others with falsehoods to the lobbying groups in the Western capitals.

"A Plant for... From page 1

...this area will present the plants to the couples. In addition, the couples will be responsible to care for these plants.

Tests to be... From page 1

...*Sunday Observer* that the patients were from areas including Avisawella, Colombo, Biyagama and Vavuniya. "We will know the severity of the strain when we conduct the next sequencing," he said adding that variant of B.1.1.7 lineage, is highly contagious but there is no data to say that it is fatal in nature or that it undermines the effectiveness of the vaccines.

"We are now collecting demographic data of the patients such as age and if they were in contact with a person who came from another country to see how it is spread here," Dr. Jeevawandara said.

He added that most of the patients with the new variant could have completed their quarantine period and re-

turned to their homes.

Foreign media reported that the new UK variant is of concern as it could affect the protection of vaccines. Head of UK's genetic surveillance program was quoted as saying that the variant is likely "to sweep the world, in all probability".

Sri Lanka has reported over 380 Covid-19 related deaths and over 74,000 cases with a spike in new cases as the country continues its vaccination program that commenced on January 29 this year on receiving a donation of vaccines from India.

According to data from the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health as of February 12, 179,197 people were given the first dose of vaccines.

AG perusing eight... From page 1

... the recommendations of the Presidential Commission report will be implemented without any delay, Minister Weerasekera said it is entirely up to the AG who has the sole authority to frame charges and file cases against the suspects. The Minister said the AG has appointed a board of 12 lawyers mainly for this purpose.

He said in addition to the charges filed against 32 persons, another 251 suspects are currently being held on Detention Orders for further investigations. He said the report of the PCOI which probed the Easter Sunday attacks will be out soon and tabled in Parliament. Minister Weerasekera said that the intelligence units are the backbone of a country's national security. The Easter Sunday attacks were carried out due to the former Yahapalana Government's attempt to destabilise the intelligence units. However, when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa assumed office steps were taken to strengthen the intelligence units. He said the Government could not be satisfied with the report of the Parliament

ary Select Committee appointed by the Yahapalana Government to probe the Easter Sunday attacks. He said it is almost two years since the Easter Sunday attacks which claimed the lives of 269 people and injured over 500. The PCOI which probed the terror attacks presented its final report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on February 1. The Commission concluded its hearings on January 27. Following the Easter Sunday attacks, former President Maithripala Sirisena appointed a three-member Committee on September 20, 2019 to investigate the terror attacks. The term of the Commission was to end on December 20 last year, before it was extended till January 31 by the President. Several politicians and other persons, including former President Maithripala Sirisena and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe appeared before the PCOI. Former Secretaries, former Inspector General of Police, former Army Commanders, Director of State Intelligence and relatives of terrorists and experts also testified before the Commission.

Lanka needs foreign... From page 1

...mainly due to security and other logistic reasons can be kept with the Government."

He said that unfortunately, the Hambantota Port which was built with long term plans cannot be administered by the Government as its ownership was given to a foreign operator and the development of the Trincomalee Port has issues owing to the 13th Amendment and Provincial Councils while the terminal development at the Galle Harbour is limited owing to geographical reasons. Hence, the development focus falls on the Colombo Port where the Government has 100 percent ownership. It was also disclosed that even India is privatising airports and Ports and of its 13 Ports 12 have been leased out to private parties and Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd is India's largest integrated ports and logistics company. "Sri Lanka has a huge international debt servicing burden and the way to overcome it is by attracting more Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs)." One must remember that Sri

Lanka is not the only country for investors and, therefore, they should be given competitive terms when bringing in FDIs. Hence, the country needs to have a different mindset. Attracting FDIs do not mean selling the country's assets but simply bringing in investment and technology to add value to local assets from private and foreign parties. "The intellectuals too should spread this message that attracting foreign FDIs is not a crime."

Shipping industry expert, Rohan Masakorala said that the Sri Lanka Port development should move to a globally acclaimed 'Landlord model Port System' where the Government will be the caretaker or will be singled out from the world. He said that globally around 80 percent of cargo business is handled by private companies while Governments directly handle only around 20 percent business and this number too is reducing fast. "If you don't have international connections ships would not come from 'Government only' operated ports."

More News and News Features on pages 3-14 and sports on page 20. Foreign news on pages 67 and 68

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Microfinance: the plague on the needy

BY AANYA WIPULASENA

For years, one issue has been weighing 65-year-old P. M. Jayaratne down. Jayaratne, a farmer from Hingurakgoda, Polonnaruwa, has fallen ill and frequently goes to the hospital in his area for medical checkups.

He is in debt after he took a loan of Rs. 165,000 from a microfinance institution in 2014. Now, after six years, he has paid Rs. 380,000, but he has to pay Rs. 50,000 more to settle his debt.

"I took the loan to cultivate paddy. But both harvesting seasons in the year were bad. I couldn't pay the loan with interest. Since then, the debt accumulated. I don't know where to find the money to settle it now," Jayaratne told the *Sunday Observer*.

His story is not an isolated case. Jayaratne is one among thousands of people, generally from low-income households, who have fallen into the microfinance debt-trap. The Covid-19 pandemic has only made matters worse as many lost their jobs. People are resorting to find alternative methods to pay their debts.

Jayaratne, a farmer since his teenage years, is cultivating on a one-acre land that he inherited from his parents. He has mortgaged parts of it to find money for his medical needs. He does not have the luxury of an alternative income.

Grim scenario

The microfinance story is grimmer than it appears. Three months ago, a four-year-old child was killed in a murder-suicide in Polonnaruwa. The child's mother, a 32-year-old woman killed the child and committed suicide after failing to pay a debt she took for her husband. Six months ago, a mother from Jaffna jumped into a well with her two children in another microfinance debt driven murder-suicide.

Unofficial statistics by the *Nelumyaya* Foundation, an institution that aids people who are victimised by the microfinance business, shows that at least 200 people have committed suicide because they can't find the money to pay their loans.



THE CBSL IS DRAFTING A CREDIT REGULATORY AUTHORITY ACT TO REGULATE MICRO FINANCE INSTITUTIONS. UNREGULATED INSTITUTIONS WERE TO BE LICENSED TO GIVE MORE PROTECTION TO THEIR CUSTOMERS. REGULATED INSTITUTIONS ARE REGISTERED IN THE CREDIT INFORMATION BUREAU OF SRI LANKA (CRIB)

However, microfinance was introduced as a venture to aid the poor. Defined as "provision of financial services to low-income people" by the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) states, "it brings credit, savings and other essential financial services to people who are too poor to be served by regular banks, mainly because they are unable to offer sufficient collateral. Microfinance is expected to expand and improve income generation activities and capacities of low-income persons. It is expected that through microfinance the living conditions of low-income persons would improve, while they take on an active role in the economic development of the country."

With the outbreak of Covid-19, the CBSL introduced a debt moratorium for affected businesses and needy people. Debt collectors are going into villages demanding people to pay the sums they owe. Interest the borrowers have to pay to these institutions could range from 20 percent to 240 percent, despite the CBSL's

stipulated interest cap of 35 percent.

Exploitation

Due to the lack of regulation, microfinance drivers are exploiting people who take loans. In most cases, these are women from needy households. Harassments range from verbal abuse to sexual exploitation that go largely unreported.

"With Covid-19, people's economies deteriorated. We are seeing a reduction in microfinance loans, but that doesn't mean the situation has got better," Jaffna-based political economist Ahilan Kadirgamar said.

He said there is a grave need for a separate authority to register and monitor money lending institutions.

The CBSL is drafting a Credit Regulatory Authority Act to regulate microfinance institutions. Unregulated institutions were to be licensed to give more protection to their customers. Regulated institutions are registered in the Credit Information Bureau of Sri Lanka (CRIB).

Non-regulated micro-financing and micro-lending companies will come under the CRIB in terms of the Act. The lack of a regulatory body is putting marginalised groups in more debt as they are caught up in a web of multiple loans.

Director Programs, *Nelumyaya* Foundation and Attorney-at-Law Radika Gunaratne has created a legal aid mechanism in 2018 to support microfinance victims. The Foundation has started pro-bono legal work for victims, making appearances before District Courts for their money recovery cases.

"But considering the level of harassment that victims face, we realised that we have to empower victims to fight back," Gunaratne said, adding that the microfinance victims have started lodging complaints to police stations against harassments by microfinance agents and collectors.

"We provide legal assistance in lodging a complaint and for the investigation. A victim could go to the police station with a lawyer from the *Nelumyaya* Foundation," Gunaratne said.

"We understand that this is a challenging task. Police have no prior experience of complaints against microfinance companies. Victims are not alone. There are supporting mechanisms for them. Microfinance institutions have to reconsider their business practices," she said.

Microfinance and Self-Employment State Minister Shehan Semasinghe said in Parliament last week that the President and the Prime Minister are paying attention to the microfinance issue. He said that about 93 percent of those caught in the debt trap are women.

He acknowledged the absence of an Act to regulate these bodies.

Amendments to the Microfinance Act have been forwarded to the Attorney-General, he said, adding, awareness programs are being conducted in collaboration with the Central Bank in *Samurdhi* Bank Zones, while all state and *Samurdhi* banks have been instructed to prevent people from falling victim to these institutions.

Student who lost hearing after assault gets compensation

A student who lost hearing after being assaulted by a teacher at the school will be paid Rs.650,000 in compensation following a court order last week.

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered the teacher in charge of discipline at Puhulwella Central College, Matara to pay Rs. 150,000 to the 15-year-old child victim.

The Government will pay an additional Rs.500,000.

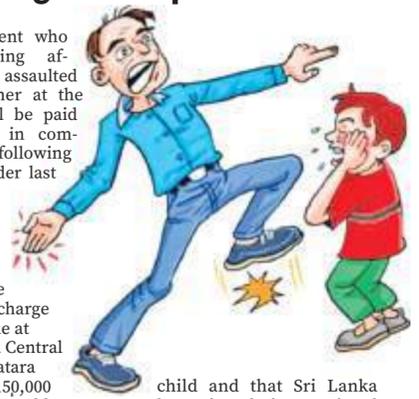
The court ruled that the incident which occurred in 2017 where the teacher assaulted the child on his ear causing loss of hearing, was a violation of his fundamental rights.

The compensation will be paid within six months as per the court order.

The Supreme Court has said that the medical reports confirm that a blow to the student's ear caused him to suffer permanent hearing loss for the rest of his life, the Colombo Page reported.

The verdict was handed down by Justice S. Thuraiah and agreed by Justice Sisira de Abrew and Justice Murdu Fernando.

Supreme Court Judge Thuraiah said that the attack was a cruel act of child abuse targeting a



child and that Sri Lanka has signed international conventions on the rights of the child to prevent such abuse.

The Supreme Court has found that the student was assaulted for sitting on a culvert near the wall of the school while the school was engaged in a cultivation program.

It was further revealed that the school authorities did not pay attention to his physical condition.

The Supreme Court has ruled that a child should not be subjected to disciplinary or any other form of abuse and that the attack violates Article 11 of the Constitution, a fundamental right not to be subjected to cruel torture.

Hewa Maddumage Karunapala and Palle Kamkanamlage Dona Kumuduni filed the petition on behalf of their child.

Attorney-at-Law Theesaya Weragoda appeared for the petitioner.

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Pic: Samantha Weerasiri

“LANKA COMMITTED TO WORK WITH UN”

Bachelet's report ignores true ground situation - Dinesh Gunawardena

By
**Uditha
Kumarasinghe**



Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said that the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet's report does not reflect the reality on the true ground situation in Sri Lanka and it has not properly studied the progress that has been made.

The Minister in an interview with the *Sunday Observer* said he could not understand as to why these allegations are made without studying the ground realities. He said the Government has already responded and further explained areas where Sri Lanka is committed to work with the United Nations (UN) system since we are also a member of the UN.

Minister Gunawardena said Sri Lanka should follow a collective understanding in international affairs like other countries. Our call for the principles of sovereignty and democracy to protect our motherland should be the priority rather than working to destabilise it based on very short-sighted views.

Q: How is the Government prepared to face the upcoming UNHRC challenge in Geneva?

A: The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) as usual has overlooked many key fruitful and factual areas and made general recommendations in the annual report. Our Foreign Ministry has replied to most of the issues raised including the key area of UNHRC Resolution 30/1 where we withdrew from the co-sponsorship. However, we have effectively stayed on to the pledges that we made last year and the other issues that have been added on are all internal matters of the Government. The President's election which we feel has no relevance to the matter is being mainly discussed.

Sri Lanka is a longstanding parliamentary democracy and the people elected a new Parliament with an overwhelming majority. The President received a strong mandate and we are one of the oldest democracies in Asia. I don't think that small internal issues and references contained in the UN High Commissioners report would play a much important role.

Q: When the entire world accepted that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Elaam (LTTE) was a ruthless terrorist outfit then why should certain sections attempt to misinterpret the battle launched against them by our war heroes?

A: Sri Lanka defeated the LTTE which was proscribed by the world as one of the most dangerous terrorist organisations. Various sections have been trying to raise issues such as the diaspora by providing misguided and imaginary advice in a bid to lobby the support from some Western countries.

Let us not forget even at the moment, these countries renew the LTTE proscription because of the possibility of their emergence. Sri Lanka has made tremendous progress in the restoration of living conditions of persons who were affected in the North and the East and to bring back normalcy in the areas.

Q: Why are these alleged human rights violations dragging for so long at the UNHRC? Is it mainly due to the former Yahapalana Government's decision to co-sponsor the UNHRC resolution 30/1 along with the US?

A: The former Yahapalana Government's anti-democratic and anti-people measures paved the way to co-sponsor the UNHRC resolution 30/1 against our country. Our Security Forces had brought the victory after 30 years by defeating the LTTE terrorism. Inviting foreign judges to make judgments on our internal matters is not permitted in our Constitution.

When we withdrew from the co-sponsorship of the resolution 30/1 at the last year's UNHRC session, the President pledged that a Supreme Court judge will head a Commission of Inquiry and a domestic mechanism to go into any so-called violations that is being put on Sri Lanka.

There have been confidential reports of the British Foreign office released and quoted in the House of Commons by Lord Naseby which gives new opening to the realities of those who have praised the battle launched against the LTTE by our security forces.

Q: It seems certain Tamil political parties in the North such as the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) are also backing the UNHRC allegations levelled against Sri Lanka. Your comments?

A: The TNA has been always taking an extreme position as their goal is not the day to day development, better livelihood and better prospects for our countrymen who are living in the North, East as well as in the rest of the

FACT-FILE
Dinesh Gunawardena

► **1949:** Born in Boralugoda, Avissawella as Dinesh Chandra Rupasinghe Gunawardena. Hails from well-to-do political family; his father was Philip Gunawardena founder of the *Lanka Sama Samaja Party*. Educated at Royal College, Colombo. Obtained Diploma in International Business at the Nyenrode Business University, Netherlands. Obtained Honours in Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree at the University of Oregon, USA

► **1973:** Appointed to the central committee of *Mahajana Eksath Peramuna* (MEP), a left-wing political party founded in 1959 by his father and later became its General-Secretary

► **1973 to date:** Leader of the *Mahajana Eksath Peramuna* (MEP)

► **1983:** Contested the by-election under the MEP and elected to Parliament from the Maharagama electorate

► **1989:** Elected Member of Parliament for Colombo district from MEP



► **2000:** MEP joined the People's Alliance (PA). Contested the General Election under the People's Alliance (PA) from Colombo district and was elected to Parliament

► **2004:** Minister of Urban Development and Water Supply; portfolio changed to Minister of Urban Development and Sacred Area Development

► **2008:** Chief Government Whip

► **2010:** Minister of Water Supply and Drainage

► **2019:** Minister of Foreign Relations, Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations

► **August 2020:** Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Cabinet of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Source: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

country. They are interested in their political structure with falsehoods in a bid to lobby groups in Western capitals.

However, these same Tamil political leaders in the North who levelled baseless allegations against our war heroes and stressed the need for bringing them before the UNHRC called upon the people in the North and East to defeat Mahinda Rajapaksa at the 2010 Presidential Election and elect the common opposition candidate former Army Commander Sarath Fonseka as the President.

It is very similar to the double standard of these Tamil political leaders in the North and the baseless allegations levelled by some Western countries. Since the end of the final battle against terrorism in 2009, these baseless allegations on alleged human rights viola-

tions are levelled against us.

The "Channel 4" was yet another such drama enacted to level such allegations against Sri Lanka. However, we have responded and categorically rejected those allegations levelled against us.

Q: Do you think that friendly nations will stand by Sri Lanka to collectively face any challenge posed by the forces with vested interests at the upcoming UNHRC sessions in Geneva?

A: Sri Lanka has always won the support and solidarity of our friendly nations as a pioneer of the non-aligned movement, a member of the Commonwealth and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The dedication which Sri Lanka has been working for over 60 years has also contributed to help the United Na-

tions (UN) network. We hope, if we are given a reasonable and a fair debate to exchange views if possible, our viewpoint will be accepted by the majority.

But let us not forget the UNHRC is holding discussions in Geneva on February 22 as a virtual conference where foreign delegations, ministers and representatives will not be able to gather, discuss, negotiate or debate issues as we have done before.

Q: Don't you think all the Government and the Opposition political parties irrespective of their political differences should join hands to defeat the "Geneva challenge"?

A: Sri Lanka should follow a collective understanding in international affairs like other countries. Our call for the principles of sovereignty and democracy to protect our motherland should be the priority rather than working to destabilise it based on very short-sighted views.

Q: What is the reason for the Government to reject the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet's report? Is the Government of the view that she has gone beyond her mandate?

A: Based on so many issues the report is not based on the real ground situation since it has not properly studied the progress made.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the entire world. If we look over the past hundred years, the world has not been shaken in this manner. However, Sri Lanka has been able to control the Covid-19 situation.

It should be understood that amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the lives of the people have been protected in our country irrespective of where they live. That has been the highest priority during this Covid-19 pandemic situation.

I could not understand as to why the allegations are made without studying the realities. It is purposefully being repeated in the UN Human Rights Commissioner's report. We have answered and further explained areas where we are committed to work with the UN system. We are members of the UN system by contributing for the betterment of it.

Q: According to you, why have certain Western powers levelled baseless allegations against our war heroes?

A: Our war heroes acted on behalf of the entire nation. They also gave protection to Tamil political leaders as well. We will not provide any room

to initiate any action against them or bring them before any international war tribunal. Our war heroes were engaged in a humanitarian mission. Therefore, we have requested to withdraw these baseless allegations levelled against our war heroes.

Q: Concerns have been raised that justice has not been meted out to the aggrieved parties?

A: Any citizen can seek the assistance of the judiciary regarding any injustice that may have been caused. They can also go beyond the incidents that happened in the past and act according to the Paranagama Report and the LLRC Report. In addition, anybody can separately give his/her own evidence.

Q: The Opposition MPs at the Party Leaders' meeting held on February 8 had demanded to table the Presidential Commission report on the Easter Sunday attacks and Political Victimization in Parliament. Would you like to comment on this?

A: Public reports which could be tabled will always be tabled in Parliament. If Parliament wants these reports can also be debated in Parliament. However, it all depends on parliamentary time.

Q: The Opposition political parties have accused the Government that through the Presidential Commission report on Political Victimization there are attempts to deprive the civic rights of several opposition members of Parliament and ex-MPs. Your comments?

A: First this report has to be released and it has to be submitted to Parliament through the Speaker. Then we can discuss what is contained in the report.

It is the people's right to know what is most important rather than jumping into conclusions without reading the report.

Q: The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) General Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam at a recent media briefing said that Minister Wimal Weerawansa should publicly apologise for his comment to a local weekend newspaper where he claimed the President should lead the Party. Would you like to comment on this?

A: As the Leader of the House I would like to say that these are internal party matters which can always be overcome through discussions.

Continued on page 9

Education, knowledge and freedom

By
**Dr. Thilan U.
Hewage**



"Freedom comes with self-knowledge, when the mind goes above and beyond the hindrances it has created for itself." - Jiddu Krishnamurti

Man's highest good and the aim of education lies in the attainment of freedom; said the 17th century philosopher Baruch Spinoza while Jiddu Krishnamurti himself has said that there must be freedom from knowledge to make way for wisdom. In the efforts of understanding the connection among the true meanings of these words, 'freedom', 'knowledge' and 'education', one will find such statements made by philosophers, theologians, world leaders and scientists alike.

It may not be a waste of time to make an effort to understand how we really want to use these words in our lives since every one of us would like to improve our living standards in the physical plane with the expectation of achieving emotional and mental happiness as the end product of all our efforts throughout our lives.

Consensus among various dictionaries and etymological descriptions of these words can be summarised as follows.

Education: A process of teach-

ing, training and learning to improve knowledge and develop skills. The etymology shows that the Latin word 'educere', meaning 'lead out', as the origin of the English word 'Education' which describes the process of bringing one's knowledge and capabilities out.

Knowledge: Knowledge is a familiarity, awareness or understanding of someone or something, such as, facts, information, descriptions or skills, acquired through experience or education by perceiving, discovering or learning.

Freedom: Having the ability to act or change without constraints and/or being prevented by other forces: having the power of self-determination.

People have been using these words for centuries and newborns are automatically programmed to accept the meanings of the words as we know them.

Education

The word 'education' will remind us about the schools, universities and educational systems of the world while the word 'knowledge' basically would refer to what we learn at those institutions and/or the things we learn through our own experiences and other accessible information.

Most people will be able to see the connection the two words 'education' and 'knowledge' have, education being the tool to gather knowledge.

The word 'freedom', more often than not, would remind people of po-



litical systems and or history of the world with specific types of freedoms such as 'freedom of speech', 'freedom of the press', 'freedom of choice' and 'freedom from slavery' that have been drilled into their brains by such systems. When a prisoner is released people say that he has gained his freedom back.

Countries with so-called 'democratically elected governments' boast about the freedom their citizens enjoy compared to people in other countries. The President of the United States is sometimes even referred to as the 'leader of the free world.'

Billionaire media mogul Rupert Murdoch once answered the question "what do you think about the freedom of the press?" at a news conference saying, "Well, you don't have any such freedom but I do, because I own the media". That pretty much explains the illusory nature of all other types of freedom people assume that they have

achieved. If people search for freedom as a way to achieve happiness and the knowledge is regarded as the path, then, the freedom of thought would be the topmost priority among all different types of freedoms.

Freedom of thought

Before we speak or make a choice we have to think. If our thoughts are being controlled, manipulated and guided by other forces then, it is just a matter of getting us to think or feel that we have the freedom of speech and or choice though we really don't have it.

The main objectives of our educational, social and political institutions should be to help people to achieve that freedom of thought.

The first attempt then should be to recognise the factors hindering such a freedom in general and also for each individual in particular. Such an understanding will, hopefully, guide

people to design and structure their education systems appropriately since that will be the main path to knowledge which in turn will help them to become free thinkers.

Conversely, if what we expect from an education system is just easier and more efficient ways of getting on with our lives in the physical plane then that exactly is what we get, just as we are experiencing it all over the world today.

To achieve this broader objective of freedom of thought, and free ourselves from mental slavery, we certainly would have to stop interpreting knowledge as information about particular subjects but as the awareness necessary to achieve a paradigm shift one step at a time.

Social norms can deceive one to feel that he/she is well off and comfortable with life though one may not feel happy with that life. Conforming to the norms would easily make one feel accepted and even rewarded by society. But society is just one segment in the plethora of human endeavour.

Even though schools, institutions, universities and colleges are convenient forms introduced to educate people to acquire knowledge of life, the amount of human conflicts, poverty, crime, man-made disasters and suffering around the world today clearly show how unsuccessful they have been irrespective of all the advancements people have made in the field of education.

This kind of education has become one of the most profitable service in-

dustries in the world rather than the success of the institution and or the system is measured mainly by the level of materialistic success its clients have achieved after completing their programs.

Knowledge

The knowledge and or the certificates obtained through such education systems are just convenient contrivances that can help one to live a comfortable life. If what one learns cannot make one free and confident in oneself then, the knowledge acquired through such learning has no value in the journey of life.

Since there are different degrees of understanding the reality of life the wisdom of the teacher and the readiness of the student will decide how the learning process will progress from stage to stage.

Therefore, one might even say that the most important step in achieving the kind of freedom that has been limited to the dream worlds of many is to understand the purpose of education within the context of understanding life. That perhaps is why Bertrand Russell said: "It is because modern education is so seldom inspired by a great hope that it so seldom achieves great results."

The writer has served in the higher education sector as an academic for over twenty years in the USA and fourteen years in Sri Lanka and can be contacted at thilanh@gmail.com

Sri Lanka must demand answers from UNHRC – Prove we killed 40,000

BY SHENALI WADUGE

A UN member state is being accused of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity and even 'genocide'. Sri Lanka has been the victim of an annual witch hunt sponsored by blood-money for 12 years.

All these allegations have credibility if and only if they can prove Sri Lanka intentionally killed 40,000 and the deaths are disproportionate to the military advantage legally accepted in a non-international armed battle. Sri Lanka has given Geneva 12 years to come out with the basic requirement of 40,000 dead names.

They have failed. Sri Lanka must now refuse to respond to any of the non-conflict related questions being asked for these are traps riding on the bogey of 'accountability and truth'.

If it is accountability Sri Lanka must demand where was the UN and its apparatus for all the victims of the LTTE. If its truth, Sri Lanka must take UNHRC back to the conflict and demand answers for the initial allegation of 40,000 or more dead. Sri Lanka must refuse to answer anything until UNHRC can produce credible evidence beyond a shred of doubt to prove 40,000 or more were intentionally killed by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces disproportionate to international laws.

It is in taking this principled stand that Sri Lanka can turn the tables on the UNHRC. This is the 1st time that the UNHRC and the former UNSG chose to take up a conflict that had ended. Sri Lanka's conflict was three decades old. Why were there no resolutions seeking truth and accountability when the LTTE were committing pre-meditated murder on Sinhalese, Muslims, Burghers, Tamils and even foreigners?

Why did UN, UNSG and UNHRC wake up only after Sri Lanka's Security Forces ended the LTTE ground force on May 19, 2009?

Why are death estimates ranging from 7000 to 9000 by US State Dept (6710 casualties), UN Country Team (7714 casualties), ICRC reports, and dispatches of US and UK military attachés as well as census statistics by Sri Lanka not accepted?

The numbers game and the challenge to accusers

- Present the evidence that Sri Lanka Armed Forces INTENTIONALLY targeted civilians

- Present evidence that Sri Lanka Security Forces attacked without military necessity to intentionally kill civilians Present evidence of disproportionate kill-



Soldiers taking care of civilians

A UN MEMBER STATE IS BEING ACCUSED OF COMMITTING WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND EVEN 'GENOCIDE'. SRI LANKA HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF AN ANNUAL WITCH HUNT SPONSORED BY BLOOD-MONEY FOR 12 YEARS. ALL OF THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE CREDIBILITY IF AND ONLY IF THEY CAN PROVE SRI LANKA INTENTIONALLY KILLED 40,000 AND THE DEATHS ARE DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE MILITARY ADVANTAGE LEGALLY ACCEPTED IN A NON-INTERNATIONAL BATTLE

ing of Tamil civilians (LTTE Armed Civilian Force does not belong to this category)

- Darusman Panel must present evidence that the Sri Lanka Army killed civilians through widespread shelling (as alleged in its report which is contradicted by ICRC, UN Country Team reports)

- Darusman Panel must respond to why it inserted 'there could have been as many as 40,000 civilian deaths'

- Bishop Rayappu Joseph, Francis Harrison and Yasmin

Sooka claim deaths from 147,000 to 200,000

- Sooka now on a campaign of her own against Sri Lanka cannot produce names of 40,000 supposed to be dead! She keeps presenting dead LTTE names.

UNHRC cannot be allowed to be recommending changes and interfering into the internal affairs of a sovereign nation without proving its allegations.

A person is born. His/her birth is registered. A national identity is issued.

The Grama Sevaka registry has records and election registry also has records. A marriage certificate is issued at marriage.

A death certificate is issued at death. When a person is missing, a police entry is lodged. All these methods have a means of verification via passport office/immigration/emigration etc. Therefore, bring on the evidence that these 40,000 were even born, produce the police complaints by families to claim them missing, produce complaint to the Presidential Commission on Missing Persons.

A point to note is that a missing or untraceable person is not necessarily dead because they can be in hiding, they can be living in a foreign nation under a fictitious name, they may have changed their looks with cosmetic surgery.

All these possibilities can be verified if foreign governments share the refugee/asylum seeker details with the Sri Lankan intelligence services.

There were reports that NGOs played a key role in sending some of these hardcore LTTE members overseas claiming to be going for training.

Did they return to Sri Lanka? All the allegations of murder be-

ing hurled against Sri Lanka's Armed Forces makes any to think that the LTTE was keeping 300,000 Tamil civilians and handing them roses and sweets while Sri Lanka's Armed Forces were hunting them down. How ridiculous can even the UNHRC be.

They may like to count the many times the UNSG and diplomats appealed to LTTE not to shoot fleeing civilians, not to keep Tamil civilians as hostages and the manner that freed Tamil civilians cried how LTTE stole provisions sent by GoSL and ICRC to feed their combatants and the families of combatants. So clearly, LTTE gave preference to its combatants & their families and to the Tamil civilians who sided with them. Can the UNHRC come up with some numbers for these divisions?

Sri Lanka must tell UNHRC, to hold its horses and demand that the script returns to 2009, the end of a three-decade conflict and ask the UNHRC to come up with the evidence to prove its allegations.

All of the sugar-coated resolutions by UNHRC bloc nations have been aligned to fulfilling their geopolitical agendas via Sri Lanka using the May 2009 concluded battle as ruse. Sri Lanka should not fall for any more traps.

Sri Lanka must now demand UNHRC to come clean. No more non-conflict related items. The whole basis of this international stigma campaign against Sri Lanka taking place all over the world claiming Sri Lanka committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and even 'genocide' must be proved with facts not fairytales. the UNHRC must remove the 20-year cap on their supposed 'witnesses' to see if they were even born!

**NO MORE RESOLUTIONS
NO MORE RESPONSES BY SRI LANKA**

Until the UNHRC can prove Sri Lanka's Security Forces intentionally killed civilians disproportionate to the military advantage accepted in international law in a non-international armed conflict.

Prove we killed 40,000 or more or just close the case against Sri Lanka!

Japan to support demining in North



Ambassador of Japan Akira Sugiyama and Programme Manager of SHARP Lt Col (Rtd) V.S.M. Jayawardhana, after signing the contract

The Government of Japan has provided US\$ 620,379 (approx. Rs. 115 million) to the Skavita Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Project (SHARP) for humanitarian demining activities in Northern Sri Lanka. The grant contract was signed on February 11 at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Colombo, between Sugiyama Akira, Ambassador of Japan and Lt Col (Rtd) V.S.M. Jayawardhana, Program Manager of SHARP. The Government of Sri Lanka aims to achieve "A Mine Impact Free Sri Lanka" within a few years and become the next mine impact free country in the world. Towards this endeavor, Japan has been a major donor in mine clearance in the country since 2002.

The Government of Japan is SHARP's primary donor and has provided funding for mine clearance since its inception in 2016 when its first program was launched in Kilinochchi. Subsequently, SHARP cleared more than 1.5 km of mine field through funds disbursed from Japan's Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP). Japan has provided financial assistance amounting to US\$ 38.8 million to SHARP and to the other three demining NGOs currently operational in Sri Lanka.

The project is expected to contribute to the efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka in ensuring that mine-contaminated areas are safe, enabling resettlement of displaced people and enhancing their livelihoods directly or indirectly in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.

Lt Col (Rtd) V.S.M. Jayawardhana said "Today marks the granting of GGP funds to SHARP by the Embassy of Japan for the 5th consecutive year, for which we are indeed appreciative and grateful to the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka for assisting and encouraging SHARP to initially commence demining operations in 2016, and thereafter continuously grant funding support annually for SHARP. Most significantly, SHARP receives funding only from the Japanese GGP program.

SHARP has cleared a 1,574,573m and recovered 9,135 anti-personnel mines, 119 anti-tank mines, 3,289 UXOs and over 12,000 SAA since November 2016 to date, with over 1,500 families directly and indirectly benefitted.

SHARP will continue to carry out its operations to the best of its ability diligently, efficiently and effectively fully co-operating with the staff of the Embassy of Japan and all other agencies to completely justify the funds provided and so fulfil the desires of our sponsors.

The heartfelt gratitude of members of SHARP was conveyed to Ambassador Akira, all GGP staff members of the Embassy of Japan and most of all the people of Japan for their unstinted support by sponsoring SHARP right from its inception, and more so ever for the Embassy of Japan being in the forefront of demining activities in Sri Lanka and their continuous concern and assistance for the well-being of the people of our country." NEWS.LK



Hunt on for watchman's killer

PUTTALAM: The police were yesterday hunting for the killer or killers behind the murder of an elderly watchman whose body was found on a coconut plantation in Mundalama-Puttalam earlier this month.

The lifeless body of 63-year-old P. A. Anuruddha Randeniya was found by his wife who had gone in search of her husband when he did not return home for his lunch, police said. The victim had blood deposits from his nose and mouth at the time his body was discovered, police added. Initially police treated the case as a normal death after the victim's wife told police that her husband had a medical history that included diabetes.

However, a subsequent post-mortem held at the Puttalam Base Hospital revealed that the victim had been felled with a heavy blow to his neck and had died instantly.

Police suspect that the victim may have been killed by coconut thieves during a confrontation.



BY LEON BERENGER

Valentine Day revellers to feel police heat

POLICE HQ: The police have banned all Valentine Day gatherings owing to the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the country and warned that violators will be strictly dealt with.

According to police certain social media portals have been promoting Valentine Day gatherings

and celebrations in various parts of the country.

"This will not be allowed, simply it violates the health guidelines of the Covid-19 pandemic and it is a general threat to the rest of the community", a senior police official said.

In a related development the police yesterday warned the public about a bogus text message in the social media where gifts were on of-

fer from lovers, in return for a cash deposit.

Goat keeper stabbed to death over dog row

BANDARAWELA: A goat keeper was stabbed to death following a simmering dispute with his neighbour's pet dogs at a location in an estate in Atampitiya-Bandarawela, police said yesterday. They said the 58-year-old victim, a father of five died instantly in the attack. The incident triggered-off after the neighbour's dog had fatally bitten a goat.

The neighbour along with another person was arrested in connection with the incident.

Pigeon trader in tobacco scam held

GALLE: A pigeon show owner was arrested after he is alleged to have traded in tobacco with schoolchildren at a location in the Galle Town, police

said yesterday. According to police the suspect was picked up along with 19 packets of tobacco, each weighing 10 grams. Police were led to the suspect after a 14-year-old schoolboy attending a prominent school in the area was found to be in the possession of four grams of tobacco. The student later told the authorities that he had purchased the tobacco from the suspect.

Initial investigations have revealed that the suspect had been in the clandestine trade for a considerable period of time.

Jilted schoolgirl plunges to her death

TALAWAKELLE: A jilted schoolgirl plunged to her death in a reservoir at Talawakelle on Friday following a domestic quarrel, police said.

Police quoted witnesses as saying that the girl had jumped into the Upper Kotmale Reservoir from a railway bridge. Rescue teams that included the Navy and police later retrieved her lifeless body a few hours after

the incident. The girl had secretly left her home around 6.30am following a quarrel with her mother the previous evening, police added.

Probe into death of seven-year-old

OMANTHAI: A probe has been launched into the death of seven-year-old boy whose body was found in a neighbour's well at Navavi in Omanthai earlier this week.

The boy had left home earlier in the day for a tuition class nearby and failed to return home at the scheduled time prompting a search by relatives and neighbours, police said.

They added that the boy's school bag and bottle of water was later found in a nearby paddy field. In a related incident, police are seeking to arrest two suspected power pirates after an eight-year-old boy was electrocuted after he was entangled in a live wire. The incident was reported from a location in Chandanavetti in Sampur on Friday.

SUNDAY OBSERVER

Lessons from the pandemic

"The world needs to prepare for pandemics in the same serious way it prepares for war. This should absolutely be a priority. There's no need to panic. We don't have to hoard cans of spaghetti or go down to the basement. But we need to get going because time is not on our side. In fact, if there's one positive thing that can come out of the Ebola epidemic, it's that it can serve as an early warning, a wake-up call. If we start now, we can be ready for the next pandemic."

These words were spoken six years ago by Bill Gates, a champion of vaccines and global health equality, in the midst of the outbreak of Ebola in Africa. Ebola happened in Africa and went unnoticed especially, by the developed world. It took around four years even to develop a vaccine. But now that we are living through an actual pandemic, we realise how prescient these words have been. Yet, the entire world was woefully underprepared for a contagion of this magnitude.

Incidentally, Contagion, a movie from 2011, forecast the present Coronavirus pandemic with uncanny precision. Not only Bill Gates, but also many scientists and the World Health Organization (WHO) itself had warned of a "Disease X" that could potentially wipe out much of humanity. Luckily for us, the Coronavirus disease now known as Covid-19 has a much lower mortality rate when compared to previous Coronavirus diseases such as MERS and SARS. Nonetheless, it has claimed 2.3 million lives worldwide, at least half of which could have been prevented if the world was a little more ready to confront a disease of this magnitude.

Around 107 million people around the world have been infected. This would seem to be a blip in terms of the world population of eight billion, but one just has to look at the damage caused in socio-economic terms to countries both rich and poor to understand the enormity of the challenge. In any case, the pandemic is showing no signs of slowing down, with more transmissible and potentially more lethal variants of the virus cropping up in several countries.

This will continue as long as 'vaccine nationalism' and 'vaccine hoarding' continue, on the part of the developed world. Some Western countries have ordered enough vaccines to inoculate their populations 10 times over.

They have 'locked in' orders that could have gone to developing countries. This could negate the massive victory mankind has gained by developing several effective vaccines in less than one year. Health experts and policy planners often repeat the phrase 'no one is safe until everyone is safe' with regard to Covid-19.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has estimated that the global economy will suffer a US\$ 9.2 trillion loss as a result of vaccine nationalism, with developed countries poised to absorb as much as US\$ 5 trillion from that loss. Thus it is in their economic interest to pave the way for a more equitable distribution of vaccines around the world.

Moving on from the vaccine debate, the world needs 'Universal Health Coverage' (UHC) whereby people in all countries have equitable access to health care. Sri Lanka is one of the few developing countries with UHC. Its free immunisation program is a great success and the country has eliminated some diseases such as malaria even without a vaccine being available. Sri Lanka is ready to immunise the majority of its population (except schoolchildren and pregnant women) against Covid-19 by May this year. Sri Lanka could well become the first developing country to achieve this feat. It was also the first developing country to have a network of State-run Quarantine Centres.

Even so, there are lessons that we can learn from the pandemic and shortcomings that we have to address. Our quarantine laws are more than a century old and in the light of certain lessons we have learned, the time is right to update them to reflect modern needs.

This is unlikely to be the last pandemic, given that millions of Coronaviruses are residing in bats and other animals. It is only a matter of time before another zoonotic (animal to human) virus transmission takes place and the next time, it could be even more lethal than Covid-19. It is thus important to revamp our entire health system to face a bigger pandemic.

Several shortcomings were also noticed with regard to medical equipment. It goes without saying that we need more ICU beds and isolation wards where pandemic patients can be more securely treated. We also need to boost the manufacturing capacity for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), which will also help save foreign exchange.

It was also somewhat shocking to learn that the country has only two ECMO (Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation) life support machines, which are basically advanced heart-lung machines that carry out the functions of these organs outside the body. Dr. Gayan Danthanarayana, who succumbed to Covid-19, underwent the ECMO procedure at the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital (the other machine is at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo) and his father, himself a doctor, has begun a fundraising campaign to purchase more ECMO machines, which cost from US\$ 150,000 to US\$ 500,000 depending on the manufacturer and complexity.

Health planners should make a careful assessment of such essential needs and suggest that funds be allocated in the next Budget for purchasing the same. There is no need to wait till the next time – now is the time to take stock, address any lacunae and keep our health system ready for any challenge.

Any hope for an Opposition that martyred itself?

by
Rajpal Abeynayake



The failure of a political project in this country can be predicted with certainty by the number of persons who have martyred themselves successfully for the political party that began that project.

J. R. Jayewardene the old fox, had for too long endured the dominance of the Senanayake clan when after the abject defeat of 1970, he finally assumed leadership of the party.

Shortly afterward, Dudley Senanayake passed away unexpectedly and after JRJ had said "Good night sweet prince" at a funeral marked by surreally large numbers of mourners, he was settling into taking full control, when Rukman Senanayake wanted to martyr himself for the party with a sudden putsch for leadership.

From nowhere, he launched his leadership bid, his only qualification being that he was a Senanayake – albeit a shy and hapless one, in the forty fourth carbon copy of the originals DS and Dudley. JR moved so quickly and so ruthlessly that the weak, girlish Rukman didn't know what hit him. He was steak tartar before he could say martyr, and that was the end of that. He couldn't even lick his wounds let alone claim he was a martyr, because he was so quickly smote by JR's sword, and consigned to the politics of the dustbin.

But whenever a political persona successfully martyred himself or herself for the party, there has been trouble there for the party – and this can be considered a rule of thumb.

These days, Mangala Samaraweera has successfully martyred himself for his party. Make no mistake, at least as things stand, Samaraweera is not a successful politician. He is not even in Parliament, having been unable to face the reality that he will lose his seat.

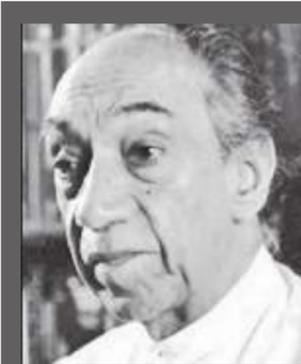
Lifetime

But then he has basically martyred himself for his party. He says he has opted out of the political process, but that he knows best how the country is run. There isn't a week that passes in which he doesn't offer his unsolicited advice to the powers that be.

But he says, he does all this while having opted out of active politics. That's what's called martyring yourself for your cause – your party. You pretend to go through all types of sacrifices, trials and tribulations, and make it appear you are doing all of it for your political cause, your political party.

He martyred himself for his political party this way and look where it has got both parties he wants something to do with, the SJB and the UNP. They are both in an absolute, awful mess.

Ranil Wickremesinghe has martyred himself for his party. He seems to be saying – without quite saying it – that he has to be lifetime leader of his party, and



J. R. Jayewardene



Ranil Wickremesinghe



Mangala Samaraweera



Sajith Premadasa



Anura Kumara Dissanayake

that he has to sacrifice himself to that fate. That's called martyring yourself for the party.

But since he has offered himself for his party in this way, look where it has got him, and his UNP.

His party, the oldest one in the country, has become a non-party. It's a shell, a useless bauble, but the man who has martyred himself for the party continues to be at its helm.

If there is any predictor of political failure or success in this country, it's the state of the individual political party.

The TNA is rife with internal strife, barely concealed, and it's a shell of what it used to be. The SLFP suffered the sudden internal insurrection of 2015, and is now a shadow of its former self.

Ruthless

The SJB is a new political outfit, but already it seems to be saddled with one leader, who has so far given leadership in two national elections and lost badly in both.

Say if it was the United States, and you lead your party to one election defeat nationally, you are turfed out from any leadership post.

Who remembers Micheal Dukkakisa Democrat who ran for president from the Democratic Party and lost, or Bob Dole who ran for president from the Republican Party and lost? They had one chance – blew it – and were not trusted to lead the party again at any other subsequent national election.

Who even remembers Al Gore and Hillary Clinton, who both lost once and were given the marching orders, despite

considerable name recognition. By remaining as party leader, Premadasa Jr. seems to have martyred himself for the party as well. Not that anybody is clamouring to take his job – nobody fancies the chances of the SJB much, at any future outing.

Nobody, except Champika Ranawaka that is, who desperately wants a shot at the presidency but who isn't trusted by anyone because of his cloak and dagger past, and his ruthless, naked ambition. The same goes for the JVP. Several national government election outings under the leadership of Anura Kumara Dissanayake and the party's fortunes have declined drastically – leave aside these guys winning anything.

So is the JVP the dynamic party it pretends to be? Is it a party that's so dynamic that it has an atrophied leadership that seems to have martyred itself at the party's godhead?

Anura Kumara Dissanayake has lost one too many elections at the helm of the party, and has nothing new in his bag of tricks to propel it forward. He has been droning on the last seven years or more in the same fashion – blaming everybody except himself and his party for everything around him.

But the JVP preaches as if it's in tune and in touch – as if it's the only party that is internationalist and liberated in its outlook, and as if it's the only breath of fresh air. Nobody buys that rhetoric, and that's a different matter.

But then again, it's easy to find out why nobody buys that line. The party leadership is stagnant despite serial defeats. Not just the leader, the entire party has martyred itself.

Their constant complaint is that they are the only pure as driven snow political party that represents the working poor, but that fact is never appreciated by the voter.

In other words, they say they are the long-suffering politicians, who are putting up with all the defeats and ignominy because they are all in it for the masses.

This is the definition of political self-martyrdom. There is no self-effacement, just self pity. It's a common trait with most Sri Lankan party leaderships, but at least with the JVP we would have thought it would be different considering that it's a party that bleats perpetually about doing the proper thing.

Wedded

To go back to where we started, the fact remains that a struggling party's fortunes depend on frequent, efficient and ruthless leadership transitions.

J. R. Jayewardene took over the UNP and transformed it from the fiefdom of the Senanayake family, and viola, everything changed overnight almost, with the UNP being able to fill that space in the 'public imaginary' that had been created by the disillusionment with Sirimavo Bandaranaike's SLFP, which was wedded to reforms that were destined to fail.

Even Chandrika Bandaranaike was able to lead the SLFP to victory after she engineered a leadership change and propelled herself to party leadership after its long winter of discontent.

If she can do it anybody can – but the problem with most political leaders of the assortment of opposition parties we have, is that they insist on martyring themselves. Eventually the party dies with them.

Even the old leftists that petered out would have had some political capital left if their leadership had not tried to martyr itself on the godhead of the SLFP and thereby lose half its legitimacy as a genuine left movement.

When they extricated themselves from that mess it was too late, and even then, the old guard continued to lead the party, and the less said about that situation the better.

There is no right-wing politics of this country at this time to speak of. There are martyrs and regular specialists at teeth gnashing. Sadly for the opposition, that's a recipe for a circus, certainly not one for a political resurrection.



Permitting religious cults is dangerous - Prof. Gunaratna

By
Nadira
Gunatilleke



The Government should not permit religious functionaries to cross over to the political space, said Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, in an exclusive interview with the *Sunday Observer*. Dr. Gunaratna is an Honorary Professor at the Sir John Kotalawala Defence University and Senior Advisor to its Department of Defence and Strategic Studies. Here he speaks about some current issues in Sri Lanka.

Q: 'Born Again' is a hot topic in Sri Lanka these days. Would you comment on it?

A: All religions are being used and misused by interested parties to spread their ideologies aggressively. The Government should create a Presidential Council of religious harmony to manage the religious challenges transforming into security threats. The Born Again Movement in Sri Lanka is not an exception.

All faiths are manipulated. No faith is immune. We have recently witnessed first-hand how Salafism, especially its Saudi version Wahhabism, was exploited by Zahran to attack Christians. During the P2P rally Hindu and Christian groups were exploited - the P2P protesters ended up worshipping suicide terrorists and terrorists in Jaffna.

Religious space is sacred. It should be treasured and protected by religious leaders. If religious leaders cannot control their faith communities, the Government should step in and act decisively. The Government should not permit religious functionaries to cross over to the political space.

The Thai Constitution forbids bhikkhus participating in politics. Thai authorities disrobe and punish bhikkhus who cross the red line. The Hindu nationalist organisation, *Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh* (RSS) member Ramachandra Vinayak Godse assassinated Mahatma Gandhi. To the detriment of the Hindus and Sri Lanka, the RSS has established a presence in Sri Lanka.

The exploitation of religion and ethnicity by politicians and other interested parties, both domestic and foreign, should be firmly dealt with. Religious freedom should come with responsibility - no religion should encroach in the space of others.

Sri Lanka can never move from a third world to a first world country un-

less the Government and community leaders develop legislation to regulate the religious and ethnic space. Ethnic and religious harmony is paramount for social and political stability and economic prosperity.

The Born Again Movement is a cult group that has deviated from mainstream Christianity. Similar to Salafism and its Wahhabi strain criticised by the local and traditional Muslims, the Born Again Movement is criticised by the mainstream Christians who coexist with other communities.

As the Yahapalana regime did not control the spread of the Born Again Movement, the cult is gathering momentum. A few hundred people are gathering around this faith group in Sri Lanka after a handful of Sri Lankan singers and cricketers participated in Born Again practices.

The Government in cooperation with the mainstream Christian leaders should stop the conversion of Buddhists and Hindus. The cult provides benefits to the converts while non converts are treated differently. With their healing sessions used as a technique to reach out to other faith communities, the cult is perceived as a threat by other faith communities in Sri Lanka.

Wearing Western attire and speaking fluent English, the preachers attract a cross section of society to the cult. Such practices lead to misunderstanding and disharmony. In a country where other religions coexisted peacefully until the 2000s, the Born Again Movement should be monitored and regulated.

From a psychological perspective, these practices and behaviours explain man's obsession with god(s) from the beginning of civilisation where he needed help, meaning and answers to the unknowns around him.

The cult members perceive that the challenges of their personal and professional lives can be addressed by joining these faith groups. When help is not within sight, they simply put the problem in God's hands and then they think they are free.

The members self isolate themselves. Despite being criticised and sidelined by the larger community, the cult members meet the solace, company and sense of acceptance.

Their belief in God makes the adherents feel that God is on their side, and that they are accepted by God. A segment of the spectators with similar unaddressed grievances who observe this process start to follow the cult. They validate the cult.

The danger of permitting religious cults to operate has been evident in



many instances.

1. Jonestown incident 1978 where 918 people died due to the instruction of cult leader Jim Jones

2. A Buddhist and Hindu cult Aum Shinrikyo led by Shoko Asahara used sarin to kill people in Tokyo in 1995. He was executed by Japan on July 6, 2018.

Like Zahran, these cult leaders were charming, charismatic and capable of fluent speech and assertive communication. The leader appeared in symbolic dress, beard, mannerism and gestures.

They surrounded themselves with wealthy followers who funded and protected them. The personal or occupational lives of the followers were in turmoil. Despite negative publicity, they continued to attract vulnerable segments of the population.

To attract and convince followers they demonstrated extraordinary skills and performances such as magic shows, especially, healing the blind, deaf, dumb and curing the possessed people.

Q: How do you interpret the latest behaviour of certain Tamil politicians displayed during Sri Lanka's 73rd Independence celebration?

A: To disrupt Sri Lanka's 73rd Independence Day celebration, a handful of Tamil activists and politicians organised a protest march from Ampara to

Jaffna from February 3 to 6, 2021. The face of the march was the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) that had suffered electoral defeat.

To revive, the TNA highlighted among others, investigations into disappearances and called for the release of imprisoned LTTE terrorists. To enlist Muslim support, the TNA also raised the burial issue and to enlist plantation workers' support, they demanded for them a Rs. 1,000 salary increase.

Referring to the Muslims as 'Tamil speaking people', MA Sumanthiran of the TNA attempted to woo the Muslims. Except Ameer Ali in Batticaloa and Imran Maharooof in Trincomalee, Muslims in general kept away from the TNA, considered a proxy of the LTTE. The LTTE ethnically cleansed 72,000 Muslims from the north and staged repeated massacres of Muslim villages in the east. The Muslims' memories of LTTE brutalities persisted.

Commonly known as P2P, the march originated in Potthuvil (P) and ended in Polikandi (P). After the protesters left the east, the march was heavily infiltrated by LTTE supporters and sympathisers. A hundred red and yellow flags without the Tiger emblem was paraded.

The rally ended with protesters saluting Millar, the first LTTE suicide terrorist and Thileepan, an LTTE leader. In parallel, the LTTE international

network staged their P2P march in the UK on February 7, 2021. The march was disrupted when the British police stopped the LTTE motorcade in Harrow, Middlesex and noted their vehicle numbers for investigation.

There were attempts to stage P2P marches in Canada, Switzerland, and Australia where LTTE flags were flown, cutouts of Velupillai Prabhakaran paraded, decorated lamps were lit, LTTE slogans sung and other LTTE memorabilia displayed.

Police investigations revealed that the LTTE headquarters group and other LTTE entities partly funded the protest. The P2P protests witnessed Tamil children carrying LTTE flags including the son of Pulavar alias Thumpan, the deputy leader of the LTTE headquarters group in the UK. An arms trafficker from North Korea, Pulavar was based in Indonesia moving weapons to Sri Lanka.

Like most LTTE functionaries that engaged in terrorist support activity, Pulavar masquerades as a human rights activist.

According to foreign intelligence, the headquarters group led by Anthony Cruz alias Sangeethan alias Dayabaran has been funding LTTE attacks in Sri Lanka. Cruz, a functionary of the LTTE national intelligence under Pottu Amman 1990 to 2009 was based in India from 1998-2003. With the end of Sri Lanka's battle against terrorism in 2009, Cruz travelled to the UK through India.

In addition to the HQ group, known as World Tamil Historical Society, the P2P has been funded by the Tamil Coordinating Committee, another LTTE front led by Nediyanan.

Q: Does Sri Lanka really need the 13th Amendment?

A: The 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka (13A) created Provincial Councils in Sri Lanka. The Councils were created after July 29 1987, when the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord was signed between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayewardene.

The background to the Accord was India providing sanctuary, financing, arming, training, and directing the LTTE. With India compelling Sri Lanka to sign the Accord, the government faced an insurrection in the south. The unhappiness was reflected when a naval rating hit Rajiv Gandhi nearly assassinating him.

The LTTE assassinated Gandhi after returning to violence having reneged on the Agreement. The reality in Sri Lanka is that any Government devolving powers to the North and East

will be toppled. The historical experience is that devolution of power to the provinces will be exploited by the separatists to secede.

Tamil politicians both TNA and others are not trusted. They are either associated with the LTTE international network or with India. In February 2016, the Chief Minister of Sri Lanka's Northern Province, C.V. Wigneswaran sought India's direct intervention in the complete implementation of the Amendment.

Having suffered from Indian covert assistance to the LTTE and five other terrorist groups, Sri Lankans detested Indian intervention. Although India is unlikely to rearm the LTTE, Sri Lankans are suspicious of Indian designs especially, in the north and the east.

Increasingly, an opinion is building in Sri Lanka to abrogate the 13th Amendment along the lines of India revoking the special status, or limited autonomy, granted under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir—a region administered by India as a state which consists of the larger part of Kashmir and which has been the subject of dispute among India, Pakistan, and China since 1947.

On August 5, 2019, the Government of India, cut off communication lines in the Kashmir Valley, a region gripped by a prolonged separatist terrorism and insurgency. Kashmiri politicians were taken into custody, including the former chief minister.

The Government is aware of the LTTE planning to harness the political freedoms in the north and the east and subvert the Tamil community. If there is a revival of the LTTE, the Sri Lankan Government will not hesitate to move in this direction.

The current strategy by the separatists is to masquerade as human rights activists and provoke Government overreaction. As such, the Government did not respond decisively to the P2P protest. However, having witnessed the detrimental impact of the protest, the Government will no longer permit a similar episode as it compromises the hard won stability and security.

The Government is also aware of the LTTE working both on the political and terrorist fronts. In addition to plotting intermittent attacks, the LTTE network overseas is building a support infrastructure in the north and the east.

After the military defeat of the LTTE in May 2009, Sri Lankans are unwilling to devolve land, police and financial powers to the provinces. The structure implemented in the North and the East should be acceptable to all parts of the country.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS:

Main offender in environment pollution

by
Hemantha
Kulatunga



In another timely and important move, the Government has imposed a ban on a range of single use plastic products in the country. The ban was enforced on Poly Ethylene Terephthalate (PET) and Vinyl Chloride (PVC) containers, sachets made out of polythene and plastic, and various inflatable plastic toys such as plastic cotton buds.

Single-use plastic products made out of fossil fuel-based plastics create one of the worst environmental risks everywhere in the world. Meant to be disposed of after using once, often in a fraction of time, these products create havoc in the environment. Products such as food packages, liquid sachets, cups, straws, plates, bags, and many other similar items damage the surroundings with their non-biodegradable nature. Particularly, the marine environment around the island has been one of the worst affected due to haphazard dumping.

On an earlier occasion in 2017, the then government imposed a ban on the use of polythene below 20 microns in thickness. Similar to many such prohibitions, the then government failed to sustain enforcement of the ban due to its inefficiency and negligence.

Although the intention was genuine, actions were marred by a lack of coordinated monitoring and lukewarm punitive actions leading both sellers and users to ignore the ban. The global impact on single-use plastic (SUP) pollution is

so significant, that in March 2019 at the fourth session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi, 170 countries pledged to 'significantly reduce' the use of single-use plastic products by 2030, in a resolution. Many of them including the United Kingdom, the United States, Kenya, India, and China have already commenced imposing rules, regulations, and laws on selected SUPs in support of the UN resolution and to curb the menace in their respective countries.

Single-use plastic

It is clear that imposing a ban is only one positive step to confront the grueling problem. However, for the ban to succeed, the public must be aware of not only the hazard it creates but also understand what SUP is. Single-use plastic simply means products such as packaging, wrappers, water bottles, sachets, straws, shopping bags, and many other similar day-to-day use items. All these products are used only once and then discarded to the environment in a short time.

The use of SUPs has tripled since the 1990s due to the ease of use, ease of disposal, malleability, lightweight, and low cost, throughout the world. Since the introduction of single-use plastics Sri Lankans have embraced these products that were unknown territory at the time. However, by the time the extreme, bad impacts came to light, the country has become tenaciously accustomed to their use. Such a convenient or cost-effective option or substitute was not introduced since then for the common man.

According to the United Nations environment reports, only 9 percent of the plastic waste is recycled out of an esti-



mated nine billion metric tons produced annually. Most of the balance waste ends up in landfills, oceans, waterways, and in the open environment. According to specialists, plastic waste is not biodegradable and remains in the atmosphere for hundreds, or maybe thousands of years, mostly in micro plastic form. That can contaminate the soil and water resources and shift to animal tissues and eventually wind up entering the human food chain.

Sri Lanka, an island surrounded by the ocean, throughout history, was regarded as a blessing in many spheres such as geopolitics, economic importance, and the naturally strategic location. However, it is regrettable that the damage done to the beaches around the country due to plastic waste dumping is arguably the worst pollution affecting Sri Lanka.

Plastic waste, not only single-use but every form of non-biodegradable products, causes severe damage to all forms of marine ecosystems around the country. According to experts, plastics and related debris contribute to 80 percent of marine pollution. At least 700 species of marine species including sea birds, turtles, and other marine mammals in the

ocean are severely affected.

It is reported that every minute an estimated two million single-use plastic bags are given out around the world over the counters. Sri Lanka's estimated quantity cannot exactly be determined, yet, a couple of hundred thousand would be a safe guess. Each year an enormous amount of micro plastic waste end up in beaches around the island either dumped by the people or washed ashore with the tides. A part of such trash sink and another part is consumed by marine animals or are accumulated in ocean gyres.

The impact of marine pollution on seafood is a matter that has not been properly discussed in Sri Lankan society despite its importance. Micro plastics generated through plastic waste can be ingested by fish, and in turn, end up in the human food chain.

Ocean debris

The impact of the harmful contaminants in seafood is not yet being studied in the country. As there is a potential risk, a monitoring program focusing on ocean debris should be introduced by the authorities to examine the possibility

of food contamination.

Finding suitable alternatives to SUP items is a dire need today. Both, manufacturers and consumers must be made aware of the repercussions of using plastic products. However, considering the enormity of its current use, finding substitutes for SUPs can be a daunting task. Due to their ease of use and low cost, the transformation could take time, even with a feasible alternative.

An effective public awareness campaign on easy alternatives to avoid the negative impact should be on the cards of the authorities such as the Central Environmental Authority and the Ministry of Environment. The existing media publicity cannot single-handedly tackle the situation.

Occasional electronic media advertisements that appear do not make a significant impact on the public mindset. In fairness, it must be mentioned that Sri Lankan media, both electronic and print, perform a highly commendable task voluntarily on the subject of pollution and environment protection.

The public must be influenced to make a conscious effort to curtail the use of SUPs. They must be encouraged to avoid purchasing plastics as much as possible.

If and when an unavoidable need occurs, the people must be taught to use the minimum quantity, particularly when they purchase retail goods. Making them aware of the significance of reuse is highly productive to reduce SUP usage. The public must be made aware of the importance of recycling and persuade them to help recycle whenever possible.

Although the production and selling of SUP items are banned, the success of

its continuity would depend on the monitoring process. If not, similar to the 2017 ban on polythene, the SUP products also will find ways to be back in the market. Fortunately, however, in Sri Lanka, unlike in some other countries, resistance is minimal from the producers as yet. Law enforcement is compulsory with an effective penal system with heavy fines to control the offenders who litter the environment.

Proper awareness

Providing proper awareness by educating the community is imperative to combat the menacing issue. As discussed, education is one of the key aspects in changing behaviour. Most of the citizenry is already aware of the harm caused by plastic pollution although they are not considering the issue as a pressing one. A well-planned and properly structured educational program starting at school level must be introduced to derive the best results.

Experts say that at present there is a dire need for a national action plan to minimise the damage. The imposed ban must be extended phase-wise with the consensus of all stakeholders. Producers of plastics and polythene based products (Approximately 400 manufacturers according to EDB) must be given adequate support by the Government to switch to alternative products unless their products are exported.

Also, every new entrepreneur who wants to produce eco-friendly substitutes must be given encouragement and assistance. The entire citizenry of the country must be influenced to fall in line to curb the life threatening plastic pollution hazard.

News Feature

Power struggle among Opposition leaders – Johnston Fernando

Leaders of 12 political parties met at Minister Wimal Weerawansa's residence in Colombo on Thursday, February 11 to discuss the current political situation and common issues affecting the public.

At the meeting, a collective decision had been made to support the Government and to meet President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and discuss how the Government's policies should be taken forward. It was also decided to protect the image of the Government, President Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Rajapaksa, and go forward together to facilitate the development of the country.

Nothing special

Minister Udaya Gammanpila told reporters ahead of the meeting that this meeting was nothing special and is a meeting among the political parties in the SLPP led alliance. He said a Party Leaders meeting was held from April 2015 until the Government came to power. Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara who also attended the meeting said it is being held to protect the Government and not to create divisions. He said that certain people are creating conspiracies to split the Government.

Criticism

The Parliamentary Group of the SLPP at a discussion with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had reiterated that they will continue to support the Government in implementing the 'Saubhagayadekma' manifesto. During the discussion which took place at the President's Office at the Parliamentary Complex on Thursday, February 11, SLPP Parliamentarians said everyone should be more alert regarding certain criticisms being made against the Government.

They said since certain members of the Opposition are trying to transform these criticisms into a powerful anti-government force, it is important to focus more attention on all of these facts. SLPP Leader Maithripala Sirisena, SLPP General Secretary Dayasiri Jayasekara, UPFA General Secretary Mahinda Amaraweera, and a group of SLPP Parliamentarians participated in the discussion with the President.

Ready to face challenges

Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said that it is ridiculous for those who gathered at Temple Trees twice a week to discuss the imprisonment of Rajapaksa family members during the former Yahapalana Government's tenure, to talk about the independence of the Judiciary today.

At a ceremony to mark the fourth anniversary of the SLPP in Kandy recently, the Minister said that the present Government had to pay for the heinous betrayals of the previous Yahapalana Government and they are ready to face all those challenges without fear.

Minister Rambukwella said that the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet had made allegations against the country based on the betrayal of the then Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera and the Government would categorically reject them.

He said that the Government is successfully facing all these problems with the strength given to it by the people of this country. The Minister said that the SLPP had carried out a political revolution in this country within a short span of four years but that the path was not paved on a bed of roses.

Minister Rambukwella said most of them had to make statements to the FCID without any reason adding that they could go around with a smile as



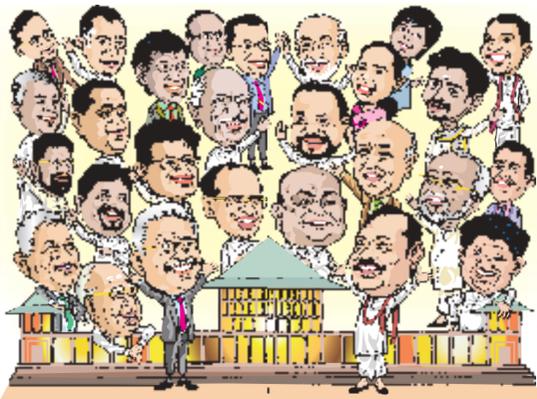
PRIME MINISTER MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA IS THE MASSIVE PILLAR THAT STANDS BEHIND THE SUCCESS OF THE COUNTRY AND THE SLPP
- SLPP GENERAL SECRETARY

they had not committed any crime.

Apology demanded

Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) General Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam said Minister Wimal Weerawansa must publicly apologise for his comment to a local weekend newspaper where he claimed the President should lead the SLPP. Addressing a recent media briefing at SLPP headquarters, Kariyawasam said Weerawansa had told the newspaper that Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa must be replaced with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the leader of the SLPP. He said, "Weerawansa must understand the SLPP is not his party and he has no right to either make decisions or comments on the SLPP."

Kariyawasam said the SLPP is of the position that Minister Wimal Weerawansa must withdraw the comment he made over the SLPP leadership. He said, "We are disappointed by the statement made by Wimal Weerawansa, the leader of a political party affiliated with the SLPP." He was defeated baselessly yet the majority of the country still requests his contribution for the betterment of the country. SLPP General Secretary said, "Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is the massive pillar that stands behind the success of the country as well as the SLPP. The



University of Politics
By Prof. Backbencher

SLPP will not betray their party for narrow political gains and SLPP will always maintain the code of discipline."

Wimal's response

A couple of days ago, Minister Weerawansa also responded to media queries outside the Negombo court complex whether he would publicly apologise for his statement. Weerawansa told to the media how he campaigned for then President Mahinda Rajapaksa's victory at the 2005 Presidential Election much to the discomfort of his then JVP colleagues, quit the JVP in 2008 to throw his weight behind then President Mahinda Rajapaksa amidst efforts made by the JVP to sabotage the battle against LTTE terrorism, spearheading the high profile Mahinda Sulanga campaign in the wake of Presidential polls defeat in 2015 and promoting Gotabaya Rajapaksa's candidature at the 2019 Presidential Election.

Minister Weerawansa said if the SLPP wanted him to apologise for those above decisions of his he would gladly do so. He said that the SLPP's stand that constituent parties had no right to comment on the main party wasn't acceptable. Weerawansa questioned if that was the case how could they have commented on the UNP, JVP and other political parties.

Weerawansa categorically stated that the NFF's stand as regards the SLPP didn't in any way mean Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's role as the Leader of the party wasn't required. He said, "The SLPP is the main party in the ruling alliance. I meant that the President should hold a key post in it while the Prime Minister remains the Leader. If the President is appointed to a key post, it will help develop better ties with the alliance partners. That is what I meant."

Following Minister Weerawansa's remarks outside the Negombo court complex, the Government Parliamentary Group meeting held in the Parliament complex had also exchanged heated arguments over Weerawansa's statement. Several SLPP MPs including State Minister Nimal Lanza had launched blistering attacks on Weerawansa. When Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara intervened and asked the members to refrain from criticising a colleague who was not present, the veteran was reportedly abused. However, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa then intervened and calmed the situation down.

PCol on Political Victimisation

The Opposition in Parliament urged the Government to table the report of the Presidential Commission on Political Victimisation in Parliament. Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa told Parliament, "We propose that the report of the Commission must be debated before appointing a special presidential commission." Leader of the House Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said that the report can be tabled in

recently met UNP Leader Wickremesinghe in this regard. Confirming that he had met UNP Leader Wickremesinghe, MP Fernando told the media the UNP Leader had advised him to continue the discussion with party Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardena.

He said the aim of the discussion initiated by the SJB General Secretary Ranjith Maduma Bandara was to unite the two UNP factions to create a platform

for the opposition to fight the common enemy. MP Fernando said that the party had reached out to the UNP to form a common consensus on how to fight against the Government.

"Let's decide how we are going to contest later on, whether we are going to come as a coalition or are they going to go as separate parties or under one common symbol. But right now, what we need to do is, we need to also engage. SJB is the one that has a voice, at least in Parliament, and that matters a lot. Even Karu Jayasuriya. We need to get all of them on one platform because we are fighting a regime that is very difficult. So, if you are to fight against corruption, malpractices, we need to come into a common platform, leaving our political differences aside," MP Harin Fernando said.

Leadership struggle

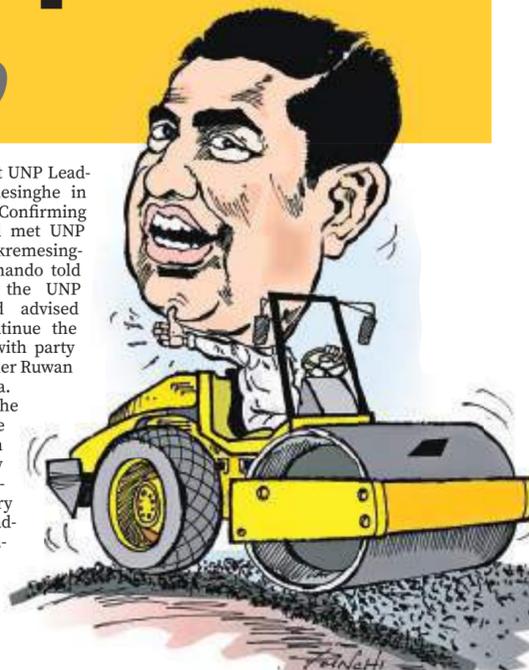
Minister Johnston Fernando had alleged that there is a huge struggle for the leadership of the Opposition among a few of its members. MP Harin Fernando is trying to form a separate group after creating a rift between Sajith Premadasa and Champika Ranawaka. The Minister said according to the report of the Commission appointed by former President Maithripala Sirisena, Premadasa was accused of corruption.

He said Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa and others are not playing the role of the Opposition properly so that they will have to wait a long time to come to power. "It is very clear that the Opposition is politically bankrupt. Premadasa's supporters went to the bridge I am building in Nawala and opposed it. They opposed bringing down the Covid-19 vaccine as well, but none of it was successful and it clearly shows their political bankruptcy."

Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith said he is ready to seek an International Criminal Court (ICC) probe if law is not properly enforced against those who are responsible for the Easter Sunday terror attacks in 2019 which claimed the lives of more than 260 persons. Addressing a media briefing at the Archbishop's House in Colombo, the Cardinal said, "I hope our leaders will not allow that to happen."

The Cardinal said he had called upon President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for access to the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCol) on Easter Sunday bombings. He, however, said that he is yet to receive a copy of the report. The Cardinal said he had asked the panel of the PCol to look into the people who were behind the terror attacks, in addition to probing those who failed to prevent carnage. "I hope the Commission would respond positively to the request," he said.

TNA legislator M.A. Sumanthiran told Parliament



THE SJB HAS HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNP ON A POSSIBLE MERGER. HOWEVER, UNP LEADER RANIL WICKREMESINGHE HAS RULED OUT A MERGER

that the Government had withdrawn the special security assigned to him and that his life was in danger as a result. He warned if anything happens to his life now, Minister of Public Security Sarath Weerasekera would have to take responsibility for it. Sumanthiran's STF security was withdrawn immediately after his participation in the five-day Pottuvil to Polikandy march by Tamil political parties, civil society activists, and citizens from the North and East.

However, Minister Weerasekera told Parliament that the STF security assigned for Sumanthiran was removed on his orders, and that the MP had participated in a protest march despite claiming to have threats to his life. The Minister also told the media "if there is a threat to Sumanthiran's life from the LTTE, he could not participate in such a rally. Sumanthiran took part in a rally with a large crowd. If he had actually feared a threat, he wouldn't have resorted to such action. There was also a court order banning the protest. So how can we protect a person doing something illegal?" The Minister said that the MP will continue to have police protection of two police officers, which he is entitled to as an MP.

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa on Friday, February 12 urged Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena to allow SJB Parliamentarian Ranjan Ramanayake to attend Parliament in the same way SLPP MP Premalal Jayasekara was permitted. He had called upon the Speaker to permit Ramanayake to maintain his Parliamentary seat in accordance with his Parliamentary privileges. Opposition Leader Premadasa pointed out that when the Court of Appeal has issued an order to the Secretary-General of Parliament to refrain from taking any action pertaining to MP Ramanayake's Parliamentary seat, it indicates that his Parliamentary seat will continue to be maintained.

He said the Chairman of the Election Commission had explained to Parliament that MP Ranjan Ramanayake's seat would remain effective for the first six months of his four-year imprisonment.

Therefore, he said that not one, but several orders had been issued suggesting that MP Ramanayake could continue as a Member of Parliament, requesting that he be allowed to attend Parliament in the same manner MP Jayasekara had been allowed to do so.

IT IS RIDICULOUS FOR THOSE WHO GATHERED TWICE A WEEK TO DISCUSS THE IMPRISONMENT OF RAJAPAKSA FAMILY MEMBERS TO TALK ABOUT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY TODAY
- KEHELIYA RAMBUKWELLA

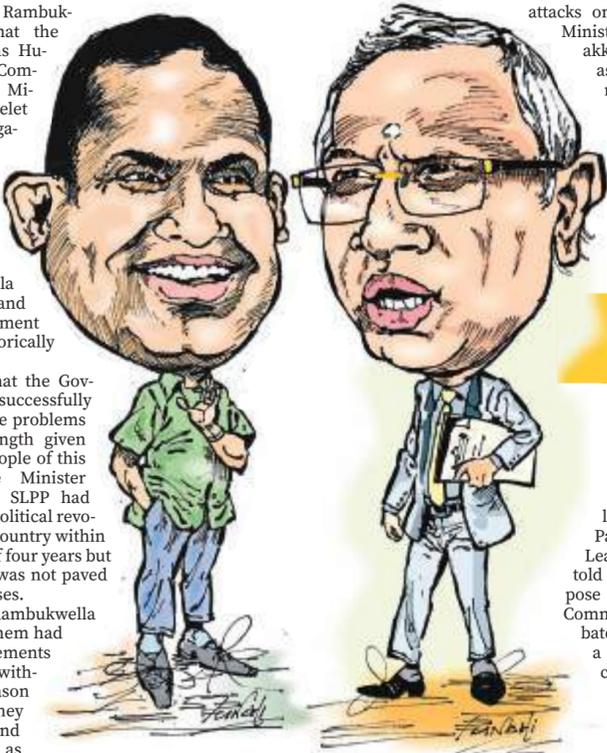
Parliament and that the Government will not interfere with the process. However, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena told the Parliament that the report would be tabled in Parliament after receiving it from the Presidential Secretariat.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrived in Parliament on Thursday, February 11 around 10.05 am and stayed for about two hours. The President entered the Chamber with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and stayed there for about 35 minutes from 10.15 a.m. to 10.50 a.m.

Former President Maithripala Sirisena was also seated in the Chamber at that time. State Minister of Finance, Capital Markets, State Enterprises and Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal was addressing Parliament when the President entered Parliament. This is the President's fourth visit to Parliament since last August following its inaugural session. After leaving the Chamber, the President went to the President's office in Parliament and met several Ministers and Parliamentarians of the ruling party. He left Parliament around 12.10 p.m.

Merger talks

The main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) has held discussions with the United National Party (UNP) on a possible merger. However, UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe has ruled out a possible merger between the UNP and SJB. There was media speculation that SJB frontliner Harin Fernando had



Canada contributes Rs. 151 m for school meal program

Global Affairs Canada will provide CAD 1 million (Rs. 151 million) to help smallholder farmers cultivate nutritious crops for the national school meal program.

This program will be conducted by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government.

Responding to the impact of Covid-19, the Home Grown School Feeding project will provide nutritious and safe school meals to vulnerable primary schoolchildren by linking the National School Meal Program with local smallholder farmers. The project will benefit an estimated 1,700 female farmers and 170,000 children in several districts across the Northern, Eastern and North Central provinces.

The Home Grown School Feeding project is an innovative approach and the first of its kind in Sri Lanka. It is designed to boost the local economy and improve the nutritional status of communities in regions with poor nutrition standards and high levels of poverty.

By purchasing produce for the school meals from local smallholder farmers residing in the vicinity of the schools, the project creates a predictable outlet for farmers and a stable income while stimulating local production of nutrient-dense crops.

The funding from Canada will benefit an estimated 170,000 primary grade school children who receive free meals in school, by ensuring that the meals provided are nutritious, diverse, fresh and culturally appropriate. The meals are also an incentive for families to send their children, especially girls, to school.

The project focuses on empowering women and contributing to gender equality. The smallholder farmers selected for the project will be primarily women, mostly mothers of the school children, from some of the poorest households who have been hard hit by Covid-19's impact on food systems.

The project includes community engagement and behaviour change campaigns to address disproportionate workload and care responsibilities placed on women, while enhancing nutrition education and promoting better eating habits. The project will also as-

sist in building resilience of farmers to recurring climate shocks by boosting productivity of family farms.

"Canada is pleased to re-engage with WFP in supporting the Government of Sri Lanka to improve nutrition among schoolchildren and food security in Sri Lanka, both of which were negatively impacted by Covid-19," said Canadian High Commissioner, David McKinnon.

"This is great for Sri Lanka's agricultural self-sufficiency and for girls' retention in schools, especially in these Covid times," he said.



Two farmers from Manmunai West, Batticaloa engaged in the resilience building project

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- ◆ Must have approvals from all government authorities.
- ◆ 40 - foot container accessibility is important.

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Contact Details :

Contact Person : General Manager
 E-mail : info.causewaylanka@causewaypaints.com
 Tel : 038-2240040
 Fax : 038-2240046

YWMA to assist women-headed families

There are thousands of women-headed families in the country predominantly in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces and they need to be provided with livelihood assistance, said the President of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA), Fawaza Thaha.



Fawaza Thaha

She said the outbreak of deadly Coronavirus had severely affected the living standards of low income earning families predominantly those who had been employed on a daily wage basis and women-headed families who have small schooling children.

She said the needs of women-headed families must be addressed immediately and young women from those families must be empowered and must be provided proper self-employment training and financial assistance to launch their own businesses at domestic level.

Thaha said that the YWMA, one of the women empowerment volunteer organisations in Sri Lanka, is extending a helping hand for the women on the brink of despair and those who have been marginalised in society without race, cast, religion and other differences.

Continued from page 4

Bachelet's report ignores...

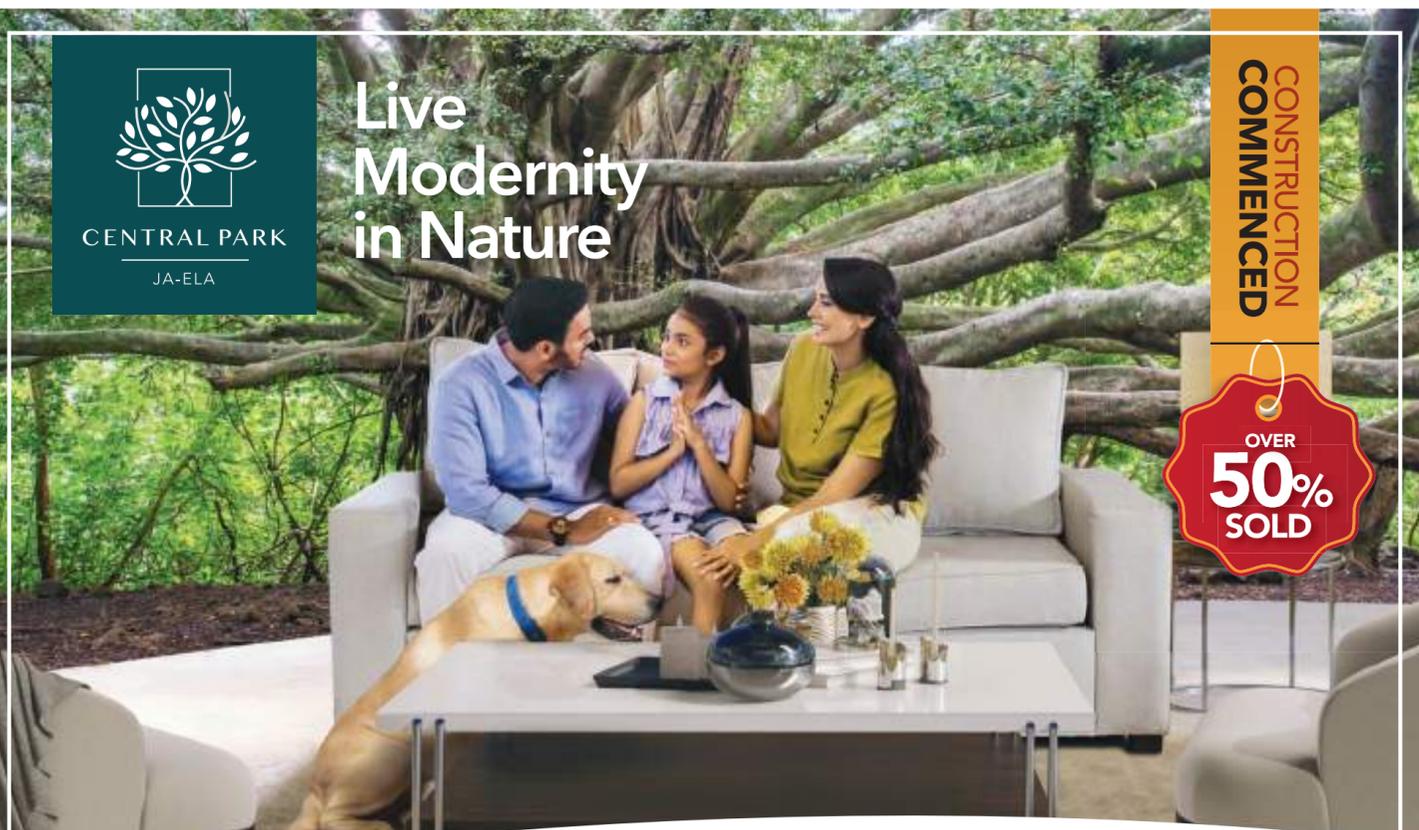
Q The Opposition in Parliament raised concern on the removal of Special Task Force (STF) security given to TNA parliamentarian M. A. Sumanthiran. Your views?

A: It is entirely up to the Defence Authorities to make such decisions. Different people have different numbers as well as different divisions for providing security. So, it is up to the Speaker if there is any matter to be considered.

Q There is speculation that the names of several prominent figures of the former Yabapalana Government are mentioned in the final report of the Presidential Commission which probed the Easter Sunday attacks. Will the Government be able bring the culprits who are held responsible for this tragedy to book without delay?

A: The Commission had been sitting for a long time. Certain recommendations have been made by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry.

So, it has to be known to the public and Parliament. If there is any action to be taken by the judiciary process it will also be discussed.



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Hay - Bernie (nee Perera)

Teacher and Lecturer. Mother of Ramona Hay (Sydney Australia), beloved grandmother of Tiana De Almeida (Perth, Western Australia), daughter of the late Mr Polycarp Perera & the late Mrs Therese Violet Perera, sister of the late Antoinette Thiruppathy (Tonie). Passed away peacefully on the 4th of February. The funeral took place privately on Thursday the 11th of February at The General Cemetery, Borella.

May her soul Rest in Peace. May she gain Eternal Glory

10.02.1938-04.02.2021

Please share your condolences via email on bghay2021@hotmail.com

Covid-19

WHO backtracks on dismissing Wuhan lab theory

The WHO's Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says "all hypotheses remain open and require further analysis and study".

The theory that Covid-19 originated from a laboratory in Wuhan has not been dismissed by investigators, the head of the World Health Organisation has suggested. Last week, a WHO-led mission in China said it was not looking further into the question of whether the virus escaped from a lab, which it considered highly unlikely.

However, in a press briefing on Friday, Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "Some questions have been raised as to whether some hypotheses have been discarded. Having spoken with some members of the team, I wish to confirm that all hypotheses remain open and require further analysis and study."



WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

"Some of that work may lie outside the remit and scope of this mission."

"We have always said that this mission would not find all

the answers, but it has added important information that takes us closer to understanding the origins of the Covid-19 virus."

Dr Tedros said a summary of their findings would be published next week and the US has said it wants to review the data.

The mission leader, Dr Peter Ben Embarek, said on Friday the labs in Wuhan his team visited stated they had not been working with the virus that causes Covid-19, or had it in their collections before the outbreak. Dr Embarek said it was possible the virus could still be present in samples that have not yet been analysed.

He said that if scientists from Wuhan labs had been studying the virus before the outbreak, it would not have been a secret.

"Usually laboratory researchers who work and discover new viruses would immediately pub-

lish their findings. That's a common practice around the world, particularly with new, interesting viruses," he said.

He said his team had gained a much better insight into the early stages of the outbreak and concluded there was no large cluster of the disease in Wuhan or elsewhere around the city in the months prior to the first cases in December 2019.

The mission has said its main hypothesis is that the virus originated in a bat, although there are several possible scenarios for how it passed to humans, possibly first by infecting another animal species.

The former administration of US president Donald Trump said it believed the virus may have escaped from a lab in Wuhan. China has strongly denied this, and says the Wuhan Institute of Virology was not studying related viruses. - *Sky News*

Jayalal Rohana's funeral today



Veteran actor Jayalal Rohana passed away at the age of 56 while receiving treatment at the Colombo North Teaching Hospital in Ragama on Thursday, February 11. Rohana made an immense contribution in the fields of cinema, teledrama, radio, and theatre.

Although primarily known for his versatile acting, Jayalal Rohana has also made great contributions to the entertainment industry as a theatre director, writer, makeup artist, and radio playwright. He was also a lecturer and teacher.

He was well-known for his roles in teledramas such as 'Isuruyogaya', and films 'Ayoma' and 'Sinhawalokanaya'.

His body was brought to Sudharshi Hall last afternoon for the public to pay their respects, from his residence in Kossinna, Ganemulla. The cortege will leave Sudharshi Hall at 3.00 p.m. today. The cremation will take place at the Borella cemetery.

DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Mr. Neville Gunasekara

Co-ordinating secretary to the former Hon Minister of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development passed away most peacefully on 24th January 2021 and the cremation was held on 25th January 2021.

We wish to extend our grateful thanks to all the neighbours, friends, relations, Manager and staff of Seylan bank Kalubowila branch, Area Manager and the staff of Regional office (SUBS II) and all other branch staff of Seylan Bank PLC and the Director and entire staff of Rohini Funeral Parlour Maharakgama who contributed in numerous ways and participated at the cremation and for the floral tributes and messages of condolence.

Our profuse thanks to all who joined in our hour of grief.

Chithra Wickramanayake (Beloved wife), Rajitha Gunasekara (loving daughter), Dilukshan De Silva (Son in law), Senaya and Saveesh (grand children) Sisters in law, Brothers in law, Sisters and close relatives.



Gamini Perera of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL) printing section, who had worked on a range of printing technology from the 'Lead Linotype' to the latest 'computer processing' system, retired recently after setting a long service record of 52 years. The ANCL felicitated him for his dedication and commitment to the company at a ceremony organised by the *Sarasaviya* where he worked at the time of retirement. Here Perera receives a token of appreciation from ANCL Chairman W. Dayaratne PC, Director, Editorial, Dharma Sri Kariyawasam, Director, Legal, Rakitha Abeygunawardane, Director, Finance, Janaka Ranathunga, Director, Operations, Canishka Witharana and editors were present. Pic by Thilak Perera

THIRTY-FIRST DAY MEMORIAL AND THANKSGIVING

BIRTH

26
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1938



DEATH

15
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2021

MRS. ANNE PHILOMINA RATNADEVI CHELLAPPAH

(Retired Teacher, MN/St. Xavier's Girls' College (National School))

Wife of late Mr. Rex Visaharajan Chellappa (Lieutenant Officer, Sri Lanka Navy)

We would like to thank all those who were with us during this time of mourning.

Sorrowing family members:

Sisters - Carmal Susiladevi (RIP), Winifreda Chandradevi

Brothers-in-law - Baulu Benedict, Jude Nandagopalan

Children - Sylvester (RIP), Calistus, Jude (RIP), Nilmini, Nina

Nieces and Nephews - Delicia Rathnalingam, Nadeesha Vijayakanthan, Manel Dharmaraja, Ajith, Seetha,

Children-in-law - Yogeswary, Violette, Catherine, Linus, Charles,

Grandchildren - Sarah, Tatyana, Rudy, Cynthia, Maeve, Milleni, Mirancian, Ronnel

Linus (son-in-law) - 0777711566

OBITUARY

FERNANDO - FABIAN

Retired Mathematics and Physics Teacher and Assistant Prefect of Games at St. Mary's College, Negombo, and retired Mathematics and Athletic Coach of the Calgary Board of Education, passed away peacefully at home in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, to the loving embrace of Jesus our Saviour.

Beloved husband of Sylvia Fernando, nee Rosa (retired Teacher of Croos Convent, Negombo and retired Kindergarten and Music Teacher at Christopher Robin Private School - Calgary), son of late Mr. K.M. Joseph N. E. Fernando and Mrs. Josephine Fernando of Negombo, brother of late Leonard, Kenny, Hilda, Jestus, Francisca, Stella and brother of Bertila Emmanuel, loving father of Paula Srianthi (Patrick Hettiaratchi) and John Ronjenboth of Canada, grandfather of Joseph Sunimal, Marian Hirushika (Matthew), Maria Ruweka (Kevin), John Nishan (Elizabeth), Christine Rukshana (Saurabh) and great-grandfather of Jacinta and Adrian.

Funeral masses will be held on Wednesday February 17th and February 18th, 2021 and will be live streamed (see McInnis and Holloway Funeral Homes: www.mhfh.com for details).

Colombo University to get swimming pool



Alumni Association President Rajeev Amarasuriya exchanges the MoU with KWA Architects Partner Thilhan Koththigoda. Vice Chancellor Chandrika Wijeyaratne and Alumni Head of Administration Sunethra Peiris look on.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Colombo Alumni Association and KWA Architects for the architectural and structural work for a 50-metre swimming pool for the university.

The University of Colombo (UoC) Alumni Association has undertaken to construct a swimming pool which has been a long-term need of the university. Construction work will begin mid this year. The proposed swimming pool complex is expected to meet all standards associated with a professional aquatic facility.

KWA Architects will provide all the design and structural work in an honorary capacity. KWA Architects Precedent Partner Thilhan Koththigoda said they considered this project as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project. Many of the architects at KWA, including himself are graduates of State universities, and he said they consider this as an opportunity to give back to the State university sector.

KWA Architects with their engineering and cost consultancy partners Edifice Consultants (Pvt) Ltd., Haritha Consultants (Pvt) Ltd and ARQS Consultants (Pvt) Ltd,

will provide the design and consultancy services on a pro bono basis.

The project team will comprise Thilhan Koththigoda and Thushari Wijesundera as the lead architects, Edifice Consultants Director, Engineering, Nuwan Bandaranayake, as the structural engineer, chartered engineer Shiran Jayalath as the mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineer and ARQS Consultants Managing Director Hasitha Gunasekera, as cost consultant.

UoC Alumni Association President Rajeev Amarasuriya said, when the university called for the support of the Alumni Association to construct a swimming pool complex, even though it was a large project, the Association undertook it, as it would be a development which would cater to and benefit generations of students.

He said in 1995, the Association gifted the University of Colombo a 400-bed women's hostel complex at Buller's Lane. Now 24 years later, the Association representing all University of Colombo Alumni was happy to take on this project which was even larger in magnitude. He invited all University of Colombo Alumni to support this initiative.

Obituaries

EMMANUEL - LUCIAN NATHAN

Retired Teacher St. Benedict's College, Kotahena, and former Visiting Lecturer at Aquinas University / College, passed away peacefully on the 13th of January 2021 in Toronto, Canada, shortly after his 90th birthday. Proud student, old boy and dedicated Teacher at St. Benedict's College and first President and Patron of the Old Boys Union in Toronto, Canada, loving husband of the late Clara, loving father of Vimalan, loving father-in-law of Darshini, loving grandfather of Clara and Jerome, beloved brother of the late Chelvam, late Gunam, late Jeyam, late Nasen, late Ranjan, late Pushpam, late Ranji, late Nawaraj, Rajini and Mohan, beloved brother-in-law of the late Mr T A Benedict, late Mrs Mary Rose Seemanpillai, late Mrs Mary Oblate Benedict, late Dr D A Peters and Mr A R Walter laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery, Thornhill, Ontario on the 20th of January, after a private ceremony, due to the prevailing restrictions. Condolences can be sent via SMS to the family at +14165505347. 010747

KULASEKERE - CHANDRIKA (nee KALINGAWANSA)

Beloved wife of Vivindra (Dynamic AV Technologies), mother of Dilshan (L&S Engineering), Roshini (University of Astrakhan, Russia), mother-in-law of Sewwandi (People's Bank), sister of Indrika (High Court Judge), daughter of Pathma Kalingawansa, expired on 11/02/2021. Funeral on 14th February 2021 at 4 p.m. at Mt. Lavinia Cemetery. Cortege leaves residence at 3 p.m. from 164/77, Miraj Housing, Soysapura, Moratuwa. 012132

KURUKULASURIYA - RANJAN DEEPAL

Beloved husband of Dayani. Darling father of Harsha, Mohan and Dinesh, much loved father-in-law of Chathumini, Lanka and Sandunika, loving brother of late Amara, Anula and of Sunil, expired. Cortege leaves on 14.02.2021 residence 40/34, Riverside Park, Thilaka Road, Kaduruwaha, Gorakana, Panadura (Moratuwa - Panadura Old Galle Road) at 4:30 pm to Prince of Wales College. Cremation at Rawatawatta General Cemetery at 6:00 pm. 012153

VANCUYLENBURG - HECTOR COLLIN

Retired Surveyor, dearly loved husband of late Aelda (nee Weber), loving father of Christopher, Therese, Louis and Celine, father-in-law of Antonette, Ananda, Nayana and Vijitha and cherished grandfather of Gayathri, Chrisanne, Harsha, Calum, Udara and Kasun passed away peacefully. Viewing on Sunday the 14th February from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at Pinegrove Cemetery, Kington Street, Minchinbury, NSW 2770. Service will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, cnr Todd Row & Moore Street, St. Clair, NSW 2759 at 9.00 a.m. on Monday the 15th February and burial at Pinegrove Cemetery at 10.30 a.m. 010967

WIRASINGHE - Dr. CHULLAPADUMA CHARLES

(of Medi Clinic, Ganemulla). Son of the late Charles and Esme Wirasinghe, beloved husband of Kalindi (nee de Lanerolle), loved father of Shalomi Lesley and Chitrangani, precious grandfather of Alicia and Joshua, brother of Anil, Dr. Errol, Eitle, Ajith and Roshana, passed away on 30th January 2021. A private funeral took place in Colombo on 1st February 2021. 116, S. de S. Jayasinghe Mawatha, Nuggedoda. 010796

65th Death Anniversary

Letitia Charlotte Andradie (nee Mendis)

February 12th



Beloved wife of the late Rev. Canon Andradie and affectionate mother of late Christopher.

*"Of all the Special gifts in life
However great or small,
To have you as my mum
Was the greatest gift of all"*

Sadly missed by your everloving daughter - Pauline Opatha, together with Kshira Premaratne (grand-daughter) Santushi and Keshla (great grand-daughters)

15th Death Anniversary

Thivanke K. Premaratne

Birth

14
*
Dec.
*
1971



Death

15
*
Feb.
*
2006

Love here on earth
Love beyond the grave
There are no roads
Our love for you can't pave

Remembered with undying love
Kshira, Santushi & Keshla

How to spot the red flags in your relationship with food

We're reclaiming February 14 in the name of heart-health. Is it just us, or are you strangely psyched for Valentine's Day this year? In previous years, many of us rolled our eyes at the cheesy so-called "Hall-mark holiday".

But, if ever there's been a time to ramp-up V-day, it's after the year we just had. If last year gave us anything, that was plenty of time to re-evaluate the way we live our lives. Our relationship with food plays an important facet in our emotions and our actions, which gives us all the more reason to celebrate the good break-ups.

The average time to anchor a specific eating habit varies, while this may be bad news if you are trying to reduce your evening junk food consumption, eat breakfast every day or pack your lunch, the good news is that you don't have to feel like a failure if it takes you over a month to anchor a habit. Give yourself more time.

Here are some of the red flags and how to get over it!

Eating out of boredom

Tip: Try to keep busy rather than slumping in front of the TV, but if nothing works and you know you're a snacker, save some calories for the end of the day. Prepare some vegetable crudites and make dips such as healthier hummus or salsa.

Habit 2: Skipping breakfast, not having regular meals and grazing rather than eating proper meals

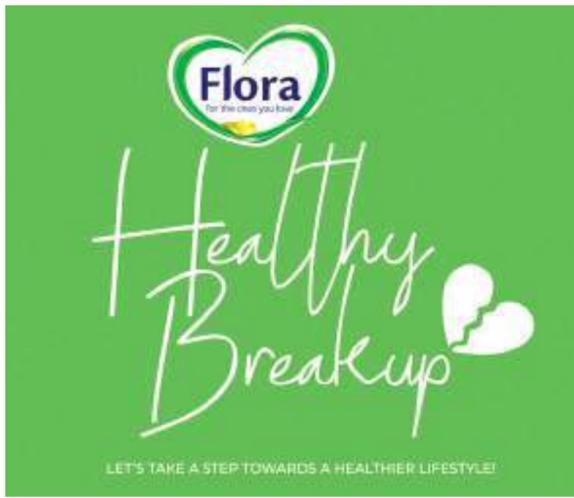
Tip: If you're not trying to lose weight or if missing meals is not impacting on your other health issues, this might not be a big issue if that's how you like to eat.

If you find yourself hungry and making unhealthy choices, then it is. If time's short in the morning, grab a piece of fruit or take cereal pots to work.

Switch unhealthy snacks for packets of nuts, an apple, crackers with garlic spread, reduced-fat with a few cherry tomatoes and veggies.

Habit 3: Ordering a takeaway because it's easier than cooking

Tip: Try batch cooking so you've always got something in the freezer.



Cook double the amount, separate portions into boxes and freeze.

Have a handful of fail-safe recipes from florasrilanka.com that you can turn to when you need a quick meal and keep your store cupboard stocked with the ingredients you need to make them.

Habit 4: Snacking on cakes and biscuits in the office or work

At work, swap the biscuit barrel for a bowl of fruit. Speak to your colleagues - you never know they might want to join you in eating more healthily and will probably be relieved that the temptation is being removed. While you're at it, make it fun! No carb Monday?

Habit 5: Tip: Eating too much bread and sweets

Take baby steps towards your goal, cut down by half a slice a week. Replace bread with something else while reducing the amounts, for example oatcakes, crispbreads, crackers or bread sticks are all different types of carbs to experiment with as swaps.

Try to replace sweets with fruit - fresh, frozen, dried or tinned. Why not pop grapes in the freezer to nibble on or dried unsweetened dates

- they come out chewy, just like toffees.

Habit 8: Spreading butter on thickly

You may already know that butter contains saturated fat, which is not good for your heart health. A better option would be an unsaturated fat, containing Omega 3 and 6. Unsaturated fats are called "good fats" because they have a beneficial effect on (heart) health. Unsaturated fats, especially polyunsaturated fats, have a beneficial effect on the heart when used to replace saturated fat (SAFA) and trans fat (TFA).

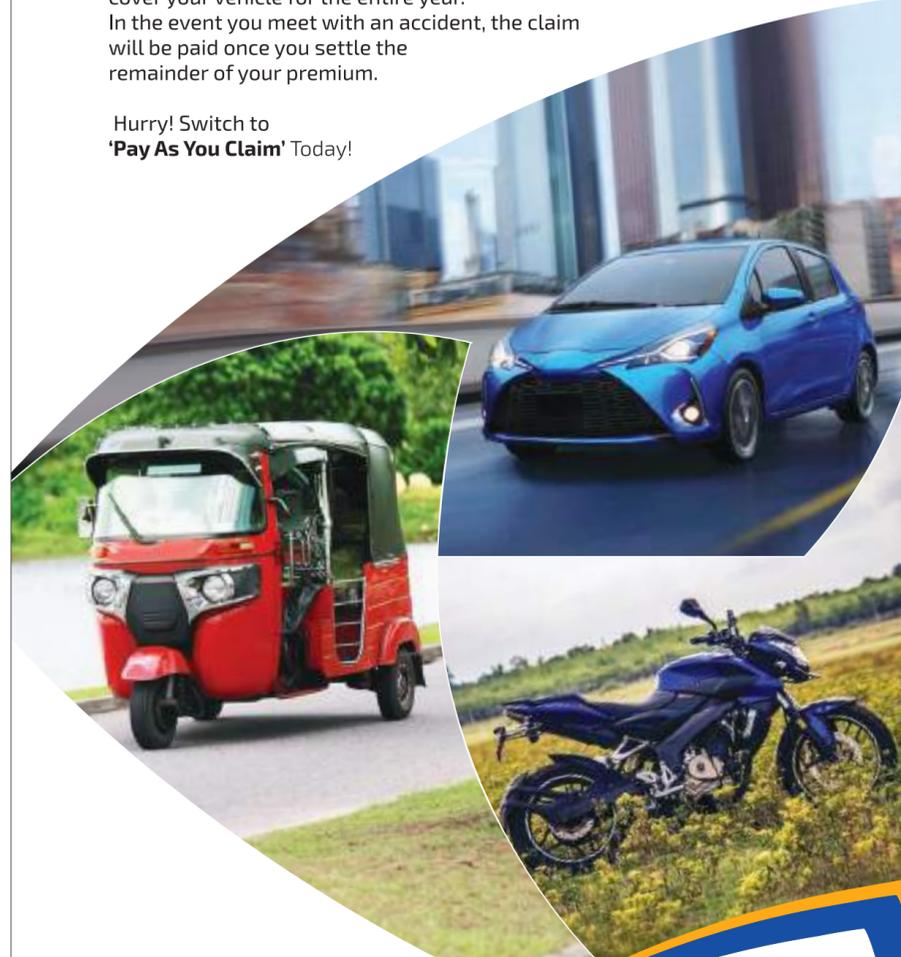
The "good fats" are needed as part of our body cells and play an important role in the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol levels. "Good" fats are typically found in plant oils and products made of those, such as soft-spreads and liquids. They can also be found in nuts, seeds and fatty fish. "Bad" fats are typically found in higher amounts in full-fat dairy products, fatty meats, cakes, biscuits, savory and snacks.

One of the easiest ways to fulfill the daily need of Omega 3 and 6 goodness is through food that contains it. **- Press Release**

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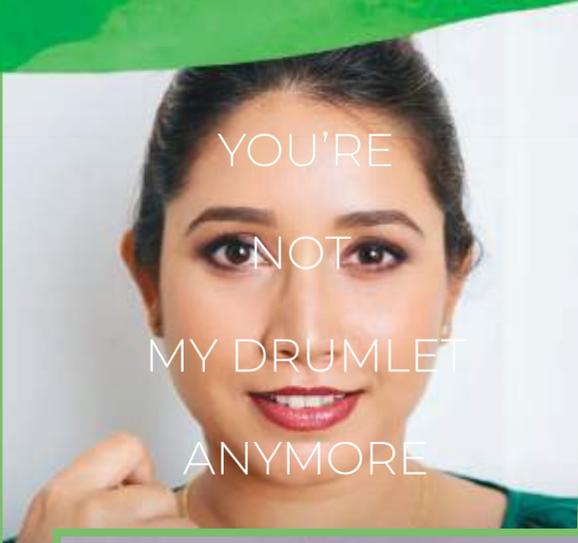
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FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Sri Lanka Cricket officials under thundering scrutiny

Probe team shocked to hear public property left in the hands of private individuals who come and go without accountability

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

In an unprecedented exposure to public curiosity, officials running Sri Lanka Cricket came under intense scrutiny like never before as the entity responsible for the country's sporting passion was brought into disrepute on Thursday at a hearing conducted by COPE which is a parliamentary authority probing financial indiscipline and malpractices at public institutions.

Long standing Sri Lanka Cricket chief executive Ashley de Silva and its first time president Shammi Silva faced the brunt of the questioning and were accused of many financial irregularities in an organization that a former Sports Minister CB Ratnayake once branded the third most corrupt public body in the country.

Nothing could have been further from the truth when COPE's chief investigator and Member of Parliament, Professor Charitha Herath declared that the hierarchy running the affairs of cricket were even "checkmated" by an outsider in former coach Chandika Hathurusinghe who demanded Rs.8 million a month to coach the team, could not account for Rs. 29 million gone missing as payments from a tour by South Africa and were behaving in a manner as if cricket was their private property.

Prof Herath made no secret of the fact that cricket officials were only opportunistic elected heads and deputies as he questioned their competence, integrity and honesty in handling finances saying that the country was losing by the millions due to an ineffective administration.

"This is not a game (Sellama) as you are dealing with a parliamentary probe. We need correct figures and



As their keepers were investigated for financial misdeeds, some of Sri Lanka's cricketers also failed a fitness test ahead of a major tour of the West Indies. Isuru Udana (right) who passed the test talks to Grant Luden physical performance manager

this institution (Sri Lanka Cricket) is not in the right place as we can see", said Professor Herath.

His remarks could not have come at a more appropriate time when electioneering for positions, wheel-dealing and horse trading are reportedly taking centre-stage behind closed doors while analysts claim the large number of votes (146) at stake makes it easy for the incompetent to enter the board of Sri Lanka Cricket and govern its affairs while past officials and players with a clean tract record who cannot serenade or entice voters fall by the wayside.

"Sri Lanka Cricket is a State en-

terprise, but it is being run by a group of people who are elected by clubs and those who are elected run it according to their whims and fancies and utilize funds the way they want and get away. We have to change this mentality", declared Prof Herath as cricket officials struggled to convince him with documentary proof of how millions in funds were dispensed for various projects.

The COPE team could not find any evidence that the role of chief executive Ashley de Silva had benefited Sri Lanka and helped in a profitable way other than implementing what was on paper handed down to

him by his Committee superiors.

Prof Herath expressed disbelief that Sri Lanka Cricket had desperately signed up a coach without the regular "exit clause" that makes a Contract redundant without performing results while as much as Rs.20 million was already spent on legal fees as Hathurusinghe fights a battle to claim Rs. 100 million in compensation.

Another hidden misdeed brought to light was why and how a final payment of Rs.29 million due from a 2018 tour by South Africa ended up in an overseas account now under probe.

Junior rugby players to start training

Sri Lanka's rugby selectors have picked a 60-member under-19 rugby pool that will go in for preparation for the Junior Rugby Asian Championship to be worked off in Chinese Taipei from March 31 to April 6.

The junior team won the Division One tournament held in China in 2019 and were promoted to play in the top division along with defending champions Hong Kong, South Korea and Taipei. The winners of this competition will secure a berth in the Junior World Rugby Tournament to be held in 2021.

Preparations for this tournament was scheduled to begin on

January 31 and were postponed due to the coronavirus.

According to the chairman of the selection committee Asoka Jayasena, Sri Lanka is far behind in preparation and must start training at least from next week.

The pool of 60 include players who have been in the 2019 junior pool as Asia Rugby has changed the age category to allow players born after December 2000 to be eligible.

Sri Lanka is scheduled to play against defending champions Hong Kong on March 31, before meeting South Korea on April 3 and Chinese Taipei on April 6. (TBR)

Maradona's psychologist and two nurses under investigation over his death

A psychologist and two nurses have been added to the investigation to determine if there was any malpractice in the death of soccer star Diego Maradona, a source with direct access to the legal file told CNN.

There have been no charges filed in the wrongful death investigation of the legendary Argentinian forward, who died in November after suffering heart failure.

The psychologist named in the file, Carlos Diaz, told CNN, "My job was for Diego to quit addictions and in the middle he died. I would have loved to continue working with him. I don't blame myself for anything."

Gisela Madrid, one of the nurses being investigated for potential malpractice by the Prosecutor's Office, also denied wrongdoing. Her lawyer Rodolfo Baqué maintained that his defendant "has no responsibility."

The other nurse under investigation was named as Ricardo Almirón, who did not respond to CNN's requests for comment.



Diego Maradona

The three join neurosurgeon Leopoldo Luque and psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov, who were already under investigation into the cause of Maradona's death. The investigation is being undertaken by the Attorney General's Office of San Isidro, the Buenos Aires suburb where Maradona lived.

Sri Lankan para athletes win silver and bronze

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka's para athletes have won silver and bronze at the World Para Athletic Grand Prix meet continued in Dubai, UAE.

They did well to win two more bronze medals on the third day yesterday for a total of three bronze medals in a bid to qualify for the Paralympic Games to be held in Tokyo from August 24 to September 5.

Javelin exponent Gamini Ekanayake produced a fine performance to finish in second place with a throw of 58.55m while competing in the F/46 event on Friday while Sampath Hettiarachchi who took part in the Javelin throw F/38/42/63/64 event finished third with a throw of 56.34m to take the bronze medal.

Palitha Bandara who is taking part for the first time in this meet, achieved a distance of 13.42m in the shot put event for men F/42/63 to win a bronze medal.

Women's para athlete Kumudu Priyanka won the first bronze medal on the first day for Sri Lanka in the long jump event in the T/46/47 category. This also happens to be Kumudu's personal best effort.

According to team manager Colonel Deepal Herath two athletes, Amara Indumathi and Maduranga Subasinghe took part in the women's and men's 400m event respectively later in the evening.

According to the president of the Paralympic Committee Major General Rajitha Ampemohotti the three men's medal winners are within the required qualifying standard set by the World Para Athletics. They have a definite chance to receive Paralympic slots in time to come and Sri Lanka is awaiting the official confirmation from the world governing body.



Gamini Ekanayake in action at the Dubai Grand Prix



Anika Seneviratne plays a back hand stroke

Anika seals Colombo Open singles title

Anika Seneviratne clinched the Women's Open singles title at the 105th Colombo Open Tennis Tournament when she defeated Savini Jayasuriya in the final played at the SLTA Courts at Sir Marcus Fernando Mawatha yesterday.

The favourite rallied around through her experience and went on to beat her opponent in a hard fought three-setter 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 in the final.

Meanwhile, Vibuda Wijebandara and Savith Weerasinghe won the Men's Open doubles title following a gruelling three-setter against Chathurya Nilaweera and Thehan Wijemanne in the final.

Vibuda and Savith, after conceding the opening set 6-7, came back magnificently to win the second set 6-4 and the deciding third and final set 10-7 in an exciting tie-breaker.

The tournament will be continued today at the same venue with the Men's Open singles final and the Women's Open doubles final, commencing at 3.00 p.m.

Vibuda Wijebandara will take on Luca Knese in the Men's Open singles final while Anika Seneviratne and Alana Seneviratne will meet the combination of Janali Manamperi and Savini Jayasuriya in the Women's Open doubles final.

Antonians, Mahanama herald new school cricket season

BY HAFIZ MARIKAR

For the first time in 11 months a First XI inter school cricket match was played as St. Anthony's College hosted Mahanama College Colombo at Katugastota and the contest ended in a draw yesterday.

Mahanama taking first lease of the wicket made 385 for the loss of six wickets and the Antonians in reply made 251 for 4 on the second day.

Mahanama's Pavan Ratnayake went on to score 179 with eighteen fours and four sixes while Vinuka Rubasinghe made 109 with eleven fours and two sixes.

St. Anthony's College in reply gave a good display and was able to score 251 for 4 at close of play as M Kamel did well to score 85 runs with 14 fours while Gihan Ebert too did well with the bat to be unbeaten in 76 with ten fours and a six.

SCORES: Mahanama College 385 for 6 declared (Pavan Ratnayake 179, Vinuka Rubasinghe 109, Kavinda Amameth 21, Koojana Perera 20, Nimanaka Jayatilake 2 for 82.

St. Anthony's College 251 for 4 at close (M. Kamel 85, Yasiru Gamarachchi 35, Gihan Ebert 76 n.o., Duvindu Rantunga 2 for 46, Achitha Supun 2 for 73)

Camillus Abeygoonewardena laid to rest amid many a tribute

Camillus Abeygoonewardena, the former Nondescripts Cricket Club (NCC) president, Disciplinary head of Sri Lanka Cricket and think tank of St. Peter's College sports passed away on Thursday and his funeral was held yesterday at the General Cemetery in Mount Lavinia.

Abeygoonewardena was also the chairman of St. Peter's College Rugby Foundation in 1995 when the college was the team to beat as they ended unbeaten champions.

The team was captained by his son, Number Eight Sanjeeva Abeygoonewardena. Abeygoonewardena's second son Dilan also captained the college

team in 2001 and played for Sri Lanka as a centre.

Abeygoonewardena also became a household name when he functioned as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and headed the Traffic Police to set up several public-police relations activities.

His particular emphasis was on road safety and the welfare of both motorist and pedestrian.

"He was a truly honourable gentleman officer of the Police who never compromised the integrity of that Institution", said S. Skandakumar, a former Secretary of Sri Lanka Cricket and ex-High Commissioner in Canberra, Australia on hearing of the passing away of



Camillus Abeygoonewardena Abeygoonewardena. He was 79 years at the time of his death.

Indian crowds back at cricket for England match

Adoring Indian cricket fans thronged the venue in Chennai to witness their team take on India on the first day of the second cricket Test against England yesterday.

It was quite a contrast to Sri Lankan fans debarred from witnessing last month's Test series against England.

India is the second most affected country by coronavirus while Sri Lanka boasted of being in the top ten most successful countries to keep the virus under control but continues to ban fans from sporting events.

India down 0-1 in the four match series won the toss and decided to bat first and after a shock start of los-

ing opener Shubman Gill for a duck, went on to make 300 for 6 at the end of the day's play with Rohit Sharma making an imposing 161 with 18 fours and two sixes.

Skipper Virat Kohli was also out for a duck in the fifth ball he faced, bowled by off spinner Moeen Ali who replaced Dom Bess while Ajinkya Rahane chipped in with 67.

SCORES: India 300 for 6 (Rohit Sharma 161, Ajinkya Rahane 67, Rishabh Pant 33 n.o., Jack Leach 2 for 78, Moeen Ali 2 for 112) vs England



Rohit Sharma

“Food needs to be understood as baseline medicine”

By **Frances Bulathsinghala**



Below are excerpts of the interview with Dr. K.S. Dahanayake (MBBS, DLM, MD) on health and its link with diet as well as the mental and spiritual condition of a person.

Dr. Dahanayake is a Clinical Forensic expert who promotes holistic Sri Lankan traditional medical knowledge, mainly *Nila Wedakama* and the use of Buddhist meditation practices for the wellbeing of the body and mind.

In this interview Dr. Dahanayake explained the reason he was studying traditional medicine. He also explains how a vaccine works on the human body and how immunity can be achieved through traditional Sri Lankan food. He said that Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine focused on holistic solutions and considered food to be the best medicinal choice as opposed to other means, such as inedible medicines or surgical knives.

Excerpts

Q: At what point did you become a supporter of alternative views to Western science?

A: What made me shift is the failure in diagnosing and treatment of a yet ill understood and untreatable ailment in Allopathy called *Craniosynostosis* (severe) in a child of a close relative in 2009. The disease was characterised by gross congenital deformity of the skull affecting brain development resulting in a permanently handicapped child in the course of the disease.

The only treatment was a reconstructive skull surgery with a questionable outcome owing to the high possibility of life threatening post-operative complication and or permanent disability. The vision and hearing of the child had been deteriorating.

I as a doctor, along with other doctor friends, was in a dilemma whether to go for surgery or not. This confusion directed me towards alternative means of treatment. It was the landmark event which changed my thought process towards *Nila Wedakama* (HNW). The child was cured with *Hela Nila*

Wedakama (HNW) in 1 ½ years without any allopathic intervention.

While I was getting experience since 2009 in the field of *Hela Nila Wedakama* under the guidance of Priyantha Senanayake, the founder of *Helasuwaya*, a holistic health based organisation dedicated to *Nila Wedakama* in Malabe, I started exploring indigenous medical knowledge – curative and preventive.

I started look at the burning socio-health issues faced by rural communities. I focused on the issue of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) which is a devastating crisis affecting three generations of farming community mainly in major rice growing areas of the country.

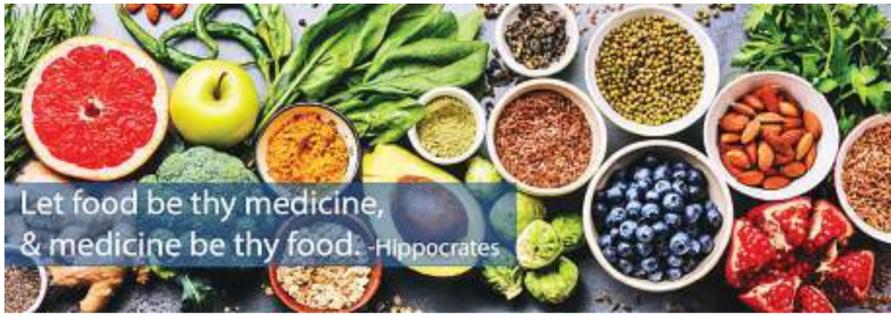
The fact that arsenical compounds, a deadly non-threshold carcinogen (cancer causing agent with no safe limit) could be involved in disease causality in Sri Lanka, had never occurred to me before. But the pathological (non medicolegal) postmortem studies conducted under the guidance of Senanayake, had revealed Arsenic in significant quantities in patients dying of CKD. Arsenic was significantly present in diagnosed patients and to considerable extent in the general population as well. The data were presented in the annual scientific sessions of the College of Forensic Pathologists in Sri Lanka in 2012.

Q: You were involved in promoting traditional non-chemical farming?

A: Yes. We, at *Helasuwaya* as a team, established a wide framework of indigenous knowledge in society and brought farmers to the reality by introducing *govithenata aushadha*, an eco-friendly herbal (not so-called compost/organic) farming technology. This technique is part of HNW, which made me compare it with Allopathy where we are not taught farming and its importance in medical practice.

This broad-based holistic knowledge considers food as the primary medicine. We introduced cultivating indigenous/traditional Sri Lankan rice varieties enriched with nutritive and medicinal value compared to toxic-chemical input-dependent rice varieties of sub optimal nutritional profile.

The practice and recognition of *Kenda*, the traditional grain-based porridge; the Sri Lankan staple medicinal cuisine in daily diet, had been lost



Dr. K.S. Dahanayake

owing to the acquisition of western knowledge. It had been undervalued by the foreign invaders who colonised the country, connecting drinking porridge to “laziness”, while their “soup” was being introduced. Our *Kenda*, which could be described as porridge and made with grains/leaf varieties/herbs, had been the main ‘medicine’ behind the longevity and immunity of our ancestors.

Q: How do you emotionally, scientifically and rationally identify with the indigenous medicine of Sri Lankan forefathers?

A: We need to understand the difference between modern traditional medicine, modern ayurveda and modern Western Medical practice. Have we ever thought whether these disciplines of medicine have their own classical / ancient/ original versions as well? If

“HIPPOCRATES, THE FATHER OF MODERN MEDICINE FOCUSED ON HOLISTIC SOLUTIONS AND CONSIDERED FOOD TO BE THE BEST MEDICINAL CHOICE AS OPPOSED TO OTHER MEANS, SUCH AS INEDIBLE MEDICINES OR SURGICAL KNIVES”

we go back to history, all these disciplines have classical/ancient/original versions which are based on wisdom gained by developing mind along the path of meditation or other religious practices by the practitioner.

For example, in previous practice prior to starting the career as a medical student in Allopathy he/she has to swear the Oath (as in the classical Hippocratic Oath) before the Gods of the Celt religion (in ancient Greece during 400 BC): Appollo, Esculapius, Hygea and Panacea. Unfortunately, it is not appearing in the ‘modern oath that we swear on. The oath is taken after the completion of the degree. Why should there be two oaths; classical and modern? Why has this religious based component been eliminated?

Q: Could you explain how a vaccine works on the human body?

A: We give an organism whose life is attenuated or part of its body to a human/animal with the expectation of generating, inducing or augmenting the immunity against the organism. It is an artificial or a man-made technology. The generation of optimal host immunity is based on properly functioning hormonal, enzymatic and signalling pathways i.e. metabolic equilibrium which requires proper nutritional status, such as micronutrient availability. The optimised immune function is intimately bound with nutritional status of the host.

For example, the immune response in the deadly outcomes in Covid-19 is a result of disordered immune reaction called “cytokine storm” which damaged host organs causing death. It is common in those who have pre-existing illnesses whose metabolic functions are already disordered. What can be exemplified here is the importance of micronutrient balance as far as the maintenance of metabolic equilibrium and the optimal immune status is concerned.

A vaccine deals with only one organism but the traditional non-chemically grown food is enriched with a vast diversity of micronutrients, a host of dietary fibres and millions and billions of beneficial microbes which have the potential of producing nutrients, such as Vitamin B, the ability to detoxify toxins and to establish the natural immunity for a wide range of harmful organisms.

Q: There is a view that what is practised today as Western medicine is not what Hippocrates, considered the founder of medicine intended, but rather what the oil tycoon Rockefeller created for profit. How fair is this view compared with the reality we see around us?

A: Hippocrates focused on holistic solutions and considered food to be the best medicinal choice as opposed to other means, such as inedible medicines or surgical knives. He was said

to have said, “let food be thy medicine and let medicine be thy food”. It is also supported by the view that the treatment section of the classical Hippocratic oath commenced as, “I will apply dietetic measures for the benefit of the sick according to my ability and judgment; I will keep them from harm and injustice.”

But the “modern” Hippocratic oath is lacking the first sentence.

Q: How much do practices, such as meditation, contribute to health?

A: It is clear to me that the one’s negative energy called “*Akusa*” (*Loba, Dwesha, Moha*) in his/her mind connects with his/her body causing negative change/imbalance of four humors of the body (*Patawi, Aapo, Thejo, Wayo*) called a disease, i.e. Karma wipakajaa-baadha. Meditation aims at accumulating “*Kusa*” (*Aloba, Adwesha, Amoha*) in the mind while giving up “*Akusa*”. The cause is dealt with by meditation. Meditation also aids the doctor to understand the causality of his/her patients and encourage them to practise meditation.

Q: Could you explain how important it would be for entities, such as the Health Ministry to promote traditional food and non-chemical agriculture?

A: The policymakers should understand the intimate/close relationship among farming, food and health. Vast diversity of soil biology (from worms to uncountable microflora), diversity of natural nutrient chemicals and minerals; produced, processed and made available for root absorption and bioremedial action exerted by certain soil organisms will aid the traditional food crop to give a yield of vast medicinal and nutritive value with no toxic contaminations.

We need a medicinal treatment (compared to external fertiliser, pesticide applications) to revitalise the agricultural soil degraded by long term agrochemical use. Those at *Helasuwaya* are successful at eco-friendly farming and are working to popularise this. Such upgraded soil is a prerequisite for better growth of traditional crops as it depends on natural ecosystems. Food has to be understood as the baseline medicine; the foundation for health upon which the wellbeing is achieved. Otherwise, it looks as if we are trying to construct a building without a foundation.

IT'S TIME TO RESTART

ජාතික ආර්ථික පුනර්ජීවනය හා දරිද්‍රතාවය තුරන් කිරීමේ සඳහා වන ජනාධිපති කාර්යාලාධිකාරී මද්‍රවකය

We are reopening our borders to the world, so that our tourism industry may once again sustain livelihoods and empower the lives of millions...

It's time to restart; to safely begin from where we left off, so that Sri Lanka tourism may amaze the world again.

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MINISTRY OF TOURISM

Protecting children and youth, the policymakers' responsibility

BY MANJARI PEIRIS

Worldwide, tobacco products kill over 8,000,000 people every year.

Tobacco use creates a significant economic burden on society at large. Higher direct health costs associated with tobacco-related disease, and higher indirect costs associated with premature loss of life, disability due to tobacco-related disease and productivity losses create significant negative externalities of tobacco use.

Tobacco use devastates not only the smoker, but also non-smoking bystanders who are exposed to tobacco smokers' exhaled tobacco smoke; this is called 'passive smoke' or 'secondhand smoke'. The groups often exposed to and affected by the harms of secondhand smoke are women and children. Worldwide, approximately one third of women are exposed to secondhand smoke. (The Lancet 2017) A 2016 study across 68 low and middle income countries estimates around 56% of youth (age 12-15) are exposed to secondhand smoke in any place. (The Lancet Global Health 2016)

Of the eight million deaths caused by tobacco, about 1.2 million deaths are due to secondhand smoke exposure. (WHO Factsheet May 2019)

How do youth become addicted to tobacco products?

The avenues of targeting youth and children by the tobacco industry (TI) are many - viz. on social media, internet sales, display of tobacco products at Points of Sale (supermarkets, grocery, mobile vendors, billboards) at sports events and through strategic sponsorships. TI's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities are varied and subtle. CSR campaigns focus on different sectors in the society. Like all advertising, CSR is sophisticated in how it targets and conveys messages so that it appears simply "goodwill" action. But a committed and experienced tobacco control advocate understands how to monitor and expose how CSR is a form of tobacco advertising and serves to undermine tobacco control.

Why does the tobacco industry target young people?

The industry has even called children "replacement smokers" for those killed by tobacco use. (February 29, 1984 RJR report, "Young Adult Smokers: Strategies and Opportunities". Bates No. 501928462-8550) In Sri Lanka 60 people die of tobacco-related diseases each day. Thus the TI needs to lure new users to replace those who die of tobacco-related diseases like heart disease, lung cancer, respiratory diseases, and more).

Children and youth are more susceptible to cigarette advertising and marketing than adults. Most smokers initiate tobacco use during adolescence and early adulthood. A US report found that 46% of smokers become daily smokers before the age 18, and 80% before 21. In other words, if large numbers of kids did not try smoking and go on to become regular users, the tobacco companies eventually would not have enough adult customers to make staying in business worthwhile.

Investigations around the world have revealed disturbing patterns of four key tobacco companies, using marketing tactics to target youth: In 40 countries, data collected at points of sale almost exclusively near primary and secondary schools found tobacco product displays at the eye level of a child (one metre high), special advertising and promotions, tobacco products and e-cigarettes designed to appeal to youth (like flavoured tobacco), and tobacco products and e-cigarettes posi-

tioned near products, such as candy and sweets.

The TI is subverting tobacco advertising laws, flying under the radar of government regulators and abusing the policies of social media platforms to market tobacco products and e-cigarettes to youth.

* TI and their marketing firms engage popular social media influencers to help promote cigarettes and other tobacco products to their social media communities. The influencers' posts are designed to appear authentic, but are actually carefully composed to advertise cigarettes. Most recently, tobacco and e-cigarette companies have been found promoting their products as branded pages on Facebook and Instagram.

* TI also host trendy cigarette themed parties all over the world. When party-goers post photos from the events on social media, big tobacco's digital footprint expands exponentially. The parties are designed to promote cigarette brands and generate significant social media content to ensure maximum visibility for brands like Marlboro and Lucky Strike.

* TI sponsor events (sports events) and activities to promote the use of tobacco to their target customers/consumers. When sponsorship is not included in tobacco advertising bans, the industry uses sponsorships to advertise their products often without the requirement of accompanying health warnings.

We must protect our children and youth from Big Tobacco's efforts luring youngsters into a lifetime of addiction and disease.

The Government can protect the next generation by enacting and enforcing policies mandated by the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to protect children and youth from the aggressive marketing tactics of TI.

The National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) being the focal point for tobacco control has an utmost responsibility and duty to persuade the government to implement important regulations and protect youth from tobacco use.

Recommendations

● Policymakers should exclude the TI and tobacco funded or linked research from policy discussions on tobacco control and alternative products.

● Advocates and the public health community can continue to hold the industry accountable.

● Consumers should not support a business that builds a portfolio of addictive, deadly products while fighting efforts to reduce smoking.

● Journalists should challenge the discrepancy between industry claims and its actual behaviour.

● Government should facilitate more media coverages that promote tobacco control, at least through government owned media. (right now there is no positive contribution or support from government newspapers.)

TI's marketing plan in attracting youth

TI cannot stay in business unless children and youth get hooked - therefore we must protect the next generation from TI's efforts to lure them into a lifetime of addiction and disease.

NATA along with other stakeholders engaged in tobacco control work should monitor how TI is engaged in addicting the next generation by launching their marketing plan.

Across the globe, TI uses a combination of marketing tactics to reach youth



at Points of Sale (POS), on social media, via sponsored parties, sports events, and other sponsored activities.

Recommendation - Though Sri Lanka has banned Article 13 of the FCTC of WHO - still we observe tobacco products are displayed at POS, hence this regulation is not comprehensive. The government should support NATA in amending the law.

Social media

"A 2018 report, Where there's smoke, documented the tobacco industry's aggressive marketing of cigarettes and other tobacco products to young people on social media through attractive young brand ambassadors, elaborate parties, contests, and more." - there's something behind the cigarettes you see on social media - a deceptive strategy from TI to addict the next generation of smokers.

Do you know?

Tobacco industry is secretly paying social media stars to flood your newsfeed with images of their cigarette brands.

They are subverting tobacco advertising laws and abusing government regulators and the policies of social media platforms to market cigarettes to youth.

Who are they using?

Young social media stars are paid to make smoking look cool.

The tobacco industry and its marketing firms engage popular social media influencers to help promote cigarettes and other tobacco products to social media communities. The influencers' posts are designed to appear authentic, but are actually carefully composed to advertise cigarettes.

Young popular influencers are recruited based on their youthful appearance and number of followers. The reason for this is the TI targets a super young profile... The people they select are always young. They look for young people that have large groups of friends so that the social media promotional message gets expanded more and more.

Recommendation: The Government should support NATA in amending the existing law to stop social media promotions of tobacco and nicotine products.

Tobacco industry social media marketing undermines tobacco control policies. TI does not tell influencers to include "fud or # sponsored" in their posts, which avoids being caught by

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY AND ITS MARKETING FIRMS ENGAGE POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS TO HELP PROMOTE CIGARETTES AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITIES. THE INFLUENCERS' POSTS ARE DESIGNED TO APPEAR AUTHENTIC, BUT ARE ACTUALLY CAREFULLY COMPOSED TO ADVERTISE CIGARETTES

social media platforms' official ad systems. The posts use subtle campaign hashtags, such as #likeus or #nighthunters which fly under the radar but are actually campaigns by TI.

The posts include tobacco products in the images, which are often hard to differentiate from an influencer's own everyday content. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram can play a critical role in stopping online tobacco advertising if they enforce their policies to block tobacco advertising in influencer content.

Around the world, governments have banned or restricted tobacco advertising. In fact (WHO FCTC Parties to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, updated May 2020. Available at: <https://www.who.int/fctc/cop/en/>), the Parties are already obligated to ban all tobacco advertising including internet advertising - under a global treaty called the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. But still TI is undermining those efforts.

Recommendation: Therefore, government regulations on tobacco advertising and promotion must include TI influencing through social media.

Single cigarettes are more attractive and available to youth

Studies and evidence indicate that youth can and do access single cigarettes more easily, that single sticks facilitate smoking among regular youth users, and may encourage youth non-users to experiment with smoking.

● Single cigarettes are sold at a price point that allows vulnerable populations, such as youth, to buy cigarettes without paying the price of a whole pack. The lower price point undermines efforts to decrease the affordability of tobacco products through tax and price increases

● Single sticks are often displayed, sold, and consumed without consumers ever having been exposed to warning labels placed on the pack. This is concerning because health warning labels

are effective in reducing intentions to smoke among non-smokers, including youth.

● Single stick cigarette sales can facilitate experimentation among youth who have not yet become regular smokers. The sale of single sticks also undermines effective tobacco control policies by limiting a person's exposure to health warning labels and lessening the impact of tobacco tax increases on cigarette packs. Where single sticks cigarette sales are prohibited, such sales constitute a form of illicit trade. Lastly, single stick sales can undermine smokers' efforts to quit by not only making the product easily accessible but also by serving as a cue for smoking, promoting relapse.

Single stick sales can be more profitable for retailers than selling whole packs. One study found that retailers can "markup" or charge more for single sticks than what the stick would cost if sold in a pack. The absence of laws regarding cigarette sales and/or the lack of enforcement of laws banning single stick sales in some countries make it easier for retailers to sell them.

The availability of single sticks allows those with few resources, such as youth, to buy tobacco products. In addition, the fact that single sticks are widely available and promoted underscores the concern that they are considered a common item available for sale, and that single stick sales normalize smoking which is a dangerous addictive behaviour that can result in death. It is important to note that BAT and PMI supply free promotional materials to tobacco retailers in order to create brand recognition and encourage individuals to buy their products.

Recommendations:

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is the world's first and only public health treaty. Ratified by 182 Parties, the Treaty identifies evidence-based measures to prevent and reduce tobacco use, especially to protect children and youth.

● In line with Article 16 of the FCTC, Parties should ensure that the sale of single sticks or small packs of tobacco products is prohibited by passing and enforcing appropriate legislation.

● In line with Article 13 of the FCTC, Parties should comprehensively ban all forms of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship and this should include any advertising or promotional materials related to single sticks.

In line with Article 15 of the FCTC, Parties should consider additional provisions such as licensing of retail vendors of tobacco products to control the sale of single sticks. Failure to obey the law could result in a range of sanctions; from fines and penalties to license suspension or revocation.

How effective is tobacco taxation to protect children and youth from smoking?

Tobacco-related death and disease can cause a significant economic burden on society, due to lost productivity and health care costs associated with early death. Effective tobacco taxes not only reduce these burdens through reducing consumption and prevalence, but also contribute to the reduction of governments' expenditures for the health care costs associated with tobacco consumption.

Tax and price policies are widely recognised to be one of the most effective means of influencing the demand for and thus the consumption of tobacco products. Consequently, implementation of Article 6 of the WHO FCTC is an essential element of tobacco-control policies and thereby efforts to improve public health. Tobacco taxes should be implemented as part of a comprehensive tobacco-control strategy in line with other articles of the WHO FCTC.

Increasing tobacco taxes is particularly important for protecting young people from initiating or continuing tobacco consumption.

Effective taxes on tobacco products that lead to higher real consumer prices (inflation-adjusted) are desirable because they lower consumption and prevalence, and thereby in turn reduce mortality and morbidity and improve the health of the population. Effective tobacco taxes also are an important source of revenue and they contribute significantly to State budgets. Increasing tobacco taxes generally further increases government revenues, as the increase in tax normally outweighs the decline in consumption of tobacco products.

Tobacco taxes reduce health inequalities and are generally considered to be economically efficient as they apply to a product with inelastic demand. Low- and middle-income population groups are more responsive to tax and price increases; therefore consumption and prevalence are reduced in these groups by greater magnitudes than in higher-income groups, resulting in a reduction in health inequalities and tobacco-related poverty.

Recommendations:

The Government should support NATA in making the Article 6 of the FCTC implemented in order to protect potential users being the children and youth in this country, at its earliest.

The policymakers should not forget that the world's largest tobacco companies, belonging to the entire tobacco industry (TI) are targeting children and youth using their vicious and many strategies to recruit youth as their future customers. The government should help NATA prevent 60 premature deaths being caused in a day due to tobacco smoke related deaths.

This is more than Covid-19 deaths, but unnoticed completely.

Fatal end at World's End

Dinura plunges 1,200 feet to his death

Victim on excursion with 11 others

BY RAJITHA JAGODA ARACHCHI

The giant precipice on a slope of the Kokagala Estate between Lunugala and Meegahakiula Divisional Secretariats, which is renowned as the Madulsima Mini World's End has been a popular tourist hotspot for many years. The spectacular view of the cliff and the possibility of a camping site attracted many domestic and foreign visitors to the place. However, the danger underneath the beauty of the place was uncovered last week following a tragic incident.

Dinura Wijesundera, a resident of Maggona, Kalutara and also a graphic designer attached to Sirasa TV is a seasoned excursionist according to his family and friends. As his wife told media, he leads many of his friends on camping and trekking journeys sharing his knowledge and experience on such excursions. In other words, travelling close to nature was his passion. However, this passionate traveller

had to end his life in the precipice of Madulsima on Saturday (6).

He went to Madulsima with 11 others including six medical professionals who are his school mates. Everything went smoothly until heavy rains started to pour down in the early hours of Sunday. Their tents could not take the force of the rain and the group decided to run to their vehicles.

Everyone ran in the darkness and once they reached their vehicles, guess what... Dinura was missing!

The group tried their best to locate Dinura but failed in the heavy dark, mist and of course the rain. Finally, they climbed down the mountain and lodged a complaint at the Madulsima Police Station.

Madulsima police officers rushed to the place and in their initial investigations, suspected that Dinura might have slipped off from the mountain.

Thereafter, the responsibility of finding Dinura was assigned to the Army camp in Badulla.



The Sri Lanka Army Special Forces and 112 Brigade launched a search operation amid the inclement weather in search of the missing 35-year-old 3D animator.

For two days, search operations



were carried out in the Lokantha area and the dense jungles of Pahala Bibila, Egoda Kotagama, Dorapoda and Rambaka areas. Operations failed on both ends due to the harsh weather.

Troops launched a search opera-

tion at a depth of about 1,200 feet on the third day, despite the inclement weather.

Under the supervision of the Chief of Defence Staff and Army Commander General Shavendra Silva and Com-

mander Central Security Forces Major General Kumara Jayapathirana, Brigadier Anura Dissanayake and Commander of Special Forces Brigade, Brigadier Thushara Mahalekame led the search operation.

The Sri Lanka Air Force had also prepared an aircraft with ambulance facilities to be used if needed.

Completing the mission in the afternoon on Tuesday (9) the body of Dinura was found on a precipice 1,200 feet below the cliff. In the post mortem, it was revealed that Dinura had died due to multiple fractures to the body during the deadly fall.

Dinura is an old boy of Kalutara Maha Vidyalaya and is a talented guitarist and singer. He was married to Srimali Dharmapala, an attorney-at-law. As Srimali told the media, Dinura and she had bought a house in the Kalutara area recently, and the tragedy happened even before they could occupy the new house.



Protect our environment and share its wonder with the world!

Responsible nature-based tourism supports the preservation of mother nature



Those who have been destroying their very own 'source of life' to satisfy their unending desires have learnt a bitter lesson that has affected the entire world. Environmental degradation has taken a toll on our lives irrespective of country borders and nationalities. Having been confronted with mother nature's wrath at a rate in different shapes and forms - animal transmitted diseases, landslides, pandemics, cyclones, flash floods, famines,

outstanding feature of nature-based tourism is its equal emphasis on environmental conservation while enjoying its beauty. Project Director Anura Sathurusinghe of the Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP) opines that a portion of nature-based tourism income should be prudently used for environmental conservation as well as to uplift the living conditions of people in the vicinity of the forests being conserved.

Importantly, eco-tourists are generally from affluent back grounds and Sri Lanka has a huge

enable tourists to feel the pulse of nature and highly knowledgeable expert guides maintain the high expectations of nature-based tourists who are eager to get the best out of each tour.

Nature interpretation and research are also two major components of eco tourism, and ESCAMP is actively involved in developing these areas in addition to providing infrastructure; creating herbal gardens; launching programmes highlighting the features of Sri Lanka's authentic traditional village; and getting tourists involved in village activities such as tea plucking, reaping paddy harvest, and canoeing, etc.

Former Conservator General of Forests Anura Sathurusinghe further mentions that ESCAMP is keen to promote the 'home-stay concept' in order to familiarise tourists with the village and its inhabitants in order to make their tour more meaningful and memorable.

"We are in the process of developing infrastructure facilities in villages bordering Sinharajah, Knuckles, Hurulu, and Galoya forest reserves, to promote nature-based tourism. We are already supporting them to build good-quality hygienic washrooms attached to each village home."

"Tourists will be provided with unique opportunities such as night safaris, overnight stays at chena huts (pal

Laws alone cannot protect the environment; each individual needs to develop a 'personal' relationship with fauna and flora

projects are mostly sponsored by Sri Lanka's private sector. But the forest land - including its fauna and flora - legally belongs to the Government. Hence both the State and private sector as well as villagers should get actively involved in eco-tourism projects because it is the responsibility of any ruling government to conserve these natural habitats while using them as major income earners."

He emphasises that ESCAMP is dedicated to promote nature-friendly eco-tourism by providing assistance to village communities through the Government.

Concepts such as 'canopy walkways' that provide pedestrian access to forests can be introduced in Sri Lanka. Since the Government has the ability to launch such concepts, what ESCAMP does is to make suggestions and provide assistance when required."

ESCAMP is currently involved in producing posters, handouts, booklets and sign boards that promote responsible eco-tourism, while also maintaining sign boards, promoting infrastructure facilities, storing handouts and training tourist guides.

"I would like to emphasise that tourists too have a huge responsibility to enjoy the environment without polluting it," concludes Sathurusinghe.

To achieve success, firstly all of us should join hands to protect our environment. Laws alone cannot do it. Each individual needs to develop a 'personal



opportunity to capture this market while already possessing a few private eco-friendly five-star super luxury hotels with dense forests on all sides. Knowledgeable tourist guides attached to these hotels are ever ready to enlighten keen tourist on the many aspects of nature. These tourist guides are experts on their respective subject areas including intricate animal behaviour and their habitats. The expansion nature-centric hotels that

breakdown of rain cycles, tsunamis - human beings have finally realized that haphazard environmental degradation could cause grave repercussions for the entire planet. As a result people are now trying their hand at every possible way to get closer to nature again - to feel the pulse of it; and to enjoy the wonder of nature!

Nature-based tourism - also known as eco-tourism - is definitely the finest way to enjoy the beauty of nature in its pristine purity! The

This is an ideal opportunity to showcase the true Sri Lankan spirit - its simplicity, hospitality and amazing ability to coexist with nature.



rekeema), and exposure to cultural events and so on. Villagers are encouraged to make the stay pleasant by offering tourists traditional food items - hapala, wanda, tea with jaggery or a glass of beli flower drink."

"We intend to uplift the village economy by promoting traditional high-quality food

prepared by villagers. Tourists will thus be exposed to authentic, Sri Lankan village life in its true form and simplicity. This is an ideal opportunity to showcase our true Sri Lankan spirit - simplicity, hospitality and the ability to coexist with nature," explains Sathurusinghe. "At the moment nature-based tourism

relationship' with fauna and flora. A forest is a treasure trove. We should handle nature-based tourism prudently as a nation to achieve its maximum economic benefits for this to be a success story. Let's feel and conserve the environment to ensure that nature friendly eco-tourism flourishes!



Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation



Department of Wildlife Conservation



Forest Department



Ecosystem Conservation & Management Project

Contact / Write to us:
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117
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Educational

Educational Vacancies - A leading International School in Colombo - 15 is looking for qualified Teachers in Business Studies, Chemistry and Computer. Prospective candidates please call over at Buckingham International College, No. 173, St. James Street, Mutwal, Colombo 15 with CV on weekdays between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. Salary etc. will be determined at the interview depending qualification and experience. Contact No - 0777777870. 010672

Kind doors and retired teachers who can contribute with books, stationery, financial and material aid required for the program of supporting poor children of their neglected education, carried out by the Blooming Buds Social Care Foundation, based in Nuwara Eliya & Monaragala Districts. 43, Darawala Road, Dickoya, Hatton. 051-2222741, 0703318641, 0775509641. 005712

We are looking for qualified nursery teachers and receptionists for our international school in Panadura. 0775974084, 0776456950, 0771280780. 011774

318
Positions Vacant
Drivers/Chauffeurs

Vacancies available for Prime Mover vehicle drivers. Tel: 0777745765. No C 1 First Floor, Y.M.B.A. Building, Colombo 01. 010994

Wagon R female vehicle owner seeking a staff transport job in an institution. 0763760296. 010320

319
Positions Vacant
Domestic

Experience, kind nanny required to take care of a child. Board and lodging for free. 0717700050. 011762

Lady required Cook and clean small annexe. Salary 20000/- with meals. Call: 0777813893. 005946

320
Positions Vacant
Hotel & Bakery

Assistnat Resident Manager / allrounder to supervise Banquet Hall in house guests 35000/- - 45000/- www.kurubeddaresort.com mi gualalwis@yahoo.com Only SMS 0714814838. 011677

A new restaurant to be opened in Pitakotte needs a trained / untrained Chef. Salary can be negotiated. 0777153328. 011795

Chefs, Cleaners and private secretaries required for a grade 01 restaurant. Sakura International Private Limited, Piliyandala. 0718725383, 0777787915. 011767

Job Opportunities at a Cafe & Restaurant for a Cashier, Service Personals, Manager & Kitchen Helper (preferably females) Please send your CV to: waysidethaicafes@gmail.com 011984

Mirihana, Wanted for a Take-away Shop, experienced Cooks and a Kitchen Helper. Rice and Curry, Chinese food, Hoppers and Kottu Makers. Contact 0762211310, 0762343688, 0777874118. 010706

Urgent requirement for Tea Maker in Hawaii Restaurant (Salary Rs. 45000/=) for inquiries : 0773658648. 009512

Urgent requirement for the following categories of Hawaii Restaurant. Basic salary (per month). * Rice & Curry Cooks - Rs. 90,000/= * Kitchen Helpers - Rs. 40,000/= * Juice & Fruit Salad Makers - Rs. 50,000/= * Counter Helpers - Rs. 40,000/= * Kottu & Rotty Makers - Rs. 65,000/= - Rs. 70,000/= * Cleaning Staff - Rs. 40,000/= . Company will be providing food & lodging as well as 04 days off per month. Please kindly call for interviews. 0773658648. 007549

Wattala, Chinese Chef required for a restaurant, salary Rs. 60,000/-, 05 day holiday, food, accommodation provided. 0772566645, 0768302117. 011773

321
Positions Vacant
Estate

Estate Conductors & Watchers wanted. Call over for an interview on 16.02.2021 from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. with National ID, G.S. certificates and other original certificates. Janaka Bogollagama & Co. (Pvt) Ltd., No. 65/1, Colombo Road, Kurunegala. TP: 037-2223672 / 037-2222741. 011893

325
Positions Vacant
General

Wanted Trained / Untrained persons quickly for a Carpet Institution. Accommodation provided. Contact 0716809756. No. 325/6, Attidiya Main Road, Attidiya. (Gunaratna Place), Dehiwela. 011470

A multinational company in SL invites energetic & business minded talents to join professional on-line selling career (part-time). You will enjoy; - Income over 100,000. - Attractive commissions. - Flexible working hours. Overseas exposure recruitment criteria. Age 30-60 (Retired Senior citizens with experience & contacts are encouraged to apply). - IT knowledge is a must. To apply contact: 076-7374046. kumari ka75@gmail.com 011752

Secretary to the Senior Manager & Unit Container one of the world's largest wealth management organization seeks a trainee candidate with dynamic skills of coordinating with sales unit and the Senior Manager need to have skills in Microsoft products, communication skills, making appointments. Attractive remuneration package & Commissions will be paid @ Rawathawatta. 07772944988 / 0755890837.

Continued pg 17

Special employment in the Security Division ! Specialized Security vacancies for male/female Officers for State Banks / Institutions affiliated to the Government, Private Institutions * Age between 18-50 (men / women) * Preference to retired or legally resigned Tri-Forces, Police personnel. * High salaries, additional allowances, special allowances and other benefits. State banks (Armed) - Colombo State Banks - Matara - Shantha - 0777262955, State Banks (Armed) - Colombo, Private Institutions - Kandy. Sagara - 0777256187, Battaramulla - Epa 0777774492.011234

Wanted English speaking female Receptionists for Saloon in Nawala. Contact: 0771145007/0113355804.012023

Wanted Security Officer to overlook security of a group of companies should be able to conduct investigations ex police preferred apply UNITEC Placements (Pvt) Ltd 545. Sri Sangaraja Mawatha Colombo 10. Call: 0727981202. Email: realcommestate@gmail.com 011961

Wanted Washers for a laundry of modern technology, (with washing machines, having English language knowledge and literacy to stary in and work. Contact tel: 0772138303 - Kadawatha. 011902

Positions Wanted

Cleaning, cooking, ironing, baby-sitting & household work. Experience of more than 10 years working as a housemaid at Royal Park Residencies, Honkong & looking forward to join a foreign family. Contact details: 0777631471 (Chandani Perera). 011624

Financial Consultancy : Advance assignments Tax & Financial Advisory. To Computerise Accounting System, Install ERP repair damage financials. VAT refunds, solve SVAT issues withdraw VAT Credit Vouchers, handle ISO-9001-2015, ACA with 25 years experience, Age 47 male from Nugegoda. Call 0716627311. 010777

I need driving job only working office or house in Colombo area. 0716483909. 011955

Position Wanted - Accountant early sixties professionally Accounting qualification with more than 30 years Accounting experience with Managerial capacity looks position. 0719098028. 012069

Well experienced retired and healthy Accounts / Administrative Officer with very good knowledge in all kinds of Accounts, Inland Revenue matters, English correspondence etc, seeks immediate suitable employment under kind Master. Any one need my services please call 0767065494. 010707

47 years, female, HR & Admin., Secretarial, Documentary related experience in hand, PQHRM - qualified, 0753600426, Colombo / Biyagama, Peliyagoda. 010889

63 - Colombo resident. Retired Office Assistant to Directors of a British Multinational experienced in Banking, Photocopying Letter Delivering, etc. Active and agile. 0756229019. 010813

General

Arms & Ammunition

Air-Rifle to chase away Monkeys, Simians, Giant Squirrels and other animals that harm your crops. Now at a very reasonable price with warranty. Branches, Hanwella, Rathnapura, Kegalle, Hambantota, Galle, Puttalam. RPL, Colombo 05. 0112513151, 0112512338, 0714513887. 001137

Branded Air Rifles & Air Pistols (PCP & Spring/ Gas Piston) for competition, silhouette shooting, walther, hamerli, steyr, feinwerk-bau, airarms, diana, weihrauch, norica, and gamo. Direct importers from manufacturer. Credit cards accepted. Rifle Point. Colombo 5. Inquiries 0714513889, 0714513887, 0112513151. 012006

W. Thomas & Sons, professional in fire arms and air rifles for over 70 years offers locally made air rifles with 5 years warranty. Durable air rifles specially made for the new year for farmers avoid additional costs all services and maintenance at your door steps from our mobile service. Only available at Kadawatha. 0777319250, 072 7319250, 011 4361961, 011 5737777. 005801

Furniture For sale

Furniture for sale : (Bargain Sale) household items and gift items for sale. Contact 0729193467. 010977

Imported Pyrex Plates designed new for sale. Flower plants going cheap. 2504173. 011010

Household Items & Elect. Appliances For sale

Washing Machine Music System bedmattress TV stand table carpets outdoor huts urgent sale migrating 0716411675 Kelaniya. 011981

Accounting, Economics, Business, Maths, Business Statistics. CIMA Accountant, Masters Graduate, 30 years International Schools, Institutes. A/L, O/L, Universities, assignment writing. Excellent results. 0727792855. 006774

Advanced Level Physics, individual or group classes, local or London syllabus in Sinhala or English medium, 100% results assured. Tutes are provided, Madhura Wijayasinghe BSc (Hons), MSc. 077538395, 0721135745. 009620

Many household equipment including bed, set of couches, set of chairs, 01 cabinet for sale. Moratuwa 0786919616. 007151

Used large writing tables dining table 2 almira's book shelf and refrigerators. Contact - 0765402117, 0715332653. 010718

Veranda set (wooden/cane mix) 23,000/= Mahogany dining 4 chairs. 3750/= each chair television rack 3 in 1 stereo/DVD/4500/= vehicle V.I.P Strobe L.E.D light with 9 blinking lights 7500/= brandnew original Mitsubishi oil filters 2 pcs. Model, each 4500/- V76 and V46 Montero and Intercooler models Colombo 03 0716885194. 011060

Wearing Apparels/Textile

Sarees (brandnew) for office and evening wear Malambe 0718730274, 011-2412720. 011971

Educational Vocational

Computer classes online for students adults Grade 6 to ICT (O/L) GIT MSOffice Internet Email Call 0772849916. 010441

Vehicle repairs undertaken, any vehicle with corrosion and damages can be repaired. Contact Malika Perera 0712406282, 0752036891. 010111

Tuition Available

AAA produced former Lyceum International School Teacher offers tuition in London and Local A/Level O/Level classes subject such as Mathematics Combined Maths Physics Mechanics Statistics Science etc. Cambridge / Edexcel both, homes visit or online classes are available. Rs. 1000/= for 2 hours class. Call 0772631546, 0112605674. 010703

AAAB ABE CIMA ACCA Edexcel Cambridge local Mathematics Statistics Business Studies Economics Accounts IT Psychology English Literature History Sociology Geography Human Biology Chemistry Physics Law Computer Science. COS 0112685649, 0112671710, 0716128439. 009047

AA A/L & O/L Cambridge, Edexcel Economics Business Accounting qualified & experienced graduate teacher with Cambridge qualifications & excellent past result visit home/zoom. 077 3603555. 009370

Accounting & business: Cambridge/Edexcel O/L 2021/22 Zoom classes. International school teacher (MBA) 1 hr - Rs. 1,000/-. Wellawatte 077 8941402. 011154

Accounting, Economics, Business, Maths, Business Statistics. CIMA Accountant, Masters Graduate, 30 years International Schools, Institutes. A/L, O/L, Universities, assignment writing. Excellent results. 0727792855. 006774

Advanced Level Physics, individual or group classes, local or London syllabus in Sinhala or English medium, 100% results assured. Tutes are provided, Madhura Wijayasinghe BSc (Hons), MSc. 077538395, 0721135745. 009620

A Cambridge / Edexcel OL / AS / A2 Physics / Mathematics. International School Lecturer over 30 years experience excellent results. 076 2727666 Dehiwela. 006717

A lady Teacher home visits. Grade 1-3 English, Maths (Sinhala English / Sinhala medium). Around Colombo up to Kottawa. 0785381794. 007267

A/L Chemistry English medium 2021/2022, theory, fast revision, practicing to write answers from the very first day. MCQ with explanations, essay type questions, writing answers according to marking scheme, organic conversions, spd/industry / environment, daily exercises to memorize units 1,2, kinetics, equilibrium, electro chemistry, energetic + gas / highest marks for chemical calculations. AAA results, for students who expect island ranks to be experts in the subject field in a shortest period + no need of any other classes. 0711245687. 011032

Economics Accounting Business Studies home visited or small group classes are offered Online. 0772275163, 0714165310. 008185

English classes with Mr. John from London UK. All school grades exam preparation - beginners, advanced English speaking in Kandy Academy. 0779019381. 004888

English Spoken Literature O/L A/L IELTS, TOEFL SAT GRE GMAT Edexcel Cambridge IGCSE individual teaching. Sena Haggalla, 31, Janatha Road, Waththegedara Maharagama. online and home visiting can be arranged. 0714733689, 0775558590. 007274

G.C.E. A/L Physics Science Theory/Revision, individual and group classes in Colombo and Gampaha surroundings with marking scheme of model and past papers and discussions. Lecturer Madushan Ganegedara BSc., MSc. (R) 0774704833. 004358

History, Sinhala - Year 6-11 Local - International - Govt. Teacher - Geethani, BA, MSc., E.Dip, visits homes. 0775460221, 0768854664. 011328

Lady Teacher visits Colombo / suburbs. IELTS / Spoken English, Sinhala, Tamil & other subjects in all 3 media. G.C.E. (O/L) (A/L) English with past papers. 0778135914, 0770351835. 011484

London O/L Sinhala Grades 6-11 online individual classes for Distinction. Sagara Sir BA E.Dip. MA 0769970005, 0711977813. 011329

Master offers tuition English Language Literature Maths Physics Biology homes visited online tuition. Philip Ferdinands 0777622834. 008284

Mathematics class for Grade 6-11 students in Sinhala and English mediums. Contact on 0714377304, 0764580747. 007078

Mathematics Science Experienced - Graduated International School teacher home visits Cambridge Local London (O/L) (A/L) 700/= per lesson. Contact 0712406282, 0752036891, Malika Perera. 0110934

Mathematics - (Grade 8 - A/L) Edexcel, Cambridge & local syllabus, Online / individual classes. MEng qualified teacher, Colombo. 076 1393526. 007587

Maths OL Sinhala English medium local Cambridge Edexcel, Exams individual or small groups at Moratuwa, specialist teacher with overseas experience. 0779601702. 007324

Physics A/L 2022 - Online classes by a Graduate female Tutor using simulation software and questions. 0777902261. 008361

Political Science and History class in English medium, Political Science A/L, History Grade 6-11. Contact : 0711640814. 010723

Tuition classes for English and Mathematics Grade 1 to 8. Cambridge O/L and A/L Biology. Location: Nugegoda and Thalawathugoda conducted by an experienced Lady Teacher from a leading international school. Call: 0716946116. 011631

Well qualified and experienced teacher in "Business English Classes" available for office staff, students, groups and individuals. Reasonable fees. Contact Joseph - 075 2768136 or 076 5787668. 011251

Tuition Wanted

Wanted visiting primary school teacher Grade 1-5 for all subjects to conduct in English medium. Gampaha. 077-3555177. 011634

Miscellaneous For sale

Newspaper sales agent business and the supply of every newspaper agency in Wellawatta area is to be transferred. Contact: 077 1511985. 011184

Personal

Antiques & Collectors Items

Old Ceylon currency notes issued before 1955 wanted nothing else wanted. Nugegoda 0772819425. 008464

Beauty Therapy / Hair Dressing

Beauty culture 05 day certificate course. * Threading * Facials & Waxing * Make up * Manicure * Saree design. Entrance Fee - Rs. 1000/-. Course Fee 15000/-. Hair styling 05 day certificate course. * Hair cutting * Rebonding * Perming * Styling * Colouring Entrance Fee - Rs. 1000/-. Course Fee - 15000/-. Conducted by a professional international beauty culture consultant. Call 0763589349. 011777

Beauty culture 05 day certificate course. * Threading * Facials & Waxing * Make up * Manicure * Saree design. Entrance Fee - Rs. 1000/-. Course Fee 15000/-. Hair styling 05 day certificate course. * Hair cutting * Rebonding * Perming * Styling * Colouring Entrance Fee - Rs. 1000/-. Course Fee - 15000/-. Conducted by a professional international beauty culture consultant. Call 0763589349. 011777

Food & Catering

Orders undertaken for supplying String Hoppers and Pittu to any homes, markets. Contact 0712406282, 0752036891, Malika Perera. 0110934

Philatelic & Coins

Monthly stamps and old coins and bank notes sales fair conducted by the Sri Lanka Independent Philatelic Association will be held on 19, 20, 21 February at the Public Library premises, Colombo 07. 0779785111 Jagath. 010739

Lifts / Transports

Office transport available from Ratmalana Mt. Lavinia Dehiwala Kalubowila to Kohuwala Kirulapone Narahenpita Borella Maradana 0776321916. 011942

Board & Lodging Available

Borella - off Cotta Road available 1st floor 1500 sq/ft for a small family. Working couple preferred. Employed gents or male students could be considered or sharing rooms. Contact 0722258680 / 2690652 for more details. 011567

Buttala, "Samindu Sevana" Elders Care Centre, in a very comforting environment, retired, healthy, paralysed elders will be enrolled for a comfortable living. Amba Sevana, Old Bridge Road, Kuda Oya, Buttala. 0703318641, 0775509641, 0112912641. 005707

Colombo-06 Kirulapone - fully tiled attached bathroom for rent. Separate entrance for ladies. 0777310706. 012053

Come join our institution, new life during your evening life in a peaceful, scenic environment. Opportunity for elders, parents for three persons, luxury rooms, delicious food and beverages with hospitable services. 071 8882777, 076 8679454. 009050

Dehiwala - Furnished room with attached bath for rent for working girl in a respectable home. Walking distance to Galle Road. Call 0112716499. 009331

Dehiwala, secured two rooms / or Female Students or working girls (sharing considered) Contact: 0777477953. 011496

Guruge Elders Care- For disabled, non-disabled elders, care services offered with reliable trustworthy secured residential facilities and for emergency hospitalizations and illnesses with no encumbrances for custodians. Reasonable charges. Telephone 0704-4144444, 0765-560608. 011602

Katubedda, close to Galle Road a quiet room available on rent for (a respectable person). 0775141144. 009987

Mount Lavinia available for rent room separated entrance, attached bathroom walking distance to Galle Road for decent office girl or boy. Contact : 0775153652. 010730

Nugegoda available for rent furnished large room suitable for couple or single with pantry bathroom parking. Contact: 0112822537. 011421

Nugegoda Chapel Lane furnished tiled room attached bath separate entrance parking no cooking residential. 0716192948. 011997

Rooms available on rent for Office Workers at Hendala Junction. 0768925066. 011467

Two rooms are available in upstairs house within 500 m from Maharagama Town for 04 respectable permanently employed ladies. T.P. 0759381443. 010333

Real Estate

Luxury Apartments/ Houses / Condominiums To Let / Lease

Mt. Lavinia - Apartment with fully furnished (Blue Ocean Residences, No. 03 - 5/1) for rent. Contact Botheju 0722258326. 011176

Thalawathugoda apartment for rent 3 bedroom 3 bathrooms 24 hours security swimming pool Gymnasium 400m to Thalawathugoda Junction. 077500 p.m. 0777799165. 011903

Ultra luxury apartment for rent in the heart of Colombo 07, Horton Place. Access roads lead to all parts of the city which makes travelling from this location very easy. Three bedrooms, three B/R, large living area, modern pantry and a servant room, unfurnished brand new apartment for immediate occupancy at Capitol Elite Residences. (Only for expatriates. No brokers please). 0712312521. 011583

3 bedroom apartment in ovalview apartments is available for the monthly rent of Rs. 120,000. Fully furnished, Air-conditioned. Email address: wkndrh@gmail.com 011921

Commercial Property/ Prime Land

Nugegoda Delkanda facing main road 9.5p land with 2 business stalls. Only land value. Per perch 85 lakhs. Only genuine buyers. 0767982501, 0703421291. 011717

Estates Services

High quality palm plants for sale. Past papers with answers home delivered. 0770300932. 008314

Building Construction / Materials

Slab laying with high quality plywood shuttering by Rs. 495/- per sq.ft. with all material. Construction of houses and buildings undertaken from the foundation 3800/3950 per sq.ft. all constructions done at reasonable rates with guarantee. H.P. Construction, Polgasowita. 0725337562, 0756-206185. 005883

Kotte - Two adjoining blocks of 6.8p each (total 13.56p) land sale in Rajamaha Vihara Mawatha. 0777475015. 011912

Land Sale - Ambatale, Colombo Avissawella Main Road (between Angoda - Ambatale) 32 perch land with three bedroom house for sale. Highly suitable for business, office, factory, warehouse, yard. Easy access to Colombo and to Outer Circular highway. Perch Rs. 2.5 Million (negotiable) Tel: 0777898895. 011035

Do you require houses, lands, business places, for selling, pruchusing, on lease, rent from any area, at any price. any extent? Contact us 0718657176, 0703507177, 0773920709. 011876

Do you require houses, lands, commercial places for buying selling on rent lease from any area at any price in any size. Contact us 0718657176 / 070-3507177 / 0773920709. 011480

COLOMBO District For sale

Wellampitiya, facing Awissawella Road, 6 perches, upstairs house, 06 rooms, 02 bathrooms, balcony, 02 living rooms, 02 kitchens, 02 glass showrooms for a business, 50 Million. 033-2288143, 076-6121483. 011057

Battaramulla Pelawatta, close to Towns, facing 20 feet wide road, few land blocks ideal for residence for sale. 0714290392. 011231

Battaramulla, Akuregoda, Lake Road, Second Lane, 12 perches, land for sale. Clear title deeds. Tel: 0765-678948, 0764-661040. 011613

Colombo District - Near Malabe two lands for sale 20 perch, 14 perch suitable for apartments or internet shopping complex or campus. Bank loans may be received. No brokers. 0770300932 near Ceynex and Horizon Campus. 0781819038. 008308

Colombo 05, decent, peaceful environment, with Municipal approval, hereditary clear deeds, 6 perches land for sale, for financial urgency, per perch 45 lakhs, with all urban facilities. 0740306303 / 0702741113. 011250

Homagama, Moragahena - exclusive land blocks commercial and residential with all facilities. 0717 999222. 011208

Katubedda, De Mel Road, 10 perches, 800m to Galle Road, Moratuwa, Kadalana, 07 perches plots, 1km to Galle Road. 0777748812. 011768

Kottawa Mattogoda Housing Complex opposite Main Private Bus Halt, house for sale. 0715762784, 0718323886, 0718797883. 009974

Kotte close to Sirikotha 17.4p with a house. Per perch 32 lakhs. Clear deeds. No brokers. 0767982501, 0703421291. 011711

Kotte 6 perches bare land for sale. Highest offer. More than 2 million per perch. Kotte MC approved plan. 0777588999. 010882

Kotte - Two adjoining blocks of 6.8p each (total 13.56p) land sale in Rajamaha Vihara Mawatha. 0777475015. 011912

Land Sale - Ambatale, Colombo Avissawella Main Road (between Angoda - Ambatale) 32 perch land with three bedroom house for sale. Highly suitable for business, office, factory, warehouse, yard. Easy access to Colombo and to Outer Circular highway. Perch Rs. 2.5 Million (negotiable) Tel: 0777898895. 011035

Do you require houses, lands, business places, for selling, pruchusing, on lease, rent from any area, at any price. any extent? Contact us 0718657176, 0703507177, 0773920709. 011876

Maharagama town 01km, Neelammahara Road with 30 ft access road, upstairs house under construction on 22 perches (two houses in upper and ground floor) for sale, 45 million. 0777892057. 011775

Malabe Town itself fully complete three storeyed house on 11 perches land, ideal for residence for sale (No brokers). 0714290392. 011229

Malabe upstairs house with 14.7 perches land, within 850 metres from town quick sale for land value. 4 vehicle parking. 0777701186. 011849

Malambe Thalahaena - Dutugemunu Mawatha, 21 perches land for sale. Tel. Nos. 0778707940 / 0112412675. 011462

Moratuwa Laxapathiya 03 bedrooms with other facilities, 9.9 P land house for highest offer, sale. 0775487239, 2605316. 010743

Moratuwa two storeyed house with 20 perches land and 20 perches bare land for sale. Watareka, 28 perches land and in Borella 150 sq.ft. shop in the Town itself for sale. Contact quickly Mallika Perera 0752036891, 0712406282, 0787805846. 010091

Moratuwa, Ego-dauyana, St. Mary's Road, house with ceiling, 4 rooms 2 with bathroom with household furniture. 14.5 million 0786919616. 007152

Mount Lavinia - 5 bedrooms house with annexe can be used as two houses all facilities 17 perches surround parapet wall walking distance to Galle Road for highest offer. Buyers only. Contact only owners. 0786454640. 010727

Nugegoda 16.28 perches land for sale at Nugegoda City. Ideal location to build New Year Dream House. Call 0718689853. 011814

Kadawatha, Ganemulla - best blocks of land with pipe borne water. Per perch Rs. 220,000/- onwards. Close to Galahitiyawa Central College and Bulugaha Railway Station. 0711 243243. 011210

Kotte close to Sirikotha 17

Continued pg 18

Meerigama Kotadeniyawa. Exclusive land blocks commercial and residential with all facilities. Per perch from 125,000/- onwards. Call today 0710333111. 011133

Nittambuwa Town exclusive land blocks with all facilities, special discounts, bank loans and easy payment schemes. Per perch Rs. 360,000/- onwards. Call today 0717113333. 011129

15.25 perches land for sale. 300m to Highway Bus Stand, highway entrance and Kadawatha Town. It is rectangular plot on solid ground 22 lks per one perche. 0112901312. 011932

50 perches land with house for sale in Enderamulla Wattala. 100 m away from St. Joseph College and also very close to Enderamulla Mabola Junction (Negombo Road) and Kiribathgoda Town. You can access to the property by two roads. 3 minutes walking distance to Railway Station. 0766390927. 010770

618 House & Property KALUTARA District For sale

Horana Mathugama best blocks of land close to Main Road. Entire block from 8 lks upwards with pipe borne water and easy payment scheme. Bank loan interest rate 8%. Call today: 0703777888. 011125

Horana 4 blocks of land close to Horana Town. Initial payment 4lk, 15 minutes to Southern Highway Galanigama Exit and 5 minutes to proposed Ruwanpura Highway 0711888777. 011205

Panadura, Galle Road, 4 valuable land blocks, 20 perches or 11, 9, 10 perch blocks suitable for residence or any business. Keells Super, Damro, Lyceum School, closeby and within walking distance to KFC, NoLimit, Nation Bank, Base Hospital and Police Station. 0776246131, 0775940495. 011475

Panadura, Horana Road, 2 km to land, pipe water, electricity, telephone, supermarkets nearby. 10 perches, 31 lakhs. 0718322577. 011245

Two storeyed house for sale near Horana town P.10 110 lks. 0715352068. 011776

0711375375 - Dodangoda close to Highway Entrance exclusive land blocks, with pipe borne water. Bank loan interest rate 8%. Call today. 011123

170 perches beautiful paddy land with ovita with panoramic views for sale, near 281 Horana Talgahvila bus route, no brokers pls. Ideal for investment. 076 6778686. 29.75 lakhs. 009048

619 House & Property KURUNEGALA District For sale

Dummalasooriya "The Turin Town" last 02 best blocks of land per perch from 54, 500/- onwards. With all facilities, bank loan and easy payment schemes. Call today 0711999888. 011196

Kuliyapitiya best blocks of land in Kuliyapitiya Town. Per perch from 59,000/- onwards, special discounts available. With water and electricity. Bank loan and easy payment schemes available. Call today 0703111666. 011198

Kurunegala - Pal-landeniya, best blocks of land. Per perch Rs. 72, 500/- with pipe borne water and electricity, special discount, bank loan and easy payment scheme. 070 3111666. 011206

Kurunegala, in between, Colombo Dambulla Expressway access and Kandy Pothuhera Expressway access under construction, in Dambokka, Nakalangamuwa, 400 perches (2 1/2 acres) land block for sale. 0719136444. 010990

Melsiripura best blocks of land in Melsiripura "Pethumpura" Pansiya-gama. Per perch from 49,500/- onwards. With all facilities and special discount, bank loan and easy payment schemes available. Call today 0703111555. 011197

Narammala - facing Narammala Kuliyapitiya Main Road, 10 minutes to Kuliyapitiya Medical Faculty with pipe borne water and electricity, bank loan and easy payment schemes available. Call today 0703111333. 011195

Narammala, Kad-hapola - best blocks of land for commercial and residential purpose. 10 minutes to highway exit with pipe borne water, electricity, special discount, bank loan and easy payment scheme. 071 1999888. 011207

Wariyapola last 07 blocks in Kalugamuwa Road, with water and electricity, bank loan and easy payment schemes. Call today 0703222888. 011199

077438169 Amun-gama, 12 perches, Lewella 15 perches, Arangala Junction 21 perches, Udarata Sedella 32 perches, facing Mahaweli River, these land plots for 3-3 1/2 lakhs, facing 621 Manikhinna Main Road, bordering to a paddy-field at the back, house on 10 perches, 80 lakhs, another old house with 04 large rooms with 50 perches, 68 lakhs. 0775486262. 009367

077922249, 10 houses for the new year from [Rs. 10 million upwards, many business locations from Lewella, Yakgahapitiya, Aruppola, Kundasale areas bordering Mahaweli river from one acre upwards houses with land for immediate sale, 2nd Rajasingha Mawatha, facing Mahaweli River, 63 perches three lakhs per perch. 0775486262. 007641



620 House & Property PUTTALAM District For sale

Naththandiya Town commercial and residential land blocks. Facing Colombo-Kuliyapitiya Main Road. Per perch from 130,000/- onwards. With all facilities. Bank loans and easy payment schemes available. Call today 0710614614. 011139

Pallama best blocks of land for 9 lks. 100m to Anamaduwa Road. With special discount. 0710614614, 011141

Wennappuwa - Lunuwila Exclusive residential land blocks with all facilities. Per perch from 125, 000/- onwards. 0711241241. 011203

621 House & Property KANDY District For sale

Kandy - near Kundasale New Town - 20P land with picturesque view. All facilities are available. Can reach city limit within 10 minutes. Clear titles. Highly residential area. 0777-707273. 011674

Land for sale Kandy Haragama Rajasadella 23.6P perches rectangular block Rs. 385, 000/= per perch, 20 minutes to Kandy - Negotiable. 0777557160. 011355

Residential land close to Digana town area. Price per perch Rs. 90,000.00 bank loans and all facilities available. Call: 0711 623623. 011193

Wattegama - One of the best blocks of land at Wattegama. Price per perch Rs. 70, 000.00 onwards. Bank loans available Call today 0711623623. 011194

077438169 Amun-gama, 12 perches, Lewella 15 perches, Arangala Junction 21 perches, Udarata Sedella 32 perches, facing Mahaweli River, these land plots for 3-3 1/2 lakhs, facing 621 Manikhinna Main Road, bordering to a paddy-field at the back, house on 10 perches, 80 lakhs, another old house with 04 large rooms with 50 perches, 68 lakhs. 0775486262. 009367

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622 House & Property MATALE District For sale

Dambulla last land blocks in Dambulla - Kandalama main road, per perch Rs. 185, 000/- with pipe borne water, electricity and special discount. Bank loan and interest free easy payment schemes. Call today. 070 2111333. 011212

Dambulla 03 last best blocks of land in Dambulla town. Per perch from 265,000/- onwards, with pipe borne water and electricity, bank loan and interest free easy payment scheme. Call today. 070 2111333. 011211

Matale Town - Pal-apathwala best 30 blocks of lands with all facilities. 100m to A9 Road. 0719444666. 011202

627 House & Property MONARAGALA District For sale

Monaragala, near Town limits, 180 perches valuable land block with wide roads and clear title deed, pipe borne water and electricity for immediate sale. Telephone: 0771254137. 009997

628 House & Property KEGALLE District For sale

Colombo Hatton Main Road closeby (30 m) 83 perch land with fully complete house for immediate sale. 7 km to Avisawella Town. Water, electricity and all crops available. Contact 0713367106, 0777179871. 010530

Kegalle Molagoda - Salgahawaththa 3 km away from Kegalle Town, 500 met. from Karadupona Junction 85 perches for sale. 0771633295. 010884

Rambukkana - 03 best blocks of land in Rambukkana town, per perch from 65,500/- onwards. With pipe borne water and electricity, bank loan and easy payment scheme. Call today 070 3111333. 011213

629 House & Property RATNAPURA District For sale

Ratnapura Wew-elwatta Road, Kirivandala, one acre tea cultivated and one acre bare land for immediate sale. 20 lakhs. 0714448065. 010999

630 House & Property GALLE District For sale

Ahungalla - best blocks of land between Ahungalla & Uragaha Town each block for 7 lks with special discounts and easy payment scheme. 0719111222. 011137

Baddegama - best 30 blocks of land at Baddegama for special price. 0711 480480. 011209

Bentota, Wara-hena, 41.96 perch land facing Galle Road with ground floor completed two storey house is for sale. Expecting fifty four millions. Telephone 0719521974. 011339

Best 8 blocks of land close to Galle-Elpitiya Main Road, with bank loan and easy payment scheme available. 0711480480. 011134

Galle - best 4 blocks of land facing New Galle - Baddegama Main Road with special discount & bank loan facility. 0711480480. 011135

Galle, within 01 km from Kurunduwatte Junction, 05 acres land with transferable deed for sale, 280 lakhs (Three acres consists of Cinnamon cultivation). Inquiries : 0704500049, 0767948715. 011236

Rajgama Ganegoda - best 10 blocks of land facing beautiful paddy field, with pipe borne water and electricity. Special discounts & bank loan facility. 0711480480. 011136

631 House & Property MATARA District For sale

Best 12 blocks of land close to Matara, Tangalle Main Road. Close to Dikkwella National School with pipe borne water & electricity. Bank loan & easy payment scheme. Call today: 0711154154. 011201

Large property close to Thalalla Beach for sale 2 1/2 acres land with large house 07 bedrooms floor area 4500 sq.foot Coconut Pepper cultivation with lots of greenery. Ideal for hotel restaurant safe from Tsunami. 160 m looking for foreigners or local businessmen. Contact 0776979647. 010713

Battaramulla Deniyawatta Rd large house upstairs or ground floor available for rent. Suitable for office or residence. Amerasinghe 0774177726. 011618

Matara Isadeen Town best 6 blocks of land within the limits of Rahula, Sujatha Schools, with bank loan & easy payment scheme. 0711444999. 011200

Matara, Kekana-dura - best 10 blocks of land facing Matara Kekandura main road, with pipe borne water & electricity. Bank loan & special discount. 0711 444999. 011214

Matara, within the range of Sujatha, Rahula Schools, 11 land blocks with all facilities for sale. Telephone 0714236429, close to Matara Godagama Southern Expressway access Kotawila New Town within 10 minutes. 59 perches land with all facilities for sale. Telephone 0714236429. 010714

641 House & Property COLOMBO District To let or lease

Annexe available with all facilities for rent at Aponso Mawatha, Dehiwala. Tel: 011-2713805. 009055

Anula Road Col 05 fully furnished 03 B/Rooms apartment (Campbell place Dehiwala fully furnished 03 B/Roomed house Nedimala Dehiwala furnished 02 B/Room house. 0777779869. 011993

A house 3 B/R bathroom 2 toilets telephone garage and other facilities. 41/8A, Patalawatte Road, Nedimala, Dehiwala. 010710

Bambalapitiya Upatissa Road, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, hall, kitchen with A/C and car park (1800 sq.ft) house for rent. 0776630613. 011156

Dehiwala - Two bedroomed house for rent or lease. No 53A, Anderson Rd, Kalubowila. 0776638749. 011394

Dehiwala - 02 roomed upstairs unit tiled, pantry, hall, car park. Separate entrance. Highly residential. 0770242193. 011898

Dehiwala house rent. Quarry Road fully tiled 2 bedrooms with attached bathrooms, large fitted pantry master with hot water, A/C, servant room with toilet, spacious downstairs house, separate water/electricity / remote parking. 60 K. 0773426006. 011014

Dehiwala - 3BR upstairs annexe with all facilities close to Galle Road. 33 C 1/1, Aponso Avenue, Dehiwala, evenings, week-ends inspection. 010689

Bellanwila temple close by, facing main road, upstairs for rent, large living, pantry, 03 rooms, one room (A/C), 02 bathrooms. Rs. 50,000/- 06 months advance. 0770132067. 011780

Boralesgamuwa 10th Mile Post fully tiled 03 bedroom 02 bathroom upstairs for rent. 01 vehicle parking available. Please call 0722251333 / 0716367229. 010431

Colombo 05, Thimbirigasyaya Rd., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1500 sq) in front of the Keells. 0777812845, 0778246445. 011315

Colombo 10 single house, two large bedrooms attached toilets sitting, dining kitchen pantry close to leading schools. 0771988316. 010704

Colombo 15, 2 bedroom 1st Floor apartment in Aluthmawatha Road, St. James flats, Colombo 15 for rent. Inspection on Sunday after 10 a.m. Contact details. 0777233434. 011157

Colombo - 06, Kirulapone single storey one bedroom house with hall & kitchen along with 2-4 parking facility available for rent. TP: 0772569234. 011183

Dehiwala for Rent - Unfurnished five bedroom house with 4 bathrooms, fully tiled with all facilities spacious garden. Close to all religious places, banks, supermarkets & leading schools. No. 39, Kalubowila Sri Wimalasiri Road, Dehiwala for immediate occupation. +94112714088. 009042

Dehiwala fur-nished luxury room for monthly rent. Walking distance to Galle Road, parking A/C, hotwater Dialog TV suitable for an Executive. Contact: 0773813568. 011972

Dehiwala - Two bedroomed house for rent or lease. No 53A, Anderson Rd, Kalubowila. 0776638749. 011394

Dehiwala - 02 roomed upstairs unit tiled, pantry, hall, car park. Separate entrance. Highly residential. 0770242193. 011898

Dehiwala house rent. Quarry Road fully tiled 2 bedrooms with attached bathrooms, large fitted pantry master with hot water, A/C, servant room with toilet, spacious downstairs house, separate water/electricity / remote parking. 60 K. 0773426006. 011014

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Dehiwala - 02 roomed upstairs unit tiled, pantry, hall, car park. Separate entrance. Highly residential. 0770242193. 011898

Dehiwala, Sri Sa-ranankara Road, new house available on rent. Ground floor fully tiled, 2 rooms, 2 bathrooms, pantry. 0716173199. 011232

Godagama, close to High Level Rd, upstairs house with 3 bedrooms rent. Rs. 20,000/- 6 months advance. 076-8005375. 011825

House for Lease - Colombo 9 Dematagoda 67/63 Quaraisani Mowlana Lane small tiled house 2 rooms kitchen bathroom toilet 15 lks. Monthly rental Rs. 3000/- 0763770614. 011867

Kalubowila Ha-thbodiya Road Dehiwala 03 bedrooms 03 bathrooms hall TV Hall dining hall pantry garage lease 65000/- 6 months key money 0763655142. 012020

Kottawa Brand New two bedrooms apartment to rent out, A/C, Gym car parking swimming pool 1000 sq.ft. three wash rooms. Next to Highway Exit Kottawa. Contact: 0714283592. 011877

Kottawa Brand New 3 bedrooms maidroom fully airconditioned beautiful apartment with balcony green view swimming pool gym parking security for rent/lease 2 min to highway and city bus station. Contact: 0777661170, 0762040470. 011875

Moratuwa, Go-rakana annexe for rent, suitable for a couple or a small family. 0712895957 / 038-2297428. Rs. 20,000/= per month. 010910

Mount Lavinia St. Mary's Road, three rooms, tiled with parking, first floor of house for rent monthly Rs. 40000/- 0715324130. 010997

Mount Lavinia - Three bedrooms two bathrooms partly furnished well maintained upstairs house garage, garden, domestic bathroom close to Galle Road, Sea Beach, St. Thomas College. Contact ; 0777324270. 010885

Mt. Lavinia 3BR, 3 toilets, 2 parking, servants, garden. 103, First Cross Lane, off Templars Road. 0777688144. 010455

Mt. Lavinia 3 bedroomed annexe, two toilets all facilities close to Galle Road 18C Minerigama place 35,000 negotiable 0112717422. 011957

Nawala annexe suitable for couple close to Open University. 31/6, D.M. Colombage Mawatha, Nawala, Nugegoda. 0775483149. 010402

Nawala Junction house for rent 60, 000/- 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms No. 26th, 8th Lane Nawala Road, Nawala advance 3 lks Siddik. 0776477297 No brokers. 011172

No. 18, Rupasinghe Road, Nedimala, Dehiwala fully completed house with three bedrooms for rent. Parking facility available. 010001

Nugegoda High Level road close to flyover annexe for rent. Contact 0722829979, 0761652020, 0112829979. 010690

Nugegoda junction close by fully complete house with 3 room for rent. Inspection only on Saturday and Sundays. 0785100429. 011008

Nawala Junction house for rent 60, 000/- 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms No. 26th, 8th Lane Nawala Road, Nawala advance 3 lks Siddik. 0776477297 No brokers. 011172

No. 18, Rupasinghe Road, Nedimala, Dehiwala fully completed house with three bedrooms for rent. Parking facility available. 010001

Nugegoda High Level road close to flyover annexe for rent. Contact 0722829979, 0761652020, 0112829979. 010690

Nugegoda junction close by fully complete house with 3 room for rent. Inspection only on Saturday and Sundays. 0785100429. 011008

Nugegoda, Kan-dewatta Road, 02 bedrooms, air-conditioning, attached bathrooms, hot water, visiting/fitting room, pantry, servants bathroom, garage, roller door, Nawala Road, Wetland Park, close to Nugegoda Town, ground floor, all facilities. Contact: 0112-810238, 0777-747648. 011243

Nugegoda, Kan-dewatta Road, 02 bedrooms, air-conditioning, attached bathrooms, hot water, visiting/fitting room, pantry, servants bathroom, garage, roller door, Nawala Road, Wetland Park, close to Nugegoda Town, ground floor, all facilities. Contact: 0112-810238, 0777-747648. 011243

Pepiliyana, 50m to spar supermarket, highly respectable residential area, 2 rooms, 2 bathrooms, pantry, large sitting & balcony, parking for 2. No brokers. 0112728371, 0779409419. 011695

Ratmalana up-stair annexe separate entrance attached bathroom parking furniture minimum stay 12 months Rs. 30, 000 including water electricity 0777324193. 011944

Ratmalana - an-nexe tiled one bedroom pantry sitting room toilet downstairs. 0776278909 / 0755611815. 010708

Ratmalana, close to Galle Road, lower floor, 3 rooms, 2 bathrooms, modern pantry tiled AC hot water for rent. Rs. 52,000/=, 4 months deposit. 0766882084. 010696

Two bedroomed house. 207, De Mel Road, Laxapathiya, Moratuwa. Tel: 0779219041 or 0777369782. 011791

Upstairs apart-ment for rent within main house on Gower Street, Colombo 05 in front of Police Park. Please call: 0778451963 for details. 011514

Waidiya Road, Dehiwala 2 rooms available from 200m from Galle Road. All facilities available fully tiled. 0766863091. 011492

Wellawatte Town - 2 upstairs houses with all facilities for rent. Closer to schools hospitals markets. Contact: 0761945882. 012056

Wellawatte, Are-thusa Lane 2 bedrooms (1 with A/C), 2 bathrooms, hall (A/C), kitchen apartment house with vehicle parking for rent. No brokers. Contact: 0773479236. 011182

Wellawatte Town - 2 upstairs houses with all facilities for rent. Closer to schools hospitals markets. Contact: 0761945882. 012056

Wellawatte, Are-thusa Lane 2 bedrooms (1 with A/C), 2 bathrooms, hall (A/C), kitchen apartment house with vehicle parking for rent. No brokers. Contact: 0773479236. 011182

642 House & Property GAMPAHA District To let or lease

House for rent in Mahabage Kurunduwatta Road 3 large bedroom hall kitchen with pantry 2 wash rooms. 13 perch rent 35,000/= 0755827858. 011074

Large house with 2 rooms for rent close proximity to Colombo Road. Rent 25,000/=, central location. 0772954845. 010888

Two roomed up-stair flat at 266A Negombo Road Wattala for rent attached toilet kichenette balcony space separate entrance ideal for couple. Contact: 0767816461. 011973

Wattala close to Town within 300 metres from Mabile Junction, fully complete annexe and house available on rent. Ideal for a couple. 0773659818. 010355

646 House & Property KANDY District To let or lease

Kandy Avissawella, Pitakanda Road, within 5 minutes from Kalutara Kade, 3 rooms without facilities for rent

SPORTS



Women's tennis player smashes two racquets at Aussie Open

Karolina Pliskova smashed two racquets and argued with the umpire in her 7-5 7-5 third-round loss to Karolina Muchova at the Australian Open.

The Czech sixth seed was given a code violation when she destroyed her racquet after losing the first set. She then walked into the players' tunnel and broke another racquet before being reported by an official.

"It's off court, I'm allowed to do what I want," Pliskova argued after being docked a point for a second violation.

Chair umpire Alison Hughes told Pliskova that she was not allowed to destroy any equipment during a match.

The incident seemed to fire up Pliskova's game as the former world number one then raced into a 5-0 lead in the second set before losing seven games in a row to see her bid for a maiden Grand Slam title come to an end.

International Tennis Federation (ITF) rules state players are not allowed to "violently or with anger hit, kick or throw a racquet or other equipment within the precincts of the tournament site".

Pliskova hit 40 unforced errors to 23 winners and has not reached the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam since the 2019 Australian Open.

"I don't feel safe with anything that I was really doing on the court," she said.

"Of course, I played quite amazing to 5-0, but then it's quite tough to hold this level for a longer time." Czech Muchova will play Swiss 11th seed Belinda Bencic or 18th seed Elise Mertens of Belgium for a place in the quarter-finals.

Fifth seed Elina Svitolina advanced to the second week with a 6-4 6-0 win over Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan.

Ukrainian Svitolina will play

Jessica Pegula as the American stopped France's Kristina Mladenovic 6-2 6-1.

Donna Vekic saved match point and overturned a 3-0 third-set deficit to beat dangerous Estonian Kaia Kanepi.

Kanepi had ended Sofia Kenin's title defence in the second round and Croatia's Vekic had to dig deep to win 5-7 7-6 (7-2) 6-4.

She will play American Jennifer Brady, who continued her good form with a 6-1 6-3 win over Slovenian qualifier Kaja Juvan.

There are no fans at the Australian Open as Melbourne enters a five-day lockdown.

(bbcspport)

Top women's chess players vie for honours

Top ranked women's chess players are participating in the second Sri Lanka Women's Chess Grand Prix 2021 which started yesterday at the Chess Federation headquarters in Nugegoda.

This leading women's event is conducted by the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka (CFSL) and played on a round robin basis over eleven rounds. They will be given a time frame of 90 minutes with an increment of 30 seconds.

The event is webcast live using DGT Electronic Boards. Live streaming of the final will be arranged by CFSL You tube.

A total cash prize of Rs. 70,000 with medals and trophies will be presented to the winners.

The list of Participants:

1. WCM T.H.D. Niklesha Tharushi (No 4) - Visakha Vidyalaya - 1712
2. M. Tharushi Sandeepani (No 4) Devi Balika Vidyalaya - 1706

3. WFM, Hansika Mendis (Women National Champion 2015, & 2016) - Visakha Vidyalaya - 1677

4. N. T. Abeywardena (University of Colombo)

5. WCM, Ehsha Mishela Pallie (Former Youth National Champion) - Visakha Vidyalaya - 1612

6. WCM, G. P. Y. Wijesuriya (Former Junior National Champion) - Visakha Vidyalaya - 1606

7. WCM, K.M. Dahamdi Sanudula (Amateur National Champion) - Musaeus College - 1593

8. H.M.H. Janandani Abeysinghe (Former National Player) - NSBM Green University - 1508

9. Devindya Gunawardena - Ferguson High School - 1209

10. P.W.G. Gaveshi Wickramaratne - Castle Siege Chess Club - 1206

11. W. Gimashi Weeratunga - Anula Vidyalaya - 1160

12. D.G. Jayandi Bimansa - Super Fighter Chess Club - 1509 (YK)

Cycling doctor charged with two violations of anti-doping rules

Ex-British Cycling and Team Sky chief doctor Richard Freeman has been charged by UK Anti-Doping (Ukad) with two violations of anti-doping rules, the BBC has learned.

The medic is already fighting a General Medical Council allegation that he ordered banned testosterone in 2011 to help dope a rider.

The accusation is central to Freeman's two-year fitness to practise tribunal, with final submissions completed at a hearing on Friday.

But the sport's former top doctor has now been charged by Ukad with "possession of a prohibited substance" and "tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control".

A charge of tampering would cover an attempt to subvert any aspect of doping control, including an investigation. Freeman is understood to have contested part of the charges, and has requested a hearing. The development is arguably



Richard Freeman

the most serious twist to date in a saga that has cast a shadow over the reputation of Britain's hugely successful track and road cycling teams. Freeman has been accused by the GMC of ordering 30 sachets of Testogel to the national velodrome a decade ago "knowing or believing" the banned drug was intended to boost an athlete's performance.

If found guilty by an independent national anti-doping panel, Freeman could face a four-year ban from sport. He has admitted 18 of 22 charges against him, including initially lying to try to cover up the order, and misleading a Ukad investigation. (bbcspport)

Ireland's loss to Wales creates uncertainty as Six Nations gathers momentum

Ireland's camp will be an edgy place this week - having lost their opener against Wales, they know the consequences of losing at home to France are daunting.

Edgy doesn't necessarily mean bad, as long as the team manage to channel their energy the right way.

In recent days the coaches will have picked the bones of the Wales

game; set the scene, provided all the analysis and detail the players need in order to make improvements to the overall performance.

But as we approach the end of the week, the players will start taking charge and increasingly it's up to them to find the right emotional pitch that they will need to beat France.



Serena Williams in action

Struggle for Williams to enter fourth round

Serena Williams overcame a sluggish start to beat Anastasia Potapova and reach the Australian Open fourth round.

Tenth seed Williams, bidding for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title, came through 7-6 (7-5) 6-2 against the 101st-ranked Russian.

However, the American had trailed 5-3 in an error-strewn first set, and she had to save two set points before dialling back in to win.

Naomi Osaka also advanced after a cagey match against Ons Jabeur of Tunisia.

Third seed Osaka and her opponent struggled for rhythm but it was the Japanese who prevailed 6-3 6-2.

Osaka will face two-time Grand Slam champion Garbine Muguruza next, while Williams plays seventh seed Aryna Sabalenka for a place in the quarter-finals.

She will face a tough test against big-hitting Belarusian Sabalenka, who beat American Ann Li 6-3 6-1.

"I came out of the blocks not like I

have been before," said the 39-year-old, who had dropped only five games in her previous two matches.

"But it's all about surviving and playing better every round."

Last year's finalist Muguruza needed just 58 minutes to beat Kazakhstan's Zarina Diyas 6-1 6-1.

Spaniard Muguruza has lost just 10 games in her opening three matches.

Taiwanese Hsieh Su-wei reached the fourth round for the third time in her career with a 6-4 2-6 7-5 victory over Sara Errani of Italy.

Hsieh, who beat eighth seed Bianca Andreescu in the second round, trailed 5-3 in the decider before winning four successive games to advance.

She will play Czech Marketa Vondrousova next, after the 19th seed beat Sorana Cirstea of Romania 6-2 6-4.

Second seed Simona Halep registered a straightforward 6-1 6-3 victory over Veronika Kudermetova of Russia. (bbcspport)



Joe Root turns back on IPL for country's sake

Joe Root on Friday said he remains "desperate" to play the Indian Premier League but his commitment to England cricket remains top priority.

Root opted out of this year's IPL auctions scheduled on February 18. Eight overseas players including Australia's Steve Smith got a top base price of \$275,000.

"It was a very difficult decision," Root said on the eve of the second Test against India in Chennai.

"At some point in my career I am desperate to try and be a part of an IPL season and a few more beyond that. Something that I love to experience and love to be a part of."

Root, who has been kept out of England's Twenty20 squad for the upcoming five matches in India, has never played the cash-rich league. He was on the auction table in 2018 but went unsold.

Root, who scored 218 in his 100th Test as England won the opener on Tuesday, has been in blazing form after hitting match-winning scores of 228 and 186 in Sri Lanka Tests.

England have a minimum of 17 Tests to play this year and Root said he

needed to prioritise those matches.

"With the amount of international cricket and Test cricket in particular this year, I didn't feel it was the right time to throw all my energy into it which I think it deserves," said Root.

"And I don't think it would set English cricket up best with what's to come. Hopefully next year there will be an opportunity to potentially be a part of the IPL or at least be in the auctions."

Australia's Smith and Glenn Maxwell, England's Moeen Ali, Sam Billings, Liam Plunkett, Jason Roy and Mark Wood and Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan are in the top bracket along with India's Harbhajan Singh and Kedar Jadhav.

A total of 292 cricketers -- 164 Indians, 125 overseas players and three from associate nations -- will go under the hammer when the auction takes place in Chennai.

The 14th edition of the tournament is expected to be held in India starting April. The last season was played in the United Arab Emirates due to the rising coronavirus cases in India.



Action in the game between Ireland and Wales

It is worth looking at some of the positive elements of Ireland's display in Cardiff, because there were a few, but it is also worth noting that the Six Nations is about winning five matches.

If this was a long league season you would look at that performance and pick the positives, understanding that you can do better in certain

aspects but knowing you have a really good base to build on.

Unfortunately this is the Six Nations, which makes this a sprint not a marathon. Promising performance or not, Ireland are on the back foot now.

What we did see were the green shoots in the line-out that we had hoped for, particularly the defen-

sive line-out which was outstanding, while Ireland now look like a team that can keep hold of the ball, generate momentum and get fast ball with their ruck.

Their general shape and kicking game was solid, you could see largely what they were trying to do.

There was plenty for them to build on, which is why it's such a shame that the Six Nations is only a five-game tournament and the first game dictates your mood.

As for Peter O'Mahony's red card, there is not much that has not been said already: Pete put his team in a tough spot and will be all too aware of that, but Ireland can't use that as an excuse - they had ample opportunity to win the game.

Billy Burns will be equally disappointed, probably more than he will ever be able to put into words. This is a level where those little moments really matter, and he will have felt that ever since the final kick of Sunday's game.

One mistake at the end of a game will not decide his international future and as Ronan O'Gara said, it's about making sure it isn't replicated.

Based on Wales' performance on Sunday it is hard to see them winning their next four - and while you wouldn't want to rule out Scotland after their magnificent showing at Twickenham, they still have to go to France, which makes Fabien Galthie's side the ones to beat.

This is a team that look to finally have rid themselves of their mercurial tag and are now the real deal.

Galthie can take great credit. He has injected youth into the side, but the biggest thing he's managed to do is bring a consistency to selection.

In past years France have been constantly changing their starting line-up from a pool of as many as 40 players, it felt all over the place.

Under Galthie they have selection stability, and that provides the players within the system with confidence and familiarity. That builds resilience, and resilience is the key ingredient to winning away games at Test level.

They have a new mindset, a new culture building, but if you want to look at raw talent they have what every top team in the world needs: world-class half-backs.

Even with Romain Ntamack out, the amount of responsibility Antoine Dupont is taking on in terms of dictating the play is allowing Matthieu Jalibert to slot into 10 without much disruption.

Dupont is a magical player, and slowing him down is key to getting on top of France. The most effective way to try and nullify him is to control the gain-line.

Once he gets on the front foot that's whenever he becomes extremely dangerous, and his dominance has a domino effect across the backline.

When Scotland beat France last year, they won enough of the collisions to get them on the back foot - so Ireland have to front up and their set-piece has to fire again. (bbcspport)



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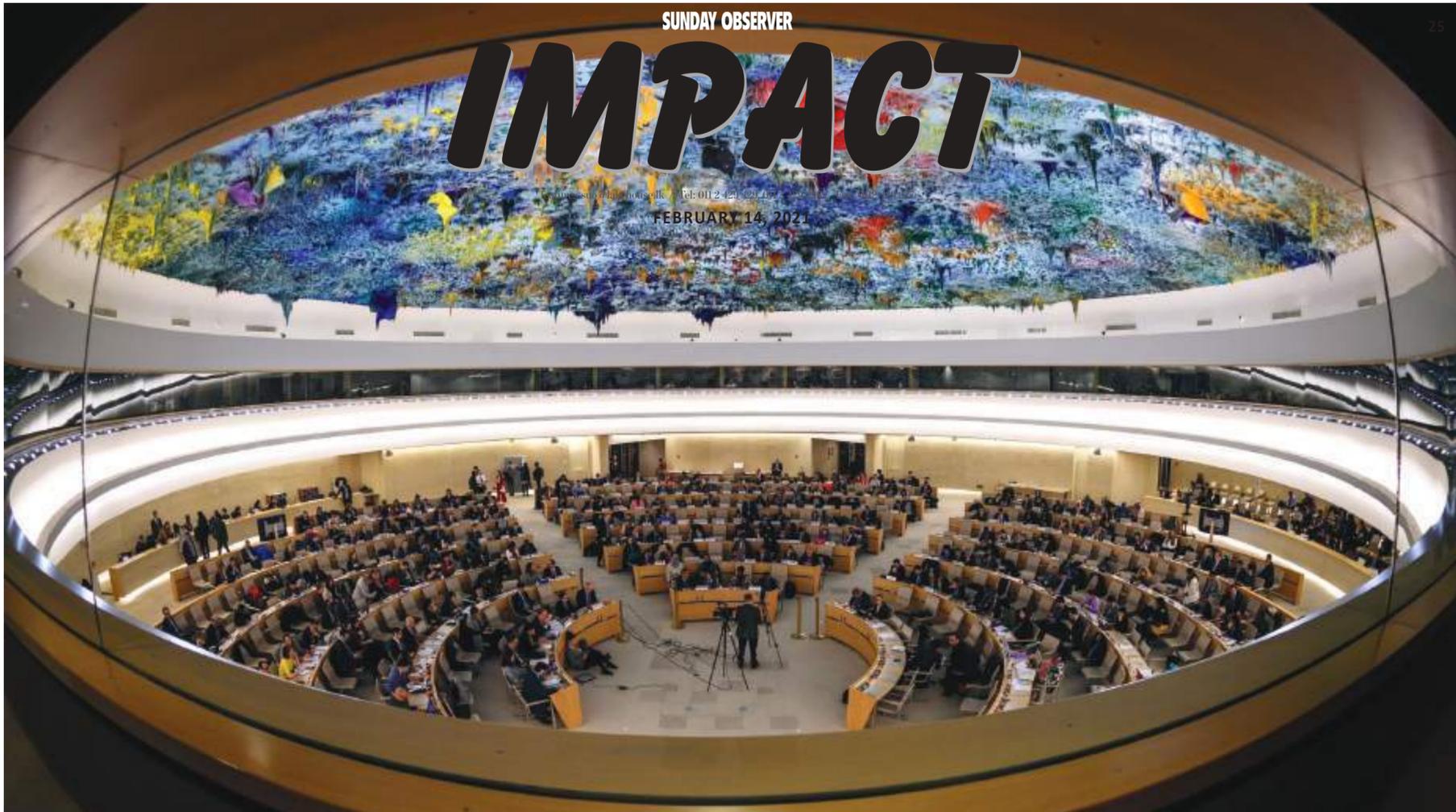


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IMPACT

FEBRUARY 14, 2021



Geneva crisis - the way forward

By
Sarath Wijesinghe



'No permanent friends or enemies - only permanent interests'

- Henry Kissinger

The best place to witness this is in the Geneva arena where big and small players depend on allies for the interests of their countries. This is mostly so when there are country specific issues in UN sessions and countries jealously protect their interests during periodic reviews. Alliances of powerful states target one or more, especially, small member nations, with Sri Lanka being a classic example paying the price for winning the 30-year battle against terrorism.

The periodic review of the Geneva process on Sri Lanka will take place from February 22 to March 23 during the 47th session in Geneva deliberating the universal periodic review of Human Rights situations in selected countries of member states.

This is a unique process which involves allegations of violations of human rights in high-risk countries. The review is conducted by the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights appointed by the Human Rights Council (HRC) which consists of 47 members of member nations selected on rotation for a specific period with a specific mandate. Sri Lanka is obliged to abide by the requirements when it enters into agreements, conventions, or treaties.

Bound by obligations

Sri Lanka is a signatory to the UN Charter brought into force on October 24, 1945, and international covenants subsequently on Civil, Political, and Economic rights and is thereby bound by their requirements.

These are documents to be fol-

lowed by all nations, the International Court of Justice being the world court on interpretation and implementation.

Article (1) of the UN Charter states the organisation is based on the principle of sovereign equality of all members with the exception in Article 2(7) which states nothing in the present Charter shall authorise the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require members to submit such matters to settlements under the present Charter, but the principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement under chapter VII.

The Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner of Human Rights is constituted by a resolution of the General Assembly on 15/3/2006 with 47 member states from various parts of the globe selected on the basis and practice adopted by the General Assembly. No individual country has a right to intervene in international affairs (Art1) but making adverse statements on Human Rights situations is tolerated and collective actions by the UN as stated in Chapter V11, e.g. applied in matters relating to Iraq, and Libya are historical and controversial in UN history.

The issue that has escalated started in Sri Lanka in 2009 with the liberation of trapped civilians from the clutches of the LTTE using them as a human shield and the rescue operation was well documented in the media.

Then Secretary General Ban Ki Moon visited Sri Lanka after the victory and in 2010 the LLRC was set up, providing around 300 recommendations. At the resolution 19/2 HRC made recommendations during the period of Navi Pillai who was instrumental in resolutions 22/1 and 25/1.

The Geneva process involves foreign policy of member states interacting with member nations, the UN and subsidiary organisations. Foreign policy is an extension of domestic

THE GENEVA PROCESS INVOLVES FOREIGN POLICY OF MEMBER STATES INTERACTING WITH MEMBER NATIONS, THE UN AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANISATIONS. FOREIGN POLICY IS AN EXTENSION OF DOMESTIC POLICY AND THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN REFLECT THE WHIMS OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL STATES

policy and the resolutions of the UN reflect the whims of the most influential states.

Agreements

Member nations should be careful in entering into agreements whether through the UN or otherwise. The Indo Sri Lanka Accord (which is not registered in the UN), was made in a haphazard way with no proper preparation between the two neighbour states of unequal size with disputes still ongoing due to its complex nature.

The Indo Sri Lanka Accord of 1987 gave birth to the Provincial Councils established under the 13th Amendment to the Constitution against the wish of the majority. Sri Lanka has made similar mistakes in entering into agreements by leaders with no vision for the nation and the future generation is suffering as a result.

LLRC and their revaluations

At the resolution A/HRC/25/1 March 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council requested the UN High Commissioner for a comprehensive report regarding alleged violations in Sri Lanka by both sides during the period covered by LLRC to avoid impunity and ensuring accountability.

Accordingly, an oral update was given at the 27th sessions on investigations in Geneva. The period covered in the report is between 21/2/2003 to 15/11/2011. The non-state party mentioned is the LTTE and although non state parties are

not eligible for participation, the opportunity was given to them because of their influential backing.

The non-state in this instance had the sympathy and the financial backing of the massive diaspora in Western countries, with effective influence of key electorates and media organisations. In 2014, the Human Rights Council appointed three advisers to advise the HRC and then Commissioner Zeid Raad Al Hussein.

Although the word 'other party' is mildly mentioned in passing, their serious atrocities in Sri Lanka are completely ignored, which is an unsatisfactory situation.

There are allegations from the UNHRC that no progress has been made on reconciliation, and other pledges made on improving human rights. The controversial joint resolutions of 30/1 and 40/1 were adopted as roll overs mainly due to the interest of a former Foreign Minister.

Whether covering approval was obtained or the resolutions were adopted without the permission of the government was discussed and remains unanswered. Some evidence for resolution 40/1 was the Channel 4 documentary and hearsay uncorroborated evidence randomly collected by NGOs with hidden agendas.

With the change of government the previous resolutions 30/1, 34/1 and 40/1 were withdrawn. The next HRC sessions will be on a virtual platform on February 22, 2021 in Geneva with the address of President Joe Biden although the US withdrew from the Council under its predecessor,

calling it a 'cesspool of political bias'.

USA role

Apparently, this has now changed, and the new US administration may re-join the Human Rights Council with new changes.

The report on Sri Lanka in this session will take main stage with the address by the High Commissioner, Michelle Bachelet, a former President of Chile who apparently has submitted a strong report based on non-implementation of previous supposed to be agreements on reconciliation, implementations and recommendations of the LLRC report. Minister of Foreign Affairs Dinesh Gunawardena will address the sessions virtually on zoom in response to the proposed recommendations for actions.

Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Commission is a powerful statutory body consisting of a Chairman and five members well-funded and well equipped with staff. It is the main body to defend human rights in Sri Lanka and is competent to meet these challenges.

The current Chairman is an able former Minister and must meet the challenges to defend the country while countering the arguments of the High Commissioner. The Commission's responsibility will be to demonstrate the steps that have been taken to address reconciliation issues and the progress made.

The rescue operation at the end of the battle against terrorism and the subsequent rehabilitation program stands as one of the greatest humanitarian operations in modern history.

The Commissioners can demonstrate Sri Lanka's ability to protect human rights through domestic mechanisms. The presenting of a strong domestic framework can go a long way in invalidating the calls for inter-

national action. The Foreign Ministry and Government institutions will be able to assist the defenders to promote Sri Lankan interests at the highest level.

Allies worldwide

Defence is not easy but possible if properly engaged with the diplomatic community and allies worldwide with the help of the network of embassies, with their knowledge and goodwill maintained for years.

The direction and the vision of an active Human Rights Commission in Sri Lanka can also make a strong difference. The way forward is hard work. Engage with embassies and Ambassadors worldwide, rally the friends of Sri Lanka, work with the patriotic academics and professionals internationally and in Sri Lanka, give interviews, promote media campaigns local and international, learn from mistakes, and educate the community to act as one defending the nation.

We should learn from other examples such as Israel which faced 50 direct resolutions and 131 general resolutions and survived due to their strategy and power to defend based on the knowledge of international law and allies who lent support. We have our traditional friends such as Russia, China, Cuba and other countries.

To contribute towards this discussion, the Ambassadors' Forum is publishing a book to address these issues and provide an independent analysis of Sri Lanka and on human rights to be used in Geneva as a hand book.

The book will consist of submissions by leading academics and professionals to counter misleading narratives and engage in independent academic discussions regarding the issues that Sri Lanka faces.

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The writer is a President's Counsel, former Ambassador to UAE and Israel, and President of the Ambassadors' Forum

Anti-vaxxer messages circulate online

As Sri Lanka prepared to kick off a mass coronavirus vaccination drive, messages circulated on Facebook urging people to consume herbal remedies instead of taking the Covid-19 vaccine.

The misleading claim was shared repeatedly in multiple posts. Medical experts told AFP that the purported remedies were not proven to prevent infection from Covid-19. They also said that approved Covid-19 vaccines being offered in the country -- including the Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines -- had passed rigorous clinical trials and were safe.

The misleading messages were shared in multiple Facebook posts.

"Don't take the murderous corona vaccine. All those who use the Covid-19 vaccine given by the government will die within a year due to their bodies weakening. This is all part of an attempt to sell Sri Lanka to foreigners," one of the Sinhala-language messages reads.

It claims Covid-19 is "just like malaria" and can be cured by drinking a remedy of boiled coriander seeds infused with ginger.

"Immediately put a stop to eating

meat, fish, dried fish or any kind of meat. Drink half a cup of warm water every half an hour.

Chemical and poison free, jackfruit, breadfruit, manioc and greens are best for consumption. Refrain from breaking rest and engaging in tedious activities," it reads.

The post goes on to recommend physical activity such as walking and gardening, and suggests people should avoid drinking, smoking and 'sinning'.

Sri Lanka approved the emergency use of the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University on January 22, 2021. The country which began vaccinating frontline health workers for Covid-19 in January is set to kick off a mass coronavirus vaccination drive for the public in March, health authorities said.

Vaccine safety

The Health Promotion Bureau published an information sheet in a bid to reassure the public about the safety of Covid-19 vaccines.

Medical experts have warned that herbal treatments have not been



proven to prevent or cure Covid-19, as of February 11, 2021.

Sanjaya Senanayake, an infectious diseases professor at the Australian National University, told AFP that vaccination is "the best way" to control the spread of Covid-19.

"For some infections, particularly viruses, there are no antibiotics

available to treat them, so prevention through immunisation is the best way to control them and Covid-19 is no exception to this," he said by email.

Fears around vaccine safety were unjustified, he said, because trials for Covid-19 vaccines, such as the ones created by Pfizer-BioNTech and Ox-

ford-AstraZeneca, have been carried out "very carefully".

"Given that over 100 million people have been vaccinated worldwide with the vaccine rollout, we have further evidence that the vaccines are safe", he said.

Unproven herbal treatments

Covid-19 cannot be cured by consuming coriander seed and ginger infused water, medical experts say.

"Boiled coriander water cannot cure either Malaria or Covid-19; the herbal properties may only help alleviate symptoms," Dr. L. P.A. Karunathilake, a senior lecturer of indigenous medicine at Colombo University told AFP by phone.

AFP has debunked similar claims about ginger remedies preventing Covid-19 they circulated online in Africa and Asia.

As of February 11, 2021, the WHO advises against home remedies to treat Covid-19. The organisation stated in October 2020 that drinking traditional herbal teas does not prevent

Covid-19 infection and can even be harmful. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said there is "no specific antiviral treatment recommended" for Covid-19 infection.

Other purported health tips shared in the misleading posts, such as the claim that drinking warm water can cure Covid-19, have been refuted by health experts.

Malaria comparison

The claim that Covid-19 infection is similar to malaria is also false: the two diseases are caused by different microorganisms. Malaria is caused by plasmodium parasites spread to humans via mosquitoes that act as malaria vectors, according to the WHO.

By contrast, the Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus that causes respiratory illness.

While antimalarial drugs are available to treat malaria, viral infections such as Covid-19 cannot be treated by the use of antibiotics, according to the WHO. (AFP)

The boy that time forgot

Was he mauled by leopards, grabbed by treasure hunters or murdered?

BY LEON BERENGER

It was late July in 2018 when many parents were readying their children for the much awaited Year-Five Scholarship Exam that was to be held throughout the country.

Ten-year-old Saman Kumara was a child of special needs and attended a tiny village school in rural Balangoda.

His name was not on the Exam list owing to his health condition on the one hand and his poverty-stricken parents could not afford the required material on the other.

On the fateful day, July 20, Sahan Kumara left his parents' wattle and daub home in Samanalawatte-Balangoda and headed for the shallow stream that flows nearby.

It was long before dusk. At that time his parents were away at work at a nearby estate and the boy was at home along with his younger sister.

The boy was last seen by another group of village boys who were wading in the stream and they called out to him to join them but he refused and made his way back home.

A loner by character that was the last time anyone would see the boy and the case remains unsolved and currently in limbo even though three-plus years have passed on.

The case attracted a lot of media attention and the law enforcement agencies were hard-pressed to provide answers.

Search

The authorities deployed some 50 Army personnel force with an equal number of police officers to conduct a thorough search in the area for the missing boy but without any success.

The village of Samanalawatte is situated on a steep and isolated mountain range, some 16 kilometres west of the main Balangoda town bordering the Seepada Reserve and home to around three dozen families.

The task of the search parties was to scout around some five acres of shrub jungle as it was strongly suspected that the boy may have been dragged away by leopards that are known to frequent the area.

The search parties were deployed for nearly a week in the area but there were no signs of the missing boy.

As one senior police investigator put it at that time. "Even if the boy had been attacked by leopards there should be some human remains or perhaps even a piece of clothing or footwear belonging to the missing child.

But there was none and the next location of search was the many abandoned gem mining pits situated in the area where it was believed that the boy may have fallen.

After the search operations were called off police began investigating speculation and rumours that the

HAVING EXHAUSTED THEIR SUSPECTS IN THE CASE INVESTIGATORS OPTED TO SWING THE SEARCH LIGHT INWARDS AND TOWARDS THIS END THEY BEGAN TO GRILL THE BOY'S MOTHER SINCE SHE HAD MADE QUESTIONABLE STATEMENTS. AFTER TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF INTENSE QUESTIONING THE MOTHER GAVE AWAY VERY LITTLE ONLY TO INSIST THAT HER CHILD DID NOT RETURN HOME AFTER THE TRIP TO THE STREAM

boy may have been grabbed or even sold to treasure hunters to be used as a human sacrifice and towards this end local soothsayers and so-called holy men in the area were rounded up and questioned at length but with zero success.

Then there is also the mystery of the police sniffer dogs that were deployed in the search.

The dogs picked up the trail down to the stream and back to the boy's home which indicates that he went missing at this spot and not midway as claimed by his mother.

Having exhausted their suspects in the case investigators opted to swing the search light inwards and towards this end they began to grill the boy's mother since she had made questionable statements.

After two consecutive days of intense questioning the mother gave away very little only to insist that her child did not return home after the trip to the stream.

This statement clashed with the behaviour of the sniffer dogs that had returned and sat close to the pile of school books belonging to the missing boy.

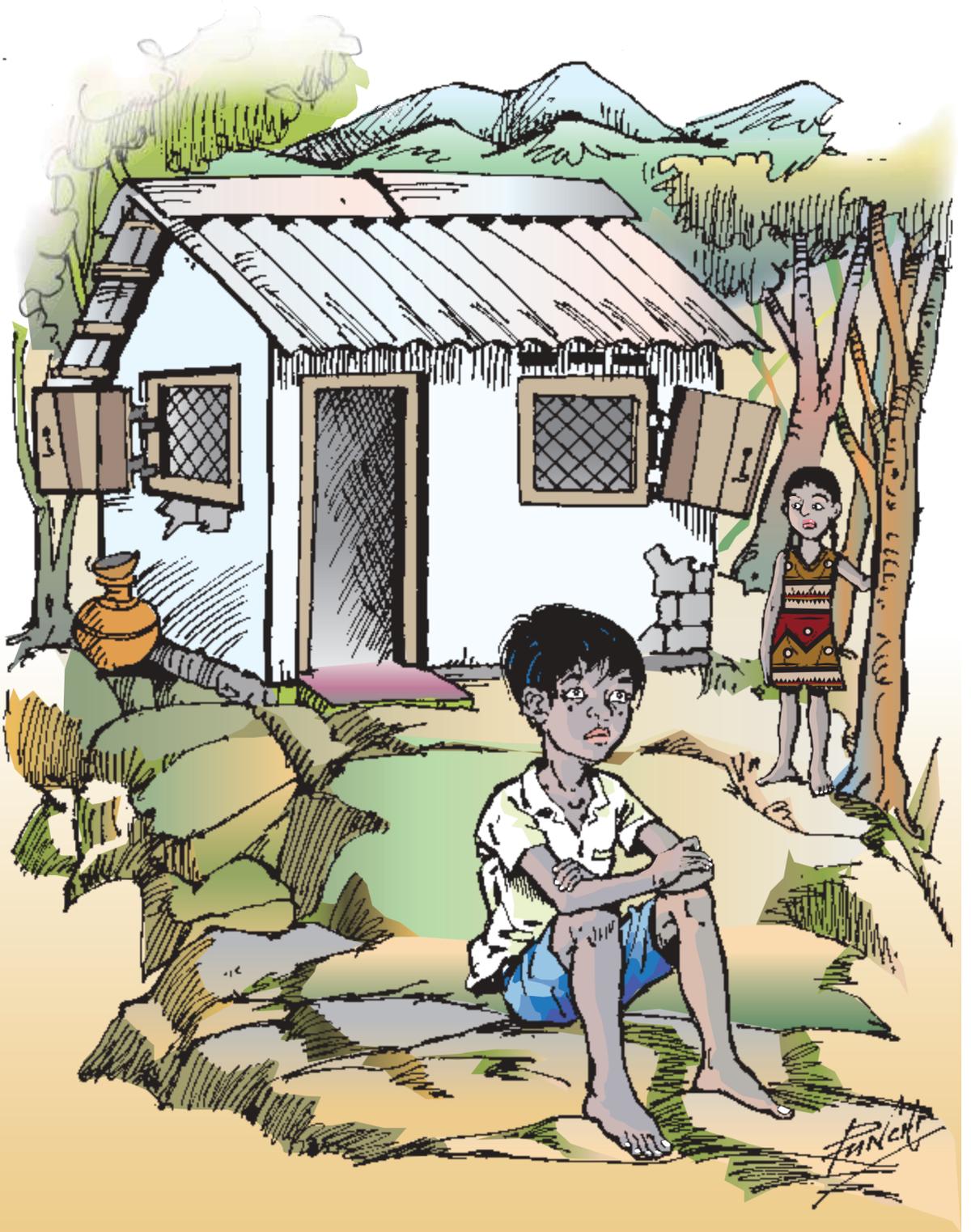
Baffled police officer

But that is all the evidence the investigators were left to go on prompting one baffled police officer to say. "Either the woman is an extremely clever liar or just illiterate and innocent.

A visibly shaken teacher at the school in which the boy attended also made an eerie assumption.

On the last day the boy had attended school he had left the classroom for home leaving behind his hat and umbrella.

Perhaps he felt that he was not going to need it any more, the teacher said. Having said all that today the name of Sahan Kumara has faded off in the tiny village of Samanalawatte but continues to collect dust on the Missing Persons File at the Balangoda Police Station.



Vistas for post-Covid-19 economic revival

BY SBDC RATNAYAKE

It has been a year since the Covid-19 virus was first identified in the world. The number of people infected with the virus has risen to 90 million with nearly two million deaths. Even countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, which are widely regarded as the healthiest in the world, are unable to control the spread of the virus, failing to provide the facilities needed for the thousands of patients who are reported daily.

The situation in neighboring India is the same. We were praised by the World Health Organization for successfully controlling the first wave of Covid-19.

Many countries tried to control the spread of the virus during the first wave of Covid-19, but it did not have the desired effect. On the one hand, a country's manufacturing process stagnates and the economy collapses, while on the other hand, the virus temporarily disappears and re-emerges, spreading faster than before.

Stability

We have had to experience this as well as the rest of the world. That is how the second wave of Covid-19 in the country came about. It was against this backdrop that the nations of the world devised plans to live with Covid-19 and maintain a stable position without letting the economy collapse. There is a question as to how long the country can put its restrictive health regulations in place. Is it possible to close the country until no infection is found? No, it is not practical at all. It is well-known that the spread of the disease is controlled by eliminating the

chances of the virus being transmitted from one person to another. We should not go home and hide, but should engage in daily activities keeping that policy in mind.

Schools are now open for schoolchildren who have been at home for about seven months. Continuing school closures are impractical. Postponing exams is a reason to push back on life. As a country, we used to get online education with the Covid-19 epidemic. Developed countries have been using this method for a long time. However, online education is a stranger to us. It is not surprising that this is a stranger to school students and university students. Most children who go to school now have some knowledge of online education. Schools were started when they were somewhat accustomed to it.

Teachers should be interested in using technology in the classroom. It is the responsibility of the education authorities to ensure that children do not lose their motivation to use technology. These kinds of crises can emerge in the world in the future. It is the responsibility of the education authorities to ensure that the knowledge gained about online technology and the motivation of children to use it is not lost.

About three million people are involved in the tourism industry in Sri Lanka. All of them are facing severe economic problems due to the absence of tourists. Many hotels have been closed. Employees have lost their jobs. The tourism industry in the country was in good shape before the Easter Sunday attacks. The industry was reviving before Covid-19. Many people were eager to invest in the sector. But as the Covid-19 pandemic spread around the world, Sri Lanka's tourism



Life amid Covid-19

industry plummeted.

Tourism sector
It is a good thing that the Government has decided to use the Colombo-based bus service, which has invested in the tourism sector and bought luxury buses, as there are no tourists today.

The Government should be commended for implementing such plans and for paving the way for better public transport for the commuters.

We need to understand that with the opening of the airport, we will have to face many problems in the future. One is the arrival of Covid-19 infected people in the country. The doors of the country should be opened to Sri Lankan migrant workers who bring foreign exchange to the country. With the loss of jobs, they can no longer afford to go abroad. Steps have been taken by the Government to repatriate migrant workers. We need to understand that these are people who have worked in foreign countries, are coming without jobs. On the other hand, a large number of people who worked in

various sectors in Sri Lanka, including the hotel industry, have lost their jobs.

As people from foreign countries apply for jobs in the country, there will be fierce competitions for jobs, which could lead to lower wages being determined for professional levels. Rising unemployment may also increase the risk of social unrest. The Government should take into account all these factors and make plans to expand opportunities for the people.

Against this background, we have to think of something new. We can move beyond the monotonous way of life and make creative decisions to overcome future challenges. All you have to do is give it a try. Covid-19 has created a number of new business opportunities as a turning point in the world economy. Presenting businesses in a new way is a good way to get out of the current crisis. Businesses need to be diversified.

Hotels that have been closed without tourists can be linked to the agricultural sector. Vertical Farming Tech-

THE PRESENT GENERATION CAN BE USED TO MAKE A NEW REVOLUTION IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY AT A TIME WHEN THE FOURTH STAGE OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IS APPROACHING. UNLIKE IN THE PAST, THE YOUNGER GENERATION IS NOT CARRYING OUT A REVOLUTION WITH STONES; THEIR REVOLUTION IS IN TECHNOLOGY THROUGH DIGITAL FORM AND CYBERSPACE

nology, a popular agricultural method, can be implemented in hotels. This low-cost and easy-to-use method is now being implemented in many countries. In hotels at altitudes of 1,500 metres above the sea level and in shady areas, crops such as milk potatoes can be grown. Using this as a substitute for potatoes also helps prevent the outflow of foreign exchange.

Entrepreneurs who are well versed in agriculture can be encouraged by the Department of Agriculture by awarding them the Good Agriculture Practice Certificate. Another economic group that has been adversely affected is tour guides. Licensed tour guides can use their knowledge of the language to launch courses for those who wish to acquire knowledge of the language.

Revolution

The present generation can be used to make a new revolution in the field of technology at a time when the

fourth stage of the Industrial Revolution is approaching. Unlike in the past, the younger generation is not carrying out a revolution with stones; their revolution is in technology through digital form and cyberspace. The youth between the ages of 20 and 25 are highly literate and can use the creative knowledge of them to create websites and business logos. Today, Facebook is one of the major foreign exchange earning businesses in the United States. It was created by Max Zuckerberg, a creative young entrepreneur who grew up on the Internet.

Jack Ma, a Chinese businessman who owns the Ali Baba business online, is another entrepreneur emerged through the Internet. Institutions that contribute to the development of entrepreneurship should work to provide cover under intellectual property to the innovations that young entrepreneurs generate through digital technology and cyberspace.

In the face of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, political crises, such as the First and Second World Wars, companies, such as Honda, Sony and Kubota became the most advanced companies in the world, overcoming challenges.

They led their businesses in fresh ways, demonstrating to the world the qualities that an entrepreneur should have such as great commitment, determination and trust. We too can overcome this crisis in the same way. We must have the will and the commitment. It is the responsibility of the Government to create opportunities for that.

(The writer is a lecturer at the Department of Management Studies, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy, Palkelele Kandy.)

Right to health vs. patent right under IP Law

Their harmonisation towards social justice - a farsighted approach by the Supreme Court

By
Prof S. Sarath
Mathilal de Silva



The right to health is a human right recognised by the International Human Rights Law. Similarly, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is seen as a human right of the inventor worthy of recognition. IPR is very much a private property right fully owned by the proprietor. However, the relationship between human rights and IPR has been the topic of discussion in the recent past.

The position with regard to International Human Rights Law is very clear - the socio economic and cultural (ESC) rights of the people are an indivisible part of human rights and must be respected, protected and fulfilled by the state.

The economic reality today, on the other hand, forces the State to turn away from these ESC rights, towards harnessing entrepreneurship and increasing trade and also on the grounds of resources conflicts. IPR too has increasingly come into conflict with ESC rights, especially the right to health. Intellectual Property Law is an essential piece of legislation in any country. The challenging tasks, therefore, is to ensure at least a basic level of harmonisation with human rights - such as, the right to health - that are imperilled by these laws.

International legal regime on the Right to Health

Today, health is viewed as a right, which encompasses the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Thus it embraces a wide range of socio-economic factors that promote conditions in which people can lead a healthy life.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and several other international covenants recognise the obligation of the State to guarantee the enjoyment of the right to health.

The General Comment on the Right to Health issued by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights outlines threefold obligations, to respect, protect and fulfil the right to health.

It specifies a minimum standard of obligation which must ensure the availability of minimum essential levels of primary healthcare at all times, irrespective of other considerations, such as resource constraints. At present, however, the right to health is not recognised in the Sri Lankan Constitution. Recognition of a justifiable right to health would be essential.

Patent Right

The Intellectual Property Act No. 36 of 2003 replaced the Code of Intellectual Property Act No. 52 of 1979. Section 62(2) of the Intellectual Property Act (IPA) states that: 'An invention may be, or may relate to, a product or process.

"The provisions in the Act give effect to the Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property, commonly referred to as the TRIPS agreement. An invention is patentable if it is new, involves an inventive step and is industrially applicable.

(i) An invention is considered new if it is not anticipated by prior art by the date of application or of the convention priority. (ii) An invention involves an inventive step if, having regard to the prior art relevant to



the patent application claiming the invention, such inventive step would not have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art.

(iii) An invention is industrially applicable if it can be made or used in any kind of industry. A patent is granted by the Intellectual Property Office upon the successful application made by the applicant.

The owner of a patent has exclusive rights during the valid period, to exploit the patented invention; to assign or transmit the patent; to conclude licence, contracts involving the patented invention.

From the point of view of the pharmaceutical industry, it must be noted that patents are of special significance. The marginal cost or the cost of manufacturing a drug is usually very low. However, these companies have incurred very high 'sunk costs' or initial investments for the research and development of these drugs.

By protecting their drugs through patents, the companies protect themselves from competition and can recoup the costs of research and development. The State must ensure that at least the minimum core obligations are fulfilled.

By enacting tougher patent laws the government provides for the continued profitability of pharmaceutical companies. But this burden of paying the dues for the companies cannot be at the cost of deteriorating health standards. Tougher patent laws will increase the extent of state obligations with regard to the provisions of health care, necessitating an increase in State expenditure on drugs. It is therefore important that State expenditure on health must increase with the introduction of tougher patent laws.

IPR v. human rights- need for harmonisation

In Re Intellectual Property Bill can be commended as a judgment that impacted on millions of Sri Lankans as well as on generations to come. Chief Justice Sarath N. Silva adopted a very farsighted approach and analysed the likely effect of the proposed legislation on the millions of poor consumers and industrialists in a developing country like Sri Lanka. The Supreme Court took special note of the rights of patients and effectively addressed the issues of pat-

enting plants and microorganisms. This judgment is a great victory not only to Sri Lanka but to all those in the developing and the least developed world right now faced with the ultimatum of drafting IP laws in conformity with the TRIPS Agreement in the future. The Court stressed that people's right to health must be accorded primacy. The mitigatory provisions referred to in the judgment are found in the TRIPS agreement as well as the Doha Declaration, on the TRIPS agreement and right to health which recognised this problem by stating that the "TRIPS agreement does not and should not prevent governments from taking measures to protect public health."

These mitigatory provisions can be utilised by countries to protect the interests of the right to health of the people. Under the heading 'TRIPS and Public Health' the Doha Declaration identified the rights of governments in the following instances.

Compulsory licensing

Compulsory licensing is the granting of a licence to use a patent without the consent of the patent holder. This is, however, subject to the payment of adequate compensation to the patent holder. Article 31 of the TRIPS agreement permits compulsory licensing in specific instances.

According to the text, such licensing is permitted to a government or a third party where the proposed user has made efforts to obtain authorisation from the rights holder on reasonable commercial terms and conditions and that such efforts have not been successful within a reasonable period of time, unless there exists a national emergency.

The Declaration on the TRIPS and Public Health has adopted a more liberal attitude and states that 'Each member has the right to grant compulsory licences and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licences are granted'. Looking at the domestic law one sees that section 86 of the IPA is identical to that in Article 31 of TRIPS.

The importance of compulsory licensing was correctly stressed in the Supreme Court determination on the Intellectual Property Bill. The Draft Bill did not contain provisions envisaged in the TRIPS agreement, nor did it contain those recognised under the Doha Declaration with regard to compulsory licensing.

The Supreme Court clearly stated that the exclusion of these mitigatory features in the Bill amounted to a violation of Article 12(1) of the Constitution relating to the equal protection of the law.

The Court noted that the TRIPS agreement is applicable to developed, developing and least developed countries which cannot be considered as equals. As such the enforcement of the TRIPS agreement is to be carried out with the regard to the special and differential needs of countries.

National emergencies and Government use

In a national emergency, the government is permitted to issue a licence without the authorisation of the patent holder, and this is not subjected to the restrictions contained in Article 31 of the TRIPS agreement.

Section 86(2)(C) of the IPA states that the Director General of Intellectual Property may waive the requirements set out in 86 (2) (b) if he is satisfied with the existence of a national emergency or any other circumstance of extreme urgency, or in the case of a public non-commercial use for purposes such as national security, nutrition, health or for the development of a vital section of the national economy.

The latter part of Section 86(1)(c) referring to public non-commercial use is utilised liberally by many developed countries such as the United Kingdom, USA and Canada to issue compulsory licences. It must also be noted that with regard to government use the patent holder is granted compensation.

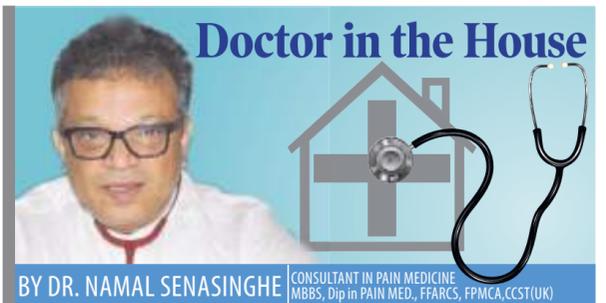
Parallel importing

The TRIPS Agreement and the Doha Declaration allow for parallel importing, which is the import and resale of patented products. Thus an importer can freely import a patented product from a manufacturer in another country. This right to import patented products is not implicit and must be included in the laws within the country. The Supreme Court determination on the Intellectual Property Bill correctly stressed the importance of parallel importing to a developing country. Even though the imported goods are patented, this introduces the possibility of benefiting from the lowest prices available in the world market.

Section 86 (1)(iv) of the IPA provides for parallel imports, but does not directly refer to the international exhaustion of rights. In the light of the Doha Declaration and the reading of the TRIPS agreement, the present law is sufficient to permit parallel imports, in the widest sense of the international exhaustion of rights.

Access to affordable and quality medicinal drugs is an essential component of any form of effective healthcare. In recognition of this, the Sri Lankan government has formed a National Medicinal Drug Policy.

(The writer is a retired Prof of Law at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He is an Attorney-at-Law and practised in Courts and holds a Ph.D in Law)

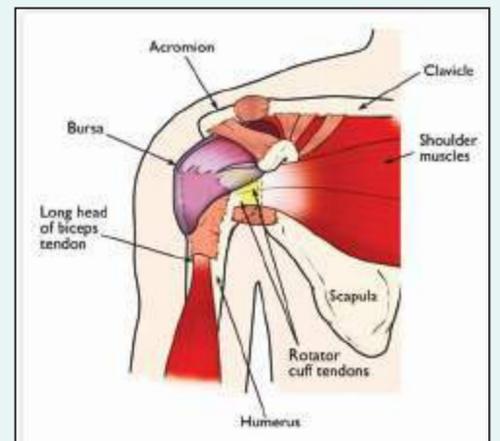


BY DR. NAMAL SENASINGHE CONSULTANT IN PAIN MEDICINE MBBS, Dip in PAIN MED., FFARCS, FPMCA, CCST(UK)

Shoulder pain

In my stint in Sri Lanka I have seen many patients with pain issues around the shoulder. This prompted me to write about shoulder pain. Shoulder pain is one of the commonest pain issues one can experience. The shoulder has a wide and versatile range of movement. It is the most mobile joint in the body. When someone develops shoulder pain it can hamper one's lifestyle due to impaired movement of the joint. The day to day activities can be challenging and painful.

The shoulder is a ball and socket joint. It is made of three bones:
Humerus - Long bone in the arm
Clavicle - Collar bone
Scapula - Shoulder blade



The movement of the shoulder is aided by the rotator cuff. Rotator cuff is made of four tendons arising from four muscles: Supraspinatus, Infraspinatus, Teres minor, Subscapularis. Tendons are the tissues that connect the muscle to the bone. There are two main joints in the shoulder: Acromioclavicular joint, Glenohumeral joint (Shoulder joint).

Movement of the shoulder joint is by the rotator cuff which is made up of four tendons. When the rotator cuff or the bones are inflamed or damaged lifting of the arm above the head is difficult. The shoulder can be injured in accidents, sport or manual labour



CAUSES OF SHOULDER PAIN

Arthritis - Osteoarthritis
Osteoarthritis can affect the shoulder. Movements can be limited, e.g. combing the hair can be challenging.
Frozen shoulder - Short period of pain in the shoulder. Shoulder movements are limited and painful.
Torn Cartilage
Torn rotator cuff
Swollen tendons
Bone spurs
Broken bone
Accidents
Pressure on nerves in the neck
Heart disease
Disease of gall bladder
Referred pain from other areas

DIAGNOSIS

Thorough examination of the shoulder by the doctor
X-rays of the shoulder can show wear and tear
MRI scanning

TREATMENT

Excluding arthritic conditions
Treat arthritic conditions if any
Application of a shoulder sling and rest
Physiotherapy
Simple analgesics
Opiates - Fentanyl patch
Shoulder injection with a steroid
PRP (Platelet rich plasma) injection
Surgery - Referral to a shoulder surgeon which can result in arthroscopy
Rotator cuff repair carried out through keyhole surgery (Arthroscopic repair)
Shoulder replacement (Extreme cases)
Treating shoulder pain can be challenging due to its functions and the increased range of mobility. It can be frustrating to the patient as well as the doctor.

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Opinion

Who is the Core Group against Sri Lanka at UNHRC?

BY SHENALI D WADUGE

History will one day be witness to the lies, deceit and hypocrisy in the halls of the UN and in particular the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). All resolutions since 2009 claiming to be based on how Sri Lanka ended the battle against terrorism and claiming to have intentionally killed 40,000 people do not make any reference to these allegations but are following intrusive and non-conflict related demands that violate the UN Charter.

All these nations passing resolutions against Sri Lanka must ask themselves what they did to prevent the LTTE committing crimes over 30 years. Why are these countries suddenly bothered about how the battle against terrorism was fought after LTTE's defeat? This itself is a precedent being created by the UN and will impact other countries in the future.

UK

At one time, the UK was the world's biggest empire, invading and ruling all but 22 countries. UK's crimes thus constitute that which were committed in the name of the King/Queen by the UK military that ruled, invaded nations, murdered the natives, destroyed their cultures, livelihoods and plundered their resources to build their nations back home and are now making money from displaying stolen artefacts in their museums while their Queen adorns herself with riches and gems from the former colonies.

The UK's rule of Sri Lanka ended only in 1972 with the Republican Constitution. From 1948, Sri Lanka accepted Dominion Status, nominal independence as the Queen remained Head of State. UK Privy Council was the highest court and military presence remained in Sri Lanka.

The colonial crimes committed by the British in then Ceylon have never been acknowledged, accounted or compensated. This is the country preaching human rights. The crimes committed by colonial Britain come nowhere near what they accuse countries of today. The Uva-Wellassa massacre resulted in the British Governor Brownrigg declaring to kill anything that moved and even babies.

The scorched-earth policy meant burning everything that was in sight to starve natives to death. These were crimes against humanity, these were genocides, not the handful of propaganda filled-evidence less fairytales hiring witnesses and training them to cry to a camera taking place today. India that joins the UK in its modern geopolitical bullying may well like to go through how India suffered under colonial Britain where British governors publicly said the only good Indian is a dead Indian.

The UK demanding Sri Lanka to account for LTTE defeat - is hiding the Chilcot Inquiry report into UK's war crimes in Iraq.

Why doesn't the UK account for the bloody Sunday in Ireland in spite of two reports pointing to UK's bloody role!

It was in the UK that the LTTE opened its first international headquarters in mid 1970s.

It is also in the UK that an LTTE Australian nurse kidnapped Tamil low caste and poor children to train them as child soldiers to kill people and even to commit suicide.

What more do we need to say about the UK that allows its Parliament to be lit to remember LTTE dead. Yet the UK has the audacity to preach Human Rights and not even



bothered about filing a case against Adele for her crimes against children!

Canada

Canada's history is just over 151 years created by the UK in 1867.

Canada is a 'rich' country today only because it was created after forcibly acquiring indigenous lands and resources and confining the natives to that of aliens, discriminating them, making them ill, destroying their livelihoods, denying them basic human rights, forcibly sterilising them, sexually assaulting their children, subjecting them to torture and starvation in 'residential schools'. This was how the 'immigrant invaders' cleared lands for them to farm, for them to mine, for them to extract oil. This is how Canada became a rich nation.

Simply saying 'sorry', Canada thinks all of its human rights violations, crimes against humanity can be erased. The obnoxious nature of Canada is such that it is patronising other countries while its dark past remains one that continues to subtly carry forward violations to these natives in the present what was done proudly and openly in the past.

<https://nowtoronto.com/news/canada-s-150th-a-celebration-of-indigenous-genocide/>

The author says that the "Famous Five" women long celebrated as champions of women's rights are having their hero status questioned because of supporting sterilisation of indigenous women. This is no different to how Velupillai Prabhakaran kidnapped and turned children into LTTE child soldiers.

Canada is guilty of 'cultural genocide' (as referred to by former PM Paul Martin) just as the LTTE and Prabhakaran was guilty of the same crime too.

Canada which is today part of a Core-Group against Sri Lanka is preaching to Sri Lanka about Human Rights, gender rights and children's rights. Canada regarded women as 'persons' only in 1929 and all women in Canada was given to vote only in 1960. Sri Lanka's women gained right to vote in 1931. The year all women in Canada got a right to vote, Sri Lanka produced the World's first female Prime Minister in July 1960.

The LTTE lobby in Canada is

ALL RESOLUTIONS SINCE 2009 CLAIMING TO BE BASED ON HOW SRI LANKA ENDED THE BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM AND CLAIMING TO HAVE INTENTIONALLY KILLED 40,000 PEOPLE DO NOT MAKE ANY REFERENCE TO THESE ALLEGATIONS BUT ARE FOLLOWING INTRUSIVE AND NON-CONFLICT RELATED DEMANDS THAT VIOLATE THE UN CHARTER

strong. Toronto holds the largest Tamil speaking population outside Asia. Canada is accommodating internationally proscribed terrorist organisations. Prabhakaran is a regular feature for window shoppers.

The two new countries on the bloc against Sri Lanka are New Macedonia with a history of 30 years and Montenegro

Montenegro

This Balkan country became independent in only 2006 with a new Constitution formed in 2007. Its history as an independent nation is just 15 years while its leader Milo Djukanovic had led for 26 years and coined dictator too! Montenegro is a member of NATO since 2017. Freedom House in its May 2020 political rights and civil liberties worldwide report declared Montenegro as a hybrid regime and not a democracy. These are the coun-



tries passing resolutions against Sri Lanka!

Montenegro is known as Europe's Mafia State.

New Macedonia

New Macedonia with a population two million is locked between five countries - Kosovo and Serbia on the north, Bulgaria on the East, Greece on the south and Albania on the west. Its independent history is just 30 years having split from Yugoslavia in 1991.

About 66 percent of the population are Christians and 33 percent Muslims.

The OHCHR report on New Macedonia is nothing for the country to boast of either: 900 inmates without identification cards, limited judicial independence, politicisation of the judicial oversight body, 112 persons (26 families) remained displaced from the 2001 internal armed conflict

Freedom House's Freedom in the World 2019 report stated that "while the media and civil society are active, journalists and activists face pressure and intimidation."

It is also interesting that while EU countries demanded the release of all IDPs following the end of LTTE - The 2018 Helsinki Committee for Human Rights Annual Report stated, "The provision limiting the freedom of movement of asylum seekers was retained. Namely, Article 63 prescribes that freedom of movement shall be restricted in extraordinary circumstances, to determine the identity and citizenship, and establish the facts and circumstances of the asylum requests, particularly if a risk for escape has been determined, to protect the order and national security or when a foreigner is retained for the purposes of initiating a procedure for his return or removal."

Germany

It is unfortunate that Germany, one of the most powerful nations in Europe has chosen to align with this core group given that Germany has been a victim of the Allies during both World Wars and suffered immense loss of lives and human rights violations. Germany should remember that immediately following the defeat of Hitler and Nazi rule, the Allies held a Victor's Tribunal where only the crimes of Germany and Germans were put on the dock. None of the crimes committed by the Allies ever made it to the court room.

That Victory is celebrated as Victory Day even in the 21st century, while these same nations tell Sri Lanka not to be triumphalist despite becoming the only nation to end a globally banned terrorist organisation.

When Sri Lanka declared all LTTE are Tamils but all Tamils are not LTTE, the Allies declared all Germans to be Nazis and they were subject to much humiliation and torture.

Germany may well like to go back in time to count how many Germans were expelled from the European countries they were living in.

Three million Germans died after the war ended (two million were women and children one million were prisoners of war) - British historian



Giles MacDonogh in 'After the Reich: The Brutal History of the Allied Occupation' details how Germans and Austrians were systematically raped and robbed and those Germans who survived were killed in cold blood or deliberately left to die of disease, cold, malnutrition or starvation. These statistics come with evidence and proof unlike the UNHRC fairy tales of 'genocide' in Sri Lanka.

To this day, the US and the UK have a military presence in Germany because of the status of forces agreement signed. The UK and the US occupied Germany eight years after the war ended!

It would be good for Germany to read how Sri Lanka treated the LTTE and how Germany was treated by the countries that Germany is so close with today

As a victim of the UK, the US and Allies, it is unfortunate that Germany is part of this core group because we, in Sri Lanka, empathise with all that Germany and Germans had to undergo during and after the World Wars.

Sri Lanka is only an observer nation of the UNHRC - why should we travel to UNHRC annually to be humiliated?

Sri Lanka should exit from the UNHRC.

Sri Lanka is a sovereign nation - the UK cannot be dictating to Sri Lanka any longer. Having left the EU, the UK is on its own and desperate to secure ties for its existence. If Sri Lanka decides to leave the Commonwealth, many other Commonwealth nations will be inspired to do the same. The UK will find itself a toothless lion!

Independence celebrations in Paris

Sri Lanka's Embassy in Paris celebrated the 73rd Anniversary of the National Independence of Sri Lanka on February 4 in the Embassy premises.

The proceedings commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by Ambassador - designate Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, followed by singing of the National Anthem of Sri Lanka and lighting of the oil lamp. A two-minute silence was observed in honour of those who sacrificed their lives for the protection of territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

Religious observations by dignitaries representing all four major religions in Sri Lanka - Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity, were held to bless the country, the leaders and the people.

Ven. Parawahera Chandaratana

Thera (Chief Incumbent of the International Buddhist Centre), Ven. Kongasdeniye Ananda Thera (Paris Bauddha Vihara and Dhammachakka Buddhist Association) and Ven. Murungasayee Gnaniswara Thera (Jethawana Bauddha Vihara), Swamy P R Varatharaja Kurukkal (Sri Manicka Vinayakar Alayam), Mohomad Nawas and Rev. Father Janith Kaushalya participated in religious observances.

The National Independence Day messages from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Foreign Minister were read by Ambassador designate Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama and Minister Rohitha Nugapitaya. Tamil language messages were read by Shiyamala Shammugaraja.



Religious dignitaries at the ceremony



Ambassador - designate Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama reading the Independence Day messages

Indian horse racing stalwart Madan optimistic of comeback in Sri Lanka

BY ALTHAF NAWAZ

With the April holidays around the corner, the Royal Turf Club (RTC), Sri Lanka's only and active governing entity for the sport of horse racing, is gearing up to make a potential, yet sturdy comeback despite the challenges faced with the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the background being gradually set for the horse racing festival in Nuwara Eliya, Indian horse racing stalwart, Cyrus J. Madan, the former President of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club, outlined the importance of welcoming RTC's comeback season with positive energy, as challenges lie ahead for the club based in Nuwara Eliya.

"Sri Lanka has managed the COVID-19 pandemic probably the best in the South Asian region and the RTC should leverage on this achievement by making a much-awaited return to

the sport of horse racing at this year's Nuwara Eliya derby," Cyrus J. Madan, the former President of the Royal Calcutta Turf said in a skype interview.

"Over the past few years, the madam president and her team at the RTC has hosted great races that have created a following in the region and I have no doubt despite the pandemic the RTC will host a memorable derby once again," Madan further said.

"To have all activities shut down for a longer period, for reasons that are beyond control and to think of a restart is much harder than starting off something from scratch. It's a known fact that the coronavirus pandemic has caused devastation around the globe.

"Making a comeback after such a destructive era, is a real challenge and I'm sure with the strong and positive individuals being positioned to administer the RTC, this will be another great comeback," said Madan,



Cyrus J. Madan

commenting from India.

Madan, who currently serves as Chairman of Stipendiary Stewards, has been involved with the RTC since its inception as Consultant, alongside veteran horse racing experts Sinclair Marshall and Wayne Wood, from Aus-

tralia. Though the present pandemic situation restricts travelling around the globe, as an official with an assignment Madan is willing to join RTC soon. Yet he is highly engaged with the sport back in India where horse racing is virtually an industry.

Despite having just one racecourse remaining and active in Nuwara Eliya, Madan defined that Sri Lanka too has the potential of making horse racing a professional sport. This, he said, is a possibility only if misconceptions are being taken off and with State support.

The RTC's comeback season, which has been planned with a tentative calendar of four races through March and April would be the ideal platform to clear off the said grey areas, according to Madan.

"RTC have had the right people administering the sport. Funding and popularising are the hinges which will decide whether racing will sur-

vive. The racecourse in Nuwara Eliya is ideally one of the best, superbly laid out and put together racetracks of the region. With all these coming in as blessings, RTC needs a few more bits to do, to make this sport more stable in Sri Lanka," explained Madan, the President of Royal Calcutta Turf Club for five years from 2007.

Madan, a former race commentator, sports journalist, an administrator and an official with a wealth of knowledge, explained how races are currently conducted in India, where the second highest coronavirus cases were recorded globally.

"After almost eight months since the pandemic, Indian racing is gradually clawing its way back. Initially races were held behind closed doors and without spectators, but that has now opened up. Now spectators are allowed to come in. Race clubs have taken a huge hit during the lock-down and most clubs have slashed stake

money of some races and also reduced the number of race days.

"Fortunately, horse racing in India is virtually an industry that its stakeholders have managed to sustain. The biggest plus that has emerged is permission to certain clubs to have on-line betting sanctioned by their respective State governments. This could be a game changer," Madan detailed.

Presently, Madan is very much in touch from India with the RTC officials, who are clearing all the hurdles to have the annual horse racing events such as the Governor's Cup and the lavish Magic Million Cup races.

The RTC is currently making all necessary pre-arrangements to obtain clearance and adhere to protocols and recommendations for the forthcoming season, which will be held under the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Health.

Halep back in contention at Aussie Open

An aggressive Simona Halep revived her stuttering Australian Open campaign Friday with a straight-sets demolition of Veronika Kudermetova in an ominous statement.

The world number two served strongly and pierced the lines to overwhelm the 32nd seed 6-1, 6-3 in one hour and 18 minutes in the third round.

"It's always tough to play an opponent for the first time and I thought my serve helped me today ... I've improved on my serve a lot," said Halep, who hit 21 winners and four aces.

Big-hitting Kudermetova loomed as a dangerous opponent, but it was Halep who blasted the Russian off the court in a much-needed confidence boost after she was pushed to the brink of elimination by local Alja Tomljanovic in the second round.

When Halep wasn't hitting sizzling winners, she showcased her famed defensive prowess to rattle a misfiring Kudermetova, who was undone by 38 unforced errors.

Halep inexplicably struggled on serve early in the second set but answered every challenge in her best performance of the tournament.

Having survived a draining encounter with Tomljanovic on Wednesday, the two-time Grand Slam champion looked sharp and strong in a reminder

of her credentials.

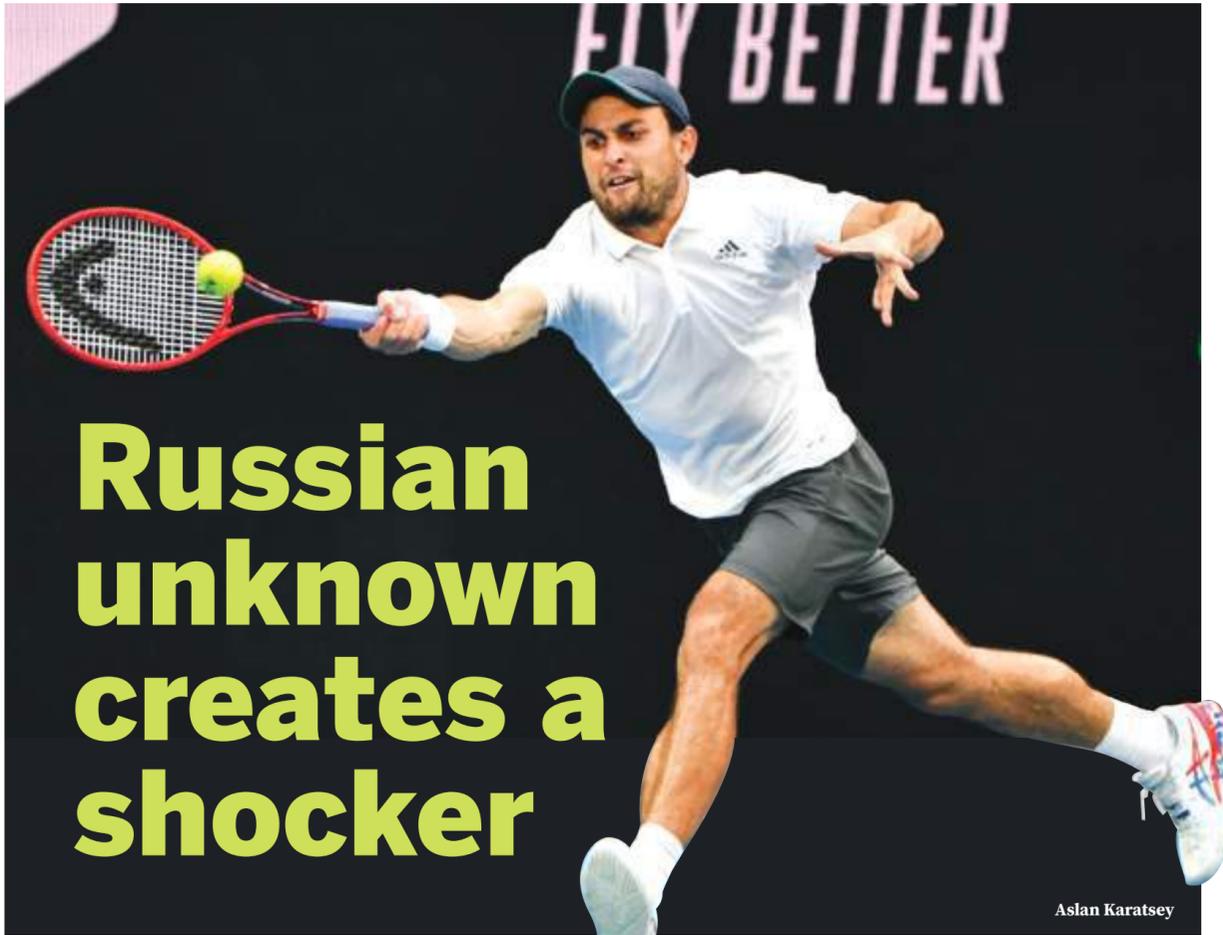
The Romanian's seven-year streak in the top 10 is the longest active run among women and eighth all-time on the WTA.

Halep, 29, is seeking a maiden triumph at Melbourne Park having fallen short to Caroline Wozniacki in the 2018 decider and Garbine Muguruza in the semi-finals last year.

She could next face a blockbuster clash with French Open champion Iga Swiatek, who plays France's Fiona Ferro in the third round. (AFP)



Simona Halep



Aslan Karatsev

Russian unknown creates a shocker

MELBOURNE (AFP):

Russian qualifier Aslan Karatsev pulled off the biggest shock of this year's Australian Open when the world number 114 blitzed eighth seed Diego Schwartzmann into submission 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 Friday with a barrage of winners.

Karatsev is making his Grand Slam debut at Melbourne Park and is incredibly yet to drop a set as he set up a fourth-round meeting with one of the Canadian pair Denis Shapovalov or Felix Auger-Aliassime, who clash later.

The 27-year-old Russian secret weapon powered 50 winners, including nine aces, past the shell-shocked Argentine who could muster only five of his own in return in a 1hr 52min drubbing.

On nine previous attempts to reach a Grand Slam event, the injury-dogged Russian fell in qualifying but he finally broke through to reach the Australian Open main draw, and is making the most of his opportunity.

"It's an unbelievable feeling, I qualified so I was already very happy," said Karatsev.

In 2017, the Russian struggled with a knee injury suffered while training in Spain and was out for six months. When Karatsev returned, he struggled to find his form again and when play was suspended almost a year ago because of the coronavirus pandemic, Karatsev was ranked outside the top 250.

"I've had a lot of worries over the past few years, so I am relieved,

overjoyed to be at this stage," he said.

"I had a big knee injury a few years ago, so to be here and represent Russia at the ATP Cup last week really gave me confidence," added Karatsev, who became just the fifth qualifier to reach the last 16 of a Slam in 21 years.

He was part of the victorious Russian ATP Cup team last week along with Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev who will both be in third-round action.

Chelsea, Southampton secure FA Cup quarter final berths

Chelsea's impressive start to Thomas Tuchel's reign continued with a 1-0 win at Barnsley to move into the FA Cup quarter-finals on Thursday, while Southampton put their miserable Premier League form behind them to reach the last eight by beating Wolves.

Tuchel has won four and

drawn one of his five games in charge since replacing the sacked Frank Lampard, but the Blues were lucky to escape after a lacklustre first-half display at Oakwell against the Championship side.

"Not enough courage and it was too deep for a long, long time," said Tuchel. "We clearly

can play better, so yes I expected more but not in terms that I am frustrated.

"If you lack a rhythm and a bit of self-confidence and you have to show on this pitch, against an opponent that takes all the risk and plays the game of his life, that is not easy. We can do better but I

don't want to be too hard on the players." The much-maligned Kepa Arrizabalaga started in goal as one of 10 changes to the team that won 2-1 at Sheffield United on Sunday.

And the Spaniard produced a brilliant save to prevent Callum Brittain opening the scoring. (AFP)

Boxing title bout rescheduled

Saturday's scheduled title bout for the vacant World Boxing Organization light-heavyweight crown was postponed Thursday after Russian fighter Maxim Vlasov tested positive for Covid-19.

Vlasov (45-3 with 26 knockouts) was to have faced American Joe Smith Jr. (26-3 with 21 knockouts) at Las Vegas in the 34-year-old Russian's first world title bout.

"I am devastated with the postponement of my world title fight," Vlasov said. "I have been following strict protocols. I have done regular testing with negative results, and I have no symptoms.

"I am well prepared and had an excellent training camp.

"I look forward to the rescheduling of the fight and the opportunity to display my world class skills."

Tokyo 2020 boss resigns over sexism row, but successor unclear

TOKYO (AFP) Tokyo 2020 chief Yoshiro Mori bowed to mounting pressure and resigned Friday over sexist remarks, but his replacement was not immediately clear after opposition emerged to his favoured successor.

The resignation and the leadership vacuum left by the controversy add to the woes of organisers struggling to win over a sceptical public less than six months before the virus-delayed Games.

Mori, 83, sparked outrage by claiming last week that women speak too much in meetings, with officials, sports stars and Olympic sponsors slamming the remarks as inappropriate.

On Friday he announced he would step down, effective immediately.

"My inappropriate statement has caused a lot of chaos. I would like to express my sincere apologies," he told a meeting of Tokyo 2020's execu-

tive board and council called to discuss his remarks.

"What is important is to hold the Olympics from July. It must not be the case that my presence becomes an obstacle to that." There was confusion about who would succeed Mori, who had initially selected well-known sports administrator Saburo Kawabuchi, 84, to replace him.

The transition had appeared a done deal, with the former footballer granting interviews to local media describing his planned priorities in the new job.

But opposition to the selection of another octogenarian, and Mori's control over the process, quickly mounted.

Hashtags opposing Kawabuchi's appointment trended on Twitter in Japan, and the country's Olympic Minister Seiko Hashimoto insisted "nothing has been decided".

By Friday afternoon, local media reported Tokyo 2020 was under pres-



Yoshiro Mori

sure to reverse the appointment and that Kawabuchi had decided to turn down the job.

Mori's resignation caps over a week of uproar after he told members of Japan's Olympic Committee that women have difficulty speaking concisely, "which is annoying," He apologised but then defended his

remarks and told reporters: "I don't speak to women much." The comments drew fire at home and abroad. Several hundred Olympic volunteers have since withdrawn and a petition calling for action against him gathered nearly 150,000 signatures.

On Friday Mori said he does not "look down on women", and

had tried to amplify their voice, including the seven women on the 35-member Tokyo 2020 board.

"They hesitated to raise their hand to speak up. I even called out their name to encourage them," he said.

Tokyo city governor Yuriko Koike, who had condemned Mori's remarks, offered tribute after his resignation "to all the work president Mori has done".

International Paralympic Committee president Andrew Parsons also thanked Mori and said he hoped the reaction to the comments would "be harnessed so that society places greater emphasis on diversity and inclusion." The race to fill Mori's former post is now wide open, with reports suggesting Hashimoto - a former Winter and Summer Olympian and one of just two women in the cabinet - was a leading candidate.

The fallout comes with organisers already battling public doubt

about holding the huge international event this summer.

Around 80 percent of Japanese polled in recent surveys back either further postponement or an outright cancellation.

Organisers have tried to quell the disquiet by releasing virus rulebooks for athletes, officials and media, including restrictions on movement and regular testing.

But with Tokyo and other regions under a virus state of emergency, doubts persist about the event's viability.

The first Olympic test event of 2021 has already been postponed because of Japan's strict entry rules.

Japan's first vaccine approval is expected over the weekend, with thousands of medical workers first in line to be inoculated, likely by the end of February.

But the broader rollout will move slowly, with vaccination of the elderly not set to start until April.

SPORTS

MICHAEL PHELPS - MOST SUCCESSFUL MULTIPLE OLYMPIC MEDALLIST

By
Rear Admiral
Dr. Shemal
Fernando, PhD



The most successful Olympians could be recognized by various titles. This effort is to identify the most successful multiple Olympic medallists at both Summer Olympic Games and Winter Olympic Games.

The American swimmer Michael Phelps is the most decorated Olympian, having won an incomparable 28 Olympic medals in both individual and team events (23 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze). Phelps has also won more individual events than any other Olympian, with 16 medals (13 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze).

Behind Phelps is the Soviet Gymnast Larisa Latynina who had won a total of 18 Olympic medals with 9 gold medals. Finland's athlete Paavo Nurmi is the only other to secure 9 gold medals amongst 17 Olympians who have won 12 or more Olympic medals of any colour over their sporting careers.

Norwegian cross-country skier Marit Bjorgen is the most decorated Winter Olympian, with 15 medals (8 gold, 4 silver, 3 bronze). The 'Years' listed for each athlete in the table include only the Olympic Games in which they won medals.

Amongst all Olympic sports gymnastics and swimming have dominated the scene with 6 gymnasts and 5 swimmers earning berths amongst top multiple medal winners. The other sport that has managed 2 slots in the list is cross-country skiing. Single appearances include athletics, canoeing, fencing and biathlon. Amongst the countries, top honours have gone to the United States with 5 Olympians securing berths with Soviet Union/Russia coming a close second with 4 Olympians whilst Japan and Norway have chipped in with 2 slots each.

28 medals by Phelps

Michael Fred Phelps II (b. Jun 30, 1985) is an American swimmer and the most successful and most decorated Olympian of all time, with a total of 28 medals. He holds the all-time records for Olympic gold medals (23), Olympic medals in individual events (16), Olympic gold medals in individual events (13), and highest Olympic medals at any single Olympic Games (8).

Phelps is widely regarded as the greatest swimmer of all time and is often considered to be one of the greatest athletes of all time. Phelps earned the nicknames, "The Baltimore Bullet" and "Flying Fish." He is 1.93 m in height and weighed 88 kilograms. His strokes in swimming included Butterfly, Individual Medley, Freestyle and Backstroke. He is married to Nicole Johnson.

At the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Phelps won six gold and two bronze medals. He followed it up with eight gold medals at Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games. At the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, Phelps won four gold and two silver medals, and at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, he won five gold medals and one silver. This made him the most successful athlete of the Games for the fourth Olympics in a row.

Phelps is the long course world record holder in the men's 400m individual medley as well as the former long course world record holder in the 200m freestyle, 100m butterfly, 200m butterfly, and 200m individual medley. Phelps's international titles and record-breaking performances have earned him the World Swimmer of the Year Award eight times and American Swimmer of the Year Award eleven times, as well as the FINA Swimmer of the Year Award in 2012 and 2016.

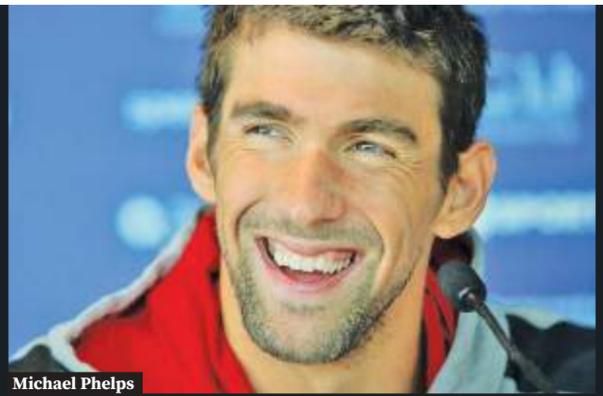
Phelps earned Sports Illustrated magazine's Sportsman of the Year award due to his unprecedented Olympic success in the 2008 Games. At the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, his fifth Olympics, he was selected by his team to be the flag bearer of the US at the Athletes' Parade. He retired on August 12, 2016, having won more medals than 161 countries.

18 Olympic medals by Larisa

Larisa Semyonovna Latynina (b. Dec 27, 1934) is a Soviet artistic gymnast. Between 1956 and 1964 she won 14 individual Olympic medals and four team medals. She holds the record for the most Olympic gold medals by a gymnast, male or female, with 9. Her total of 18 Olympic medals was a record for 48 years. She



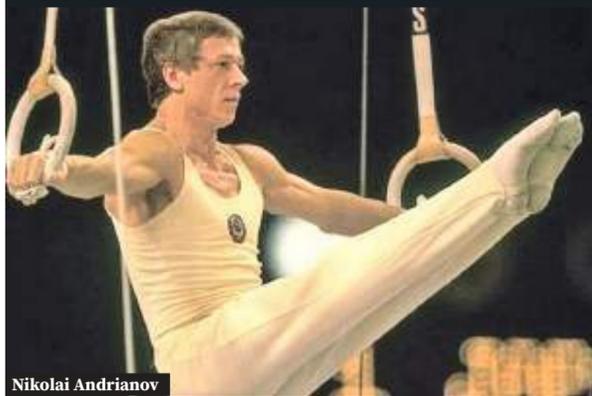
Larisa Latynina



Michael Phelps



Marit Bjorgen



Nikolai Andrianov



Ole Einar Bjorndalen



Boris Shakhlin



Edoardo Mangiarotti



Takashi Ono



Paavo Nurmi



Boris Shakhlin

held the record for individual event medals with 14 for 52 years. She is credited with helping to establish the Soviet Union as a dominant force in gymnastics.

15 Olympic Medals by Marit and Nikolai

Marit Bjorgen (b. Mar 21, 1980) is a Norwegian cross-country skier. She headed the medal table at the 2010 Winter Olympics by winning five medals, including three gold. A five-time Olympian, her five Olympic medals at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games brought her total number of medals up to a record 15, the most by any athlete in Winter Olympics history. In April 2018, she announced her retirement but in May 2020, she announced that she would return to competition with a focus on competing in Vasaloppet in March 2021.

Nikolai Yefimovich Andrianov (1952 - 2011) was a Soviet/Russian gymnast. He held the record for men for the most Olympic medals at 15 (7 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze) until Phelps surpassed him in 2008. Andrianov won the most medals at the 1976 Summer Olympics with 6 individual medals and one team medal. Within the sport of Men's Artistic Gymnastics, he also holds the men's record for most individual Olympic medals (12). In many other rankings

ranks very high, easily making him one of the most decorated gymnasts of all time.

13 Olympic Medals by Ole, Boris, Edoardo and Ono

Ole Einar Bjorndalen (b. Jan 27, 1974) is a Norwegian biathlete often referred to by the nickname, the "King of Biathlon." With 13 Winter Olympic Games medals, he is the most successful biathlete of all time. With 95 World Cup wins, he is ranked first all-time for career victories on the Biathlon World Cup tour, more than twice that of anyone else. Bjorndalen first competed in the Olympic Games at the Lillehammer 1994 Winter Olympics, held in his home country of Norway. In 2014, Bjorndalen was elected to an eight-year term at the IOC's athlete commission. He resigned from this role in 2016 as he opted to continue his career.

Boris Anfiyanovich Shakhlin (1932 - 2008) was a Soviet gymnast who was the Rome 1960 Olympic all-around champion. He won a total of 13 medals including seven gold medals at the Summer Olympics 1956 to 1964. He was also the most successful athlete at the 1960 Summer Olympics. He held the record for most Olympic medals by a male athlete record until 1980.

Edoardo Mangiarotti (1919 -

a total of 39 Olympic titles and World championships, more than any other fencer in the history of the sport. His Olympic medals include one individual gold, five team gold, five silver, and two bronze medals from 1936 to 1960.

Takashi Ono (b. Jul 26, 1931) is a Japanese gymnast. He competed from 1952 to 1964 Olympics and won five gold, four silver and four bronze medals. Ono was the flag bearer for Japan at the 1960 Olympics, and took the Olympic Oath at the 1964 Games. In 1998, he was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame. In 1958 he married Kiyoko Ono, a fellow Olympic gymnast. They have two sons and three daughters; the first two children were born while both parents were actively competing.

12 Olympic Medals by Nine Olympians

Paavo Nurmi (1897 - 1973) was a Finnish middle-distance and long-distance athlete. He won nine gold and three silver medals in his twelve events in the Summer Olympic Games. He was nicknamed the "Flying Finn" or the "Phantom Finn," as he dominated distance running in the early 20th century. He set 22 official world records at distances between 1500m and 20km. At his peak, Nurmi was undefeated for 121 races

at distances from 800m upwards. Throughout his 14-year career, he remained unbeaten in cross country events and in 10,000m.

Nurmi started to flourish during his military service. In his international debut at the 1920 Summer Olympics, he won a silver in 5000m and followed up with two gold medals in 10,000m and the cross country. In 1923, Nurmi became the first runner to hold simultaneous world records in the mile, 5000m and 10,000m, a feat which has never since been repeated. At the 1924 Summer Olympic Games, he won five gold medals. Seemingly unaffected by the Paris heat wave, he set new world records in 1500m and 5000m within an hour.

At the 1928 Summer Olympics, Nurmi recaptured 10,000m title but was beaten for the gold in 5000m and 3000m steeplechase. In 1952, he lit the Olympic Flame at the Summer Olympics in Helsinki. Nurmi, who rarely ran without a stopwatch in his hand, has been credited for introducing the "even pace" strategy and analytic approach to running, and for making running a major international sport.

Birgit Fischer (b. Feb 25, 1962) is a German kayaker, who has won eight gold medals over six different Olympic Games. After both the 1988 and 2000 games, she announced her retirement, only to return for the subsequent games. She has been both the

youngest and the oldest ever Olympic canoeing champion (at 18 and 42). She worked as a sports instructor in the National People's Army, attaining the rank of Major by the time of German reunification in 1990.

Bjorn Daehlie (b. Jun 19, 1967) is a Norwegian cross-country skier. Bjorn won a total of 29 medals in the Olympics and World Championships during the period 1991 and 1999, which made him the most successful male cross-country skier in history. During his career, Bjorn measured a VO2 max of 96 ml/kg/min. Daehlie's result was achieved out of season, and physiologist Erlend Hem who was responsible for the testing stated that he would not discount the possibility of the skier passing 100 ml/kg/min at his absolute peak.

Sawao Kato (b. Oct 11, 1946) is a Japanese gymnast and one of the most successful Olympic athletes of all time. Between 1968 and 1976, he won twelve Olympic medals, including eight gold medals. He first competed in the Olympics in 1968, alongside his elder brother Takeshi. They won the team competition, with Sawao also taking gold medals in the all-around and on the floor. aced third in the rings event. Four years later, Kato won gold medals all-around and in the parallel bars and silvers on the horizontal bar and pommel horse. Kato closed out his Olympic career by retaining his title in the parallel bars.

He won more Olympic gold medals than any Japanese Olympian. In 2001, Kato was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

Jennifer Thompson (b. Feb 26, 1973) is an American swimmer. She is one of the most decorated Olympians in history with 12 medals that include 8 gold medals, in the 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004 Summer Olympics. Thompson, began swimming at age 7. In 2006, Thompson received a medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, completed a residency in anesthesiology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, and then a fellowship in pediatric anesthesiology at Children's Hospital of Boston.

Ryan Lochte (b. Aug 3, 1984) is an American swimmer and 12-time Olympic medallist. He is amongst the second-most decorated swimmers in Olympic history measured by total number of medals, behind only Michael Phelps. Lochte's seven individual Olympic medals rank second in history in men's swimming (again with Michael Phelps), tied for second among all Olympic swimmers. He currently holds the world records in the 200m individual medley, 4x200m freestyle and 4x100m freestyle relays.

Lochte's success has earned him Male Swimmer of the Year in 2013, the World Swimmer of the Year Award and the American Swimmer of the Year Award twice. He has also been named the FINA Swimmer of the Year three times.

Lochte specializes in the backstroke and individual medley, but is also a freestyle and butterfly swimmer. He is noted for the speed and distance he attains while kicking underwater.

Dara Torres (b. Apr 15, 1967) is an American swimmer, who is a 12-time Olympic medallist and former world record-holder in three events. Torres is the first swimmer to represent the US in five Olympic Games (1984, 1988, 1992, 2000 and 2008), and at age 41, the oldest swimmer to earn a place on the U.S. Olympic team. At Beijing 2008, she competed in 50m freestyle, 4x100m medley, and 4x100m freestyle, and won silver medals in all three events.

Torres won five medals at the Sydney 2000, when at age 33, she was the oldest member of the US Olympic swim team. She has also won at least one medal in each of the five Olympics in which she has competed, making her one of only a handful of Olympians to earn medals in five different Games.

Alexei Nemov (b. May 28, 1976) is an artistic gymnast from Russia and one of the most celebrated gymnasts of all time. During his career, he won twelve Olympic medals. His father left him and his mother when Alexei was just a baby. Alexei started gymnastics at age five.

Natalie Coughlin (b. Aug 23, 1982) is an American swimmer and her total of twelve Olympic medals tied for the most all-time medals by a female swimmer. At Beijing 2008, she became the first woman ever to win a 100m backstroke gold in two consecutive Olympics and the first U.S. female athlete in modern Olympic history to win six medals in one Olympiad

(The author highlights spectrum of sports extravaganza. He is the winner of Presidential Academic Award for Sports in 2017 and 2018 and recipient of National Accolades for Academic pursuits. He possesses a PhD, MPhil and double MSc)

Most Successful Multiple Olympic Medallists

Athlete	Nation	Sport	Years	Games	G	S	B	Total
Michael Phelps	United States	Swimming	2000-2016	Summer	23	3	2	28
Larisa Latynina	Soviet Union	Gymnastics	1956-1964	Summer	9	5	4	18
Marit Bjorgen	Norway	Cross-country skiing	2002-2018	Winter	8	4	3	15
Nikolai Andrianov	Soviet Union	Gymnastics	1972-1980	Summer	7	5	3	
Ole Einar Bjorndalen	Norway	Biathlon	1998-2014	Winter	8	4	1	13
Boris Shakhlin	Soviet Union	Gymnastics	1956-1964	Summer	7	4	2	
Edoardo Mangiarotti	Italy	Fencing	1936-1960	Summer	6	5	2	
Takashi Ono	Japan	Gymnastics	1952-1964	Summer	5	4	4	
Paavo Nurmi	Finland	Athletics	1920-1928	Summer	9	3	0	12
Birgit Fischer	East Germany	Canoeing	1980-2004	Summer	8	4	0	
Bjorn Daehlie	Norway	Cross-country skiing	1992-1998	Winter	8	4	0	
Sawao Kato	Japan	Gymnastics	1968-1976	Summer	8	3	1	
Jenny Thompson	United States	Swimming	1992-2004	Summer	8	3	1	
Ryan Lochte	United States	Swimming	2004-2016	Summer	6	3	3	
Dara Torres	United States	Swimming	1984-2008	Summer	4	4	4	
Alexei Nemov	Russia	Gymnastics	1996-2000	Summer	4	2	6	
Natalie Coughlin	United States	Swimming	2004-2012	Summer	3	4	5	

Ex-TT champ Rohan Sirisena calls it a day

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Former Sri Lankan table tennis captain Rohan Sirisena decided to retire from the game at the age of 39 having played for 25 years and won many medals at local and international tournaments.

He was the number one ranked player in 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013 and dropped to rank four at the time of his retirement.

"Although I can still play well I know that I can't gain anything new so I have decided to retire to give way to a younger player," said Sirisena who began playing in 1996. Sirisena started playing table tennis at St. John's College Nugegoda under coach Sanjeeva Mendis.

Though there was a lack of facilities at St. John's, Sirisena ended up as the most accomplished

player the school had produced. He then moved to Royal College from where he gained more recognition in the game.

Sirisena was only 14 years when he was among the best nine paddlers in the country. He was under the guidance of former National champion Jothipala Samaraweera and Veediya Bandara who saw that he developed his skills further.

Besides STAG company came up with a sponsorship package.

Sirisena represented Sri Lanka at the South Asian Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and the World TT Championships. He led the Sri Lanka team at the third Lusofonia Games held in India in 2014 and returned with the bronze medal.

He was able to win silver medals at the South Asian Games in 2006, 2010 and 2016 which were his best achievements.



Rohan Sirisena

Junior cricket pool formed

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has already moved ahead with the formation of an under-19 pool and have identified talent that began in the Ratnapura district.

Thereafter this pool will come under the district and provincial coaches.

"SLC will focus in going into the grass root level to form the under-19 women's team. This is with the intention of focusing on the intended Under-19 Women's World Cup that has been shifted to 2023," said Apsari Tillekaratne the women's cricket convenor of SLC.

Originally SLC intended to form an under-23 Emerging

Squad but with the ICC organizing the U-19 World Cup the focus has shifted to junior cricket said Tillekaratne.

Seven schools in the Sabaragamuwa province were earmarked for this talent scouting program that included Ratnapura Gankanda Central, Jayanthi MV Chandrikawewa and Kolonna National School.

"Our next step is to offer the infrastructure facilities to help them start on cricket which is new to them," said Tillekaratne.

"Last year we did a similar program in the Northern and Eastern provinces and next we plan to go to Nuwara Eliya, Badulla and Monaragala districts," added Tillekaratne.



Women's cricket convenor Apsari Tillekaratne receiving a special plaque from Kolonna National School Principal, staff members and coaches during the talent search program in the Sabaragamuwa province

Ananda College boy Liyanage pocks chess prize

Reigning national chess champion Ranindu Liyanage of Ananda College proved his class by winning the eighth Sri Lankan Chess Grand Prix concluded last week at the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka (CFLS) headquarters.

Liyanage was the best after the first tie breaker and the Rapid Games happened since the Classical Games ended equal on points with two draws against Minul Sanjula Doluweera of Royal College.

Known as a better player in the faster version of chess, Liyanage won the first Rapid game and ended level in the second game. Liyanage earned Rs. 50,000 with a trophy and the Gold medal while Doluweera had to be content with the silver medal plus Rs. 30,000.

Theekshana Denuwan of Ananda College beat S. Sivatha-



Sri Lankan Chess Grand Prix champion Ranindu Liyanage receiving the Champions trophy from the chief guest CFLS president Luxman Wijesuriya

nujan to earn Rs. 20,000 and the bronze medal in the consolation final. Sivathanujan of Kokavil Hindu College received Rs. 10,000.

A total of 12 leading chess players participated in this Grand Prix. (DR)



The ten captains Sujan Perera (Up Country Lions), DK Duminda (Blue Eagles), Subash Madushan (Sea Hawks), LuHmetehan (Ratnam SC), Lahiru Tharaka (Blue Star), Rameez Hassan (Red Star), J Bernard (Defenders SCR), Dilip Pieris (Renown SC), Tharindu Madushanka (New Youngs) and FC Rawny (Colombo FC)

Ten teams contest maiden Super League football

BY BERNARD PERERA

The first ever Super League football tournament is set to kick off on February 17 with the participation of ten leading teams in the country.

Before the selection of the ten teams were made, a total of eighteen teams were eager to enter the fray and the Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL) made the final selection after going through past performances.

These details were disclosed at a media briefing held to launch the Super League on Wednesday (10) at the Duncan White Auditorium, Sports Ministry.

President of the FFSL Anura de Silva said that a tournament of this nature is one that will pave the way for professionalism in football in Sri Lanka.

"From the day the present officials were elected their ambition was to make it a reality. To achieve this the FFSL worked hard to obtain the

blessings from FIFA and the AFC. The report forwarded to FIFA brought in positive results having agreed to support this new venture", said De Silva.

He said FIFA has also pledged to offer financial support of US\$ 500,000 for a two year period. Initially they granted \$100,000 for the first stage.

"The finances have already been distributed to participating clubs to enable them to be prepared for the kick off on February 17", said De Silva.

"This Super League is certain to benefit the game. It will attract more people to take to the game and more clubs will endeavour to improve their standards and fans will be able to witness some quality soccer during this Super League. At the same time the players too will endeavour to uplift their standards".

This League will see players develop further and make it easier for the selectors to pick the best players to represent the country.

The FFSL will also have to keep working hard to feed the clubs with financial assistance so that they can invest on improving the game.

The others who will benefit by this system are the administrators, coaches, referees and support staff. Even the younger generations will be enticed to take to the game that will help them gain in many ways according to De Silva.

Cricket is the only sport in Sri Lanka that is played at professional level and parents too encourage their children to take to the game that could have a good future.

If football too is taken to a professional level, parents will be compelled to be interested in their children pursuing with it that can bring in a bright future according to the FFSL. De Silva thanked FIFA, officials of FFSL and club officials who helped in numerous ways to bring the Super League to the country.

Jaswar Umar the Secretary of the

FFSL said that a pre-season program will commence this week with ten teams divided into two groups. All matches will be played at the Sugathadasa Stadium with the first game to kick off at 5 pm and the second game at 8 pm.

Unfortunately, spectators will not be allowed admission to witness these matches as the FFSL has taken steps to telecast these matches live through their official Football Sri Lanka TV, YouTube and all social media platforms.

The following ten teams will play in the pre-season tournament:

Group 1: Renown SC, Ratnam SC, Blue Star SC, Defenders SC and Red Star SC

Group 2: Up Country Lions, Sea Hawks, New Young SC, Colombo FC and Blue Eagles SC

Matches will be telecast live on the following:

Football Sri Lanka TV- <https://www.youtube.com/c.FootballSriL>

Para athlete Indumathi receives gold medal won in 2018 after winner tested positive

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lankan para athlete Amara Indumathi received her upgraded gold medal she won in the T/54/46/47 women's long jump at the last Asian Para Games held in Jakarta in 2018 when she was bestowed with the honour at the World Para Athletic Grand Prix in Dubai last Wednesday.

The medal was confirmed by National Paralympic Committee Chairman Major General Rajitha Ampemohotti.

Indumathi who won the silver medal with 4.62m in this event was eligible for the gold medal after Uzbekistan long jumper Abdullaeya Kamolakhon was tested positive for doping.

Meanwhile the bronze medalist Iranian Zahara Bornaki with 4.51m received the silver medal while Sri Lankan Kumudu Priyanka who finished fourth with 4.41m is the bronze medalist winner.

Both Indumathi and Kumudu Priyanka were in Dubai for the World Para athletic Grand Prix.

Priyanka was third at the long jump event and placed fourth at the 100m event while Indumathi was placed fourth at the long jump event. Sri Lankan Para athletes won five gold, five silver and five bronze to finish 14th out of 43 countries at the last Asian Games.

Javelin thrower Dinesh Priyantha Herath and Samitha Dulan have already qualified for the next Paralympic Games which is scheduled to be held from August 24 to September 5 while one archer Sampath Bandara is also in.

Meanwhile two rowers and a table tennis player Dinesh Deshapriya are also aiming for the Paralympic qualification.



Amara Indumathi

NSSF aims to attract more youngsters for shotgun shooting

As the sport of shooting makes a gradual comeback following the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Shooting Sport Federation of Sri Lanka has initiated the commencement of its Trap and Skeet (Shotgun events) competitions.

The Clay Target Shooting Club of Colombo's Shotgun Range in Payagala, being the only current facility in the country, will serve as the venue for these competitions.

Mohan Gilbert, the vice president of the NSSF responsible for the development of Shotgun disciplines said that more young shooters are needed to nourish this discipline.

The NSSF will conduct the Trap Open meet from March 11 to 14 at the Payagala Shotgun Shooting Range with the existing configuration.

Travel Trade carom on Feb 20

The eighth Travel Trade Sports Club Men's and Women's Carom Championship will be held on Saturday, February 20 at the Galadari Hotel commencing at 8.30 am.

Entries have been called from the 170 strong TTSC affiliated membership and will close on Monday, February 15 c/o Sunethra Blok, Administrative Secretary, TTSC, via e-mail only.

In the previous tournament held in February 2019 Mount Lavinia Hotel won the Men's Team Championship beating Turuya Resort, Kalutara.

Buddhini Dias from Colombo Tours won the Women's Open individual singles title beating Wasanthi Chathurani from Turuya Resort, Kalutara.

Buddhini Dias bagged a double, when she won the doubles title, partnered by Anushka Ramkishore from Hemas Aviation. They beat Nirmali Satharasinghe and Uwani Surasinghe from Galadari Hotel.

Pakistan to play three ODIs, four T20s in South Africa

Pakistan will play three one-day internationals and four Twenty20 internationals in South Africa during April, Cricket Africa announced on Friday.

The touring team will stay in a bio-secure environment and matches will be confined to two venues - SuperSport Park in Centurion and the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.

The series will bring to an end a home international season heavily affected by Covid-19. England cut short a white-ball tour in December over fears about the virus and Australia withdrew from a planned three-

Test tour which was due to take place in March. The only home international matches played by South Africa during the 2020/21 season so far were three Twenty20 internationals against England and two Test matches against Sri Lanka.

South Africa recently completed a two-Test series in Pakistan and are currently involved in a Twenty20 series in that country.

Cricket South Africa director of cricket Graeme Smith thanked the Pakistan Cricket Board for agreeing to play an additional T20 international after it had originally been planned

that just three matches in that format would be held.

"Pakistan has proved their status over the years as one of the most dangerous limited-overs teams and I'm sure they will give the Proteas a stern test on the Highveld," said Smith.

Fixtures: April 2, first one-day international, Centurion April 4, second one-day international, Johannesburg April 12, third one-day international, Centurion April 10, first Twenty20 international, Johannesburg April 12, second Twenty20 international, Johannesburg April 14, third Twenty20 international, Centurion

Sri Lanka's premier connectivity provider, Dialog Axiata PLC powered an eight-member strong contingent that took wing to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to qualify for the 2021 Tokyo Paralympics at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix. Top row: Sampath Hettiarachchi, HM Dinesh Priyantha, Palitha Bandara, KA Samitha Dulan, Gamini Ekanayake. Bottom row: Nuwan Indika, Kumudu Priyanka, Saman Maduranga Subasinghe, Amara Indumathi Karunathilaka and Buddika Indrapala



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Big anticipation as schools cricket returns



SPORTSCOPE
BY ELMO RODRIGOPULLE

The fault lies on our cricketers not SLC

*'Men at some time are masters of their fates;
The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings'*

Shakespeare in Julius Caesar

The Bard put it so aptly and to paraphrase: the fault lies in our own chosen cricketers --who now qualify at times to be called crackpots-- is beyond question. What has gone wrong with our cricket?

That is the question wherever cricketers, cricket fans and anybody who is somebody gathers be it in the clubs, pubs, buses or supermarkets keep asking and discussing.

In addition to the cricketers performing badly losing two series, one to South Africa in SA and the other to England in our own back yard everything seems to have jumped the cricketing rails.

What was once a well functioning locomotive running so smoothly, when the likes of Mahela and Sanga were the drivers, has overturned. And now with the chief selector and manager Ashantha de Mel throwing in the towel, the station chief has also quit.

After these cricketing calamities there was bound to be a change in the selectors and at the time of writing the new selection committee has still not been appointed.

The writer who has played cricket, watched cricket and written about cricket in its good and bad days for over 50 years make bold to say that the blame for the deterioration cannot be blamed on Sri Lanka Cricket as the organization, nor on the selectors or the coaching staff.

Cricket has become a virus like the prevailing Covid 19 with no cure in sight. And it will continue to deteriorate and one hopes it would not be allowed to die a natural death. Thankfully a bold Minister of Sports Namal Rajapaksa is wise enough to consult those who matter such as Mahela, Sanga and now Aravinda who heads a Technical Advisory Committee of Roshan Mahaama, Kumar Sangakkara and Muttiah Muralitharan to put the locomotive back on the rails.

The virus has been spread by the cricketers and no one else is to be blamed or hauled over the coals. SLC has neglected the cricketers, the selectors have put on the field the best available talent.

The coaches can tell and show the cricketers how. At this level the coaches can't show the batsmen how to play a forward or backward stroke, the pace bowlers how to bowl an in-or out-swinging delivery, the spinners how to vary their deliveries or the fielders how to take a catch etc; these are cricketing lessons those taking to the game should have been taught and learnt in their formative years, even if they did learn to have the discipline to abide by their lessons. But not this bunch of cavaliers.

So it will be seen that the blame for this calamity that the game is suffering today falls fairly and squarely on the shoulders of cricketers taking the field. If they are unable to adjust their play according to the wicket, conditions and situations then they are not worth the gear that they are donning and the caps they are sporting.

Where are the glorious cricketers the country produced before and after gaining Test status? Before gaining Test status the cricketers played the game for the love of it. After gaining Test status and the game being highly commercialized the cricketers' greed for money held no bounds and so began the deterioration.

The greed for money grew in the controlling body too with those contesting for office, not offering a straight bat, but playing strokes that are not cricket, spending big money in buying votes and finally it was not the deserving, competent and capable men who held the high posts in the cricketing administration. Vote buying cannot be stopped as it is a way of life in all sports.

So until and unless the selectors are able to pick a strong squad and put on the field 11 dedicated, disciplined and determined cricketers who will be aware of their responsibilities and play with pride for the game and country, cricket will be in the doldrums.

Getting back to the resignation of former Sri Lanka bowling all rounder who bowed the first ball after the country gained Test status in 1982 as chief selector and manager Ashantha de Mel did not come as a surprise.

With the Lankan cricketers meekly surrendering two Test series to South Africa and England many were blaming de Mel and his team of selectors for not putting on the field cricketers who would play with determination be competitive and bring credit to the country.

So with de Mel quitting to maintain his respect and dignity the need has arisen for appointing a new chief and a team of selectors. One hopes that there will be fresh faces and not that those who have served before would not be recalled.

Many have been the instances where former players have been picked as selectors, only to be replaced and again be recalled to serve. These cricketers if they have any respect must remember that they served and were unceremoniously dumped when a change of guard was required and should refuse to serve again.

But those who served as selectors earlier are keen to come back because now a selector's job is a highly paid one. After Sri Lanka gained Test status every post at Sri Lanka Cricket and those serving in various committees earn big money as salaries. Before Sri Lanka gained Test status, not many volunteered to be selectors. That was because there was no monetary gain and those serving as selectors had to be out of pocket when watching the cricketers who they were penciling to play for the country.

In the pre Test era those holding office in the Cricket Board had no headquarters and had to hold their meetings at some member's residence. But they continued to serve for the love of the game. But now there is money for all involved in the game and big money at that. The temptation to hold office now is a virus.

Now that cricket has also become a remunerative sport, and as in the corporate world where performances are evaluated, and performance bonus' are given.....may be in the Sri Lanka case there should also be a penalty imposed for reckless performances....a thought only to make a point that 'profit' has also 'losses' on the other side of the coin!

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By
Dinesh Weerawansa



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**OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL
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The Secretary of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLCSA) JAKS Indrajith said they have just got the approval from the Education Ministry to begin the new 2020-2021 Under-19 cricket season from March 15.

It will also be the date for the Western Province schools reopening after the postponed G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination.

The SLCSA Secretary said they now have got the final green light from the Education Ministry as well as the local health authorities. He said a team will play five qualifying round matches each and that those matches will be played under closed doors.

Asked whether the final round matches too would not entertain spectators, Indrajith said it will be too early to make a decision. "It is too early to talk about that. If we get approval from the health authorities then we could. But as it is, we play behind closed doors to ensure the health of all parties," he said.

He said prior to the preliminary round matches, the host team will inform public health inspectors of the area. All preliminary round league matches will be played at venues convenient to the two teams while final round matches from quarter final stage will be played at neutral venues.

The makeshift 2020-2021 inter-school Under-19 inter-school cricket season will begin mid next month, giving some hopes after exactly one complete year's play was lost due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

After the tail end of the last first X1 season was stopped by the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic in March last year, the next season will begin exactly a year's time in 2021 mid-March.

Indrajith said they will follow all guidelines set by the Education Ministry and health authorities strictly when conducting the tournament.

"We will strictly follow all guidelines set by the Education and Health ministry officials because we don't want the school children to fall into trouble against Covid-19. At the same time, we want to offer maximum opportunity to schoolchildren to indulge in sports activities," the SLCSA Secretary said.

Royal, Trinity, DS Senenayake, De Mazenod, Wesley and Gurukula MV have been drawn in Division One Group 'A' section 'X' in the Inter-school Under-19 limited over tournament to be played from later next month.

The Division One Group 'A' section 'Y' will comprise of St. Benedict's, St. Joseph's, Mahanama, St. Thomas', Matara, St. Sebastian's and St. Anne's, Kurunegala while section 'Z' of the same group will have Nalanda, S. Thomas', St. Anthony's Katugastota, Prince of Wales, Richmond and Maliyadeva.

"Unfortunately, there will be no two-day tournament this year due to limited time left after the Covid-19 pandemic took away almost the entire first term. Hence, the official 2020-2021 Under-19 tournament will only be confined to a limited-overs tournament," the SLCSA Secretary added. He said the Division One Group 'B' section 'X' will have St. Pe-



Secretary of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLCSA) JAKS Indrajith

ter's, Thurstan, Mahinda, Dharmaraja, St. Aloysius' and Moratu MV while section 'Y' will comprise Ananda, Isipatana, Zahira, Joseph Vaz, Dharmapala and Maris Stella.

Section 'Z' of Division One Group will comprise St. Sylvester's, Dharmasoka, St. Servatius', Devapathiraja, Lumbini and St. Anthony's, Wattala.

He said another 36 school teams will battle in the Division One tier 'B' tournament drawn under three groups A, B and C.

"All in all, there will be 72 teams competing in the Under-19 Division One and Two tournaments," Indrajith said.

The SLCSA will conduct the Under-19 tournament from March 15 to May 2 and each team is drawn to play five qualifying round league matches.

There will be 32 teams competing in Division One - 16 in tier 'A' and another 16 in tier 'B'. Similarly, there will be another 32 teams in the Division Two.

There again in division two 16 teams will be in tier 'A' and another 16 in tier 'B'.

The teams will get about 47 days to complete their matches including the finals by May 2. In-between, there will be a few days break after the first round for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

After the qualifying league round, eight teams each will be selected to play in the final rounds from the quarter final on-wards. The maximum number of tournament matches a team has to honour is eight, including the five qualifying round games.

Schools may play their traditional two-day matches such as big matches, provided they get clearance from the health authorities due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic threat.

For instance, the world's only uninterrupted big match - the Battle of the Blues between Royal and S.Thomas' is likely to be played in

Hambantota at the Mahinda Rajapaksa Cricket Stadium. Though it was earlier planned from April 8 to 10 behind closed doors, the joint organizers now plan to put it off by a month.

There will be live television coverage of the three-day affair, similar to the recently conducted Lanka Premier League (LPL). The idea is mooted to maintain the 142-year-old traditions since 1879.

If it takes place as planned, the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium will become the first venue outside Colombo and the ninth venue overall to host the prestigious Royal-Thomian cricket encounter.

When the Covid-19 pandemic first hit Sri Lanka badly in mid-March, last year's Battle of the Blues had just been concluded. Most of the First X1 matches of the 2019/20 season were completed by then.

With the commencement of the new First X1 under-19 cricket season from March 15, the 43rd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year will also be launched with the most popular contest.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year contest has been held annually for 41 successive years since 1979, except for last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But the postponed awards ceremony for 2020 will be held next month.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year is conducted by Sri Lanka's number one English newspaper, the Sunday Observer and sponsored by Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel.

Thanks to the longstanding association of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLCSA), the Sri Lanka Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), headed by Shammil Silva, the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year contest has gone from strength to strength.

With Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel coming forward to add more power and energy to the Observer School

Cricketers of the Year show 13 years ago, the quality of the event has been drastically improved.

In addition to giving away rich cash awards to the schoolboy and schoolgirl cricketers, the coaches and masters in charge who put a lot of effort behind the scene have been rewarded.

The Mega Show's expansion to have a separate segment for outstanding schoolboy cricketers went a long way in inspiring the talented players in far flung areas.

Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom and SLT Mobitel, Rohan Fernando has given every possible assistance to the Mega Show which will march forward with more power and strength.

The SLT Mobitel is sponsoring the show for the 14th successive year, at a time when the company is heading towards new horizons under the dynamic leadership of Fernando, the former Thomian ace rower.

It has been enjoyable working with Fernando who has a tremendous sporting record, including being the President of the Sri Lanka Sailing Association and ex-Vice President of National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka.

The management of Lake House has strongly backed the Mega Show. Its current Chairman, W. Dayaratne and the team of Board of Directors - Dharmasiri Kariyawasam (Editorial), Rakkitha Abeygunawardhana (Legal and Administration), Janaka Ranatunga (Finance) and Canishka Witharana (Operations) have always been a tower of strength to take the Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year forward.

It is a plus point and gives encouragement to see more and more school cricket great shows emerging, following that award initiative of Sri Lanka's flagship English newspaper - the Sunday Observer way back in 1978/79.

It was the ANCL which inaugurated the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year contest at a time when there wasn't a single awards ceremony to recognize the talents of schoolboy cricketers. Even when the newly found schoolboy cricketer award shows deserted and abandoned their shows when the Corona-19 pandemic hit last year, the Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year remained intact.

It is because the Sunday Observer and Sri Lanka Mobitel understood their real corporate role when it matters the most.

Neither the school cricket governing body - Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association, nor the national governing body for cricket - Sri Lanka Cricket or the then BCCSL, had a program to reward outstanding schoolboy cricketers.

There were no inter-school tournaments for under-19 First X1 cricket four decades ago. But 43 years ago, the Sunday Observer, as the country's undisputed English newspaper since 1928, realized the need to recognize talents of budding schoolboy cricketers who could step into Sri Lankan teams and become international stars by organizing this show of shows.

Kandy SC pull-out hurts fans

BY HAFIZ MARIKAR

Kandy rugby lovers have expressed disappointment that their favourite team Kandy SC have decided not to contest the Commander's Cup the inter club Sevens next month undermining 28 years of dominance.

Kandy SC is the only team that has beaten every other club more times than losing to them and holds the record of winning the league and the knock-outs more than any other rival team in the fray. Fortunately for Kandy Sports Club, its sponsors and well-wishers with the spirit has delivered all facilities at all times, giving their best for players, with the encouragement to perform at the highest levels.

Their players talk less and work hard to bring the club up to top standard and all this happened after Malik Samarawickrema came into the scene in the early 1990s. Besides all that players are disciplined, committed, focused and have become very professional.

The turning point for Kandy SC was when they won the Clifford Cup final in 1992 and in the same year they were placed third in the League tournament and were runners-up in the R. Premadasa Trophy knockout tournament.

Kandy Sports Club has a long history, founded in 1874 and was then known as the Kandy Athletic, Boating, Cricket and Dancing Club.

Motor Racing flags off with Eliyakanda Hill Climb

BY BERNARD PERERA

The 25th Eliyakanda Hill Climb will mark the opening of the motor racing events for the year 2021 on February 27 and 28.

This was the only motor racing event conducted in 2020 just a few weeks before the Covid-19 crisis propped up halting all sporting activities.

The Eliyakanda Hill Climb organised by Southern Motor Sports Club has conducted this particular event since the formation of the club 25 years ago.

According to the President of the SMSC Ashhar Hameem this year's event will run over two days under strict health guidelines stipulated by the Health Authorities and the Sports Ministry. Considering the health guidelines the Orga-

nizing Committee has decided to restrict the number of crew members of drivers and riders to two persons. They also have made arrangements to run Motorcycle events on day one and the car events on day two with the intention of minimizing the spectator attendance. Previous events were held on a single day with the grand finale for all to enjoy it on a grand manner.

This year's event is named as SLT Speedup as Sri Lanka Telecom has come forward as the main sponsor.

Entries for Eliyakanda Hill Climb will close on February 19 and drivers and riders are requested to forward their entries to the Secretary, Southern Motor Sports Club or through www.smsc.lk website.

No late entries will be accepted, said Hameem.

BUSINESS

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Sustainably Produced Fuelwood

The SLS 1551: 2016 Sustainably Produced Fuel Wood Management System Certification Scheme is open to all plantation organizations operating in Sri Lanka and other parts of the world. This document delineates steps involved in the SLS 1551: 2016 Sustainably Produced Fuel Wood Management System Certification.



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BIZ SNIPPETS

SEC and CSE meet stockbrokers

Officials of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) met the CEOs of the stockbroker firms to discuss the status of the stock market on Thursday.

The stockbrokers expressed their views with regard to the information that has been called for by the circular issued by the CSE.

The stockbrokers expressed the view that there had been some misconception that this information was to be gathered to curtail the credit that has been extended by the stockbroker firms.



Aitken Spence Travels to welcome more Kazakhstan

Aitken Spence Travels, working in partnership with TUI Kazakhstan, welcomed the country's first charter flight from Kazakhstan after the airports reopened for tourist arrivals.

There will be two charters operating from Kazakhstan and it will be a first since the Sri Lankan borders reopened for tourists. Air Astana flight will be a weekly flight operating every Saturday and is expected to continue till April.

SCAT Airlines will also operate weekly flights every Thursday and will continue till April. The combined passenger strength is approximately 350 passengers a week and the flights will land at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Airport, Mattala.



Emirates to boost services to Colombo

Emirates will increase its services to Colombo from four to six weekly flights - with a fifth weekly flight commencing February 18 (every Thursday) and a sixth weekly flight commencing February 27 (every Saturday). The two additional services will serve market demand and offer customers enhanced connectivity to/from Colombo, via Dubai.

Emirates' flights to Colombo will operate using the wide-body aircraft, Boeing 777-300ER.

Emirates launched operations to Sri Lanka in 1986, serving the country for more than 30 years.



Debt repayment

UNBLEMISHED RECORD WILL BE MAINTAINED - CB GOVERNOR

A market oriented, but guided policy approach to be adopted

The country has maintained an unblemished record in debt repayment and it will continue to maintain this status contrary to the doomsday predictions made by those with vested interests, said Central Bank Governor Prof. W.D. Lakshman.

The governor was addressing the media on the recent developments of the economy on Friday.

"Doomsday predictions have been made based on certain policy moves taken during the second half of 2010 all of which has now changed and we are confident there would be

better results," the Governor said, stressing on putting a halt to foreign financing for the deficit.

He said negotiations to raise foreign exchange inflows through swap arrangements with overseas agencies are currently on but details cannot be divulged.

"We hope through such measures to fill gaps and move through this couple of years to achieve rapid and shared growth by 2024-25," the Governor said. On seeking assistance from the IMF he said it is not advisable to do so and obtain guid-



ance from the donor. He said an alternative policy approach which

will be market oriented but also guided by the State is being adopted. According to the Governor, import restriction on non-essential commodities to manage the balance of payment will continue for a certain period.

"Though not for a long period, import rationalisation is essential to address the balance of payment and curtail the outflow of foreign exchange," Prof. Lakshman said. The country's foreign reserves stood... **TO PAGE 36**

Import restrictions stifle Lanka's potential for trade with EU - Ambassador Chaibi

Sri Lanka needs to recognise the obstruction to trade with the European Union (EU) due to the import ban which has stifled trade between the two markets, a sizeable component of trade for Sri Lanka, said Ambassador Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Denis Chaibi last week. "Sri Lanka competes on price and quality and has a unique advantage on quality over its competitors on certain products exported to the EU which Sri Lanka must capitalise and make good use of to boost trade with one of its largest trading markets," the Ambassador said. However, he said that trade restrictions will not help advance trade with the bloc which Sri Lanka has gained since the reinstatement of the GSP Plus trade preferential scheme. "Trade between Sri Lanka and the EU has increased since resuming... **TO PAGE 36**

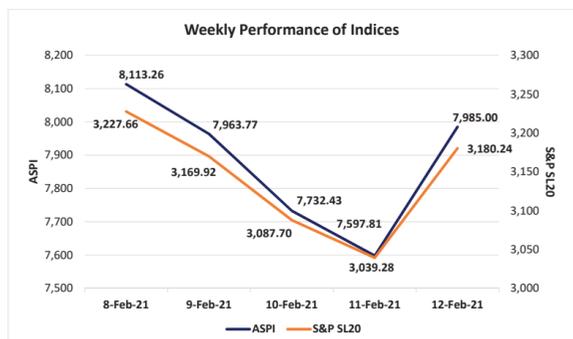


The sea has been a lifeline to many in Sri Lanka. Salt, an indispensable ingredient that enriches a meal comes as a refined commodity from salterns. According to tradition, a pot of salt and a pair of buffaloes was the dowry for a girl when she was given in marriage. Here workers harvest salt at a saltern in the South. **Pic: Wimal Karumatilleka**

CSE performance recognised worldwide - State Finance Minister

The consistent performance of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) which has been recognised worldwide is a reflection of the growth of the economy despite the challenging times, said State Minister of Finance Ajith Nivard Cabraal.

He said the rating by world bodies of the performance of the equity market of Sri Lanka reflects the sentiments of the local and foreign investors who have reposed immense faith in the policies of the government which are aimed at strengthening the macro-economic fundamentals and driving economic growth. "Since taking over the reins in 2019 President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the new Government have been pushing for policy reforms to boost economic growth," the Minister said, adding that the positive sentiments on the performance of the market has been felt across the country which is an incentive for more local especially SMEs and other institutional investors to come into the market. **TO PAGE 36**



Apparel sector will be hit if workers not vaccinated before May - Industry experts

Apparel sector experts calling on the Government to expedite vaccinating apparel sector workers, said if workers are not vaccinated before May this year, there would be major repercussions on the sector and the economy.

"Vaccinating the 350,000 export sector workers in the apparel sector is imperative to meet customer needs," Joint Apparel Association Forum Sri Lanka (JAAFSL) Chairper-

son A. Sukumaran said. He was speaking at a virtual forum on "Recovery of Sri Lanka's Apparel Sector from the Covid-19 Crisis," hosted by the Institute of Policy Studies recently.

"There is a global demand for apparel but Sri Lanka is falling short in meeting deadlines and important clients are moving towards competitors who are supplying without any delay," Sukumaran said, adding that

Sri Lanka has a reputation as a reliable supplier and that it is now under threat. He added that the apparel sector was ready to bear the cost of the vaccinations and... **TO PAGE 36**



Rapid response, innovation, key to meet protection needs - Insurance sector expert

The insurance industry in Sri Lanka has changed since the pandemic began and we are at a crossroads that needs rapid response and innovation to be able to fulfil the protection needs while prioritising the safety and well-being of the community, said Director and Chief Executive Officer of Janashakthi Insurance PLC, Ravi Liyanage.

He said the industry has recognised that affordable protection is a

need of the hour and we are committed to support our nation as a purpose driven insurer. We will also continue to serve our customers better and meet the changing demands through novel solutions as the situation continues to evolve. "The Covid-19 crisis has disrupted businesses of all sizes and industries locally and globally," Liyanage said, adding that Janashakthi rose to the occasion to offer affordable insurance solutions

to all sectors of the society. He said Janashakthi Life introduced the 'Janashakthi Covid Guard' which is designed to offer financial stability and support the policyholders to manage the adversities and challenges due to current context. "It is a comprehensive Insurance product offering covering different segments customising the need according to affordability and economic situation," Liyanage said. **TO PAGE 36**

EXCHANGE RATES	
Feb 8 - Feb 12	
US Dollar \$	196.50
Euro €	236.70
Japanese yen ¥	1.8648
Pound sterling £	269.83
Chinese Yuan ¥	30.566
Monday	196.81
Tuesday	237.99
Wednesday	197.45
Thursday	240.05
Friday	198.66
	240.97
	1.9030
	275.47
	31.001
	196.36
	238.428
	1.8748
	270.88
	30.703

Business

Employee egos at the expense of business results



BIZ TALK with Kishu Gomes

Trust is a critical component of all high-performing organisations. When trust is high among employees, organisations are able to face the brutal facts of their company's reality in an open manner. Solutions to complex problems are found.

When co-workers don't trust each other or feel they are under personal attack, the process of problem-solving breaks down. It takes time to build trust. It can be destroyed quickly, and can never be completely restored. The cost of such an attitude and behaviour of employees is huge though there is no perfect science to calculate it.

Why do some employees behave in such a negative manner? How come some employees become larger than his or her job and play politics? They are insecure. Perhaps they are mediocre performers who look for ways to build relationships with the top to take advantage. Their mindset tells them the way to advance at their company is at the expense of others. They may be jealous of those who are advancing more rapidly than they are, and rather than improve their own personal per-

formance, they try to drag others down to try and prove that they are better than others. They don't take personal responsibility if things don't go well, and they blame others for their own failures.

People with ego fail

In my experience, these types of people eventually fail. The organisation will raise its defense mechanisms and ensure that they are not successful playing their political game. Those pursuing a personal agenda to the detriment of others, can instead take a path that will help you succeed.

Pursue a personal agenda that is supportive of your co-workers. When you are supportive of them, they will be supportive of you. When you take the mantle of leadership on a specific issue, they will follow you and support your efforts. Much of the work within organisations gets done by the informal organisation.

Become part of that informal organisation, which will help you get things done. You might find an effective way to deal with an individual playing the game of negative politics. Depending on the circumstances and the relative balance of political capital, you may decide to challenge the individual and put them on notice that they have more to lose than you if they continue.

Gossip culture

Leaders need to play a crucial role in nurturing an effective organization. On occasion, a leader may reach a conclusion or make a decision based on input from a single person, and not talk to all individuals involved, and therefore fail to get a complete picture of the situation. A person speaking negatively about others may be



attempting to advance their personal agenda. Leaders can listen to complaints, but shouldn't take sides until they speak with all parties. You can then make an informed judgment and decision - with all the information in hand.

If someone brings gossip to you, don't complain that people promote gossip, but instead ask yourself why people come to you with gossip? People will come to you with gossip only if you entertain gossip. So ask yourself what's wrong with you.

Respect each other

It would be wonderful if everyone

was honest to each other, respected each other, nice to each other and had overall company success as the best interest at heart. But the reality is, many people are out for themselves.

Sometimes, it is a personality issue, and sometimes it is the way the corporate structure is set up and the behavior has been tolerated in the past. You have to be above all the petty behaviour.

Although difficult, it is critical for your future to learn how to deal with these types of behaviour by certain people. All these types of behaviour come from ego - ego is built over a

If someone brings gossip to you, don't complain that people promote gossip, but instead ask yourself why people come to you with gossip? People will come to you with gossip only if you entertain gossip. So ask yourself what's wrong with you

time based on individual backgrounds. While some ego is important and helpful, having an inflated ego without substance with evil intention can hurt you and your business. Have you ever

gone to a meeting and not had a shared goal to make the business win or the same goal as the person leading the meeting? If you have not, you are an exception.

Why is it that we sit in meetings all the time and know that we have a different goal but do not think that others have different goals when we are leading meetings? Hidden agendas can kill an idea, and if we are not aware, these agendas come out of nowhere and we are not prepared to deal with them - and to battle it out for a common objective. Every person is motivated by something different. It is important to remember that when keeping your goal on top of your mind.

What do we do with all this? It is a big issue in many companies today. But if your goal is to have an executive edge and lead and succeed, you have to see the big picture and realise that a leader is only a leader when there are followers. When reviewing the performance of your direct reports, be sure to collect data on the degree to which they are trusted by their co-workers, in addition to the results that they accomplish.

Employees who are not trustworthy adversely impact the effectiveness of your organisation and you will eventually part company with them. And remember - always listen to both sides before reaching a conclusion or making a decision. It will make you a more effective leader, and help improve the performance of your company.

Distinguish between good employees and bad - treat them based on merits. Make performance the single criteria for reward and recognition - that's the only formula for business success.

DSI Tyres wins three awards

SLIM Brand Excellence - 2020

DSI Tyres won three awards at the SLIM Brand Excellence - 2020.

Bronze Awards in Product Brand of the Year category and Local Brand of the Year category and Silver in SLIM DIGI's 2.0 were the three awards.

MD, Samson Group, Ranatunga Rajapaksa received the awards at the event.

"Last year DSI Tyres received the gold award in The turnaround brand of the year category. In a move to improve customers' convenience DSI Tyres introduced a home visit tyre fixing service upon online orders; a step forward from general sales procedure, in addition to a newly developed, attractive user-friendly website, said Director, DSI Tyres, Kavinda Rajapaksa.

"These measures resulted in the popularity and trust of the brand. Today DSI tyres has become a household name as the company is keen to



The DSI team with the awards.

meet customers' needs and continuously improving the quality of their products through research and developments while promoting the brand in an echo friendly manner. All these moves contributed to the latest

achievements. Continuously maintaining product quality and customer care up to international standards, DSI Tyres has earned a name overseas. It is a pleasure that our efforts are recognised in this way," he said.

Completion of technology transfer mission

Mahindra Ideal Welipenna plant to be fully run by Lankan technicians

An Indian automobile engineer, who was a plant head of Mahindra Ideal Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. (MILPL), car assembly plant in Welipenna left the island after successfully completing this training mission. Following his departure, the plant will be run by a 100% Sri Lankan technical workforce.

Engineer Sadhasivam Durairaj told the media that he completed his two-year technology transfer mission and plant head role and he had utmost confidence that Sri Lankan technicians have the competency to create a product according to the specifications of Mahindra & Mahindra, India.

"I trained around 50 technicians and found that working at an assem-



Sadhasivam Durairaj

bly plant producing a quality product had come naturally to them. I saw that training was mainly required in areas such as standardi-

sation, plant safety, and shop floor discipline. Over the period, they learned quickly and they adhered to standards and specifications. I'd

simply say that they were good learners and followers."

"We procure around 30% parts locally and are ordered based on the monthly needs and procured on Just-In-Time (JIT) basis. Similarly, other consumables and imported pag, shipment and customs clearance," he said.

When asked about the assembly plant's production capacity, Sadhasivam said, "The annual capacity is 5,000 units, now we produce 100+ cars per month and we will ramp up daily production as market demand increases. Presently we have assembled KUV100 Manual Petrol variants, and we have planned to add KUV100 AMT Diesel variants in the time to come."

Royal Fernwood manufactures heat insulator for Rakon, New Zealand

Royal Fernwood Porcelain Limited, a large-scale manufacturer of quality white and decorated porcelain tableware recently manufactured a very delicate and important engineering component - the heater insulator for Rakon Limited, New Zealand, a global high technology organisation.

The heater insulator which was manufactured by Royal Fernwood to precision is said to be used in the temperature chamber, which is capable of

handling varying temperatures from -60° Celsius to 120°C. With the launch of this heater insulator, Royal Fernwood Porcelain Limited transforms its product offering from a mere tableware company to a porcelain base manufacturer of all items. This results in the company's ability to enhance its manufacturing capabilities and expand its product offering to produce any product to precision from porcelain raw materials. "As an entity that is con-

stantly looking for fresh opportunities and innovative methods to launch new products, it is with great pleasure that we launch this product into the market," said Director and Chief Executive Officer, Royal Fernwood Porcelain Limited, Yohan Fernando.

"Manufacturing and launching of the heat insulator were a great challenge which was translated into an opportunity and achieved successfully. Royal Fernwood will continue its quest

for innovation, expanding boundaries and creating products that have never been tried before. With the launch of the heat insulator, we have elevated the brand to the next tier," he said.

Project Engineer, Equipment Development Group, Rakon Limited, New Zealand, Sarath Dhamagolla said, "We were trying to source a supplier for a heater insulator after our existing partner discontinued the product lines."

Everyone knows HR

Organisational culture is made up of shared values, beliefs and assumptions about how employees should behave, interact, make decisions, and carry out work activities (eg: friendly service, prompt response, first-name culture, individual/group decision-making etc.). It is unique to an organisation.



Organisational culture

By Janaka Kumarasinghe

Mount House Holdings wins Bronze award

Sabaragamuwa Best Entrepreneur of the Year - 2020

Mount House Holdings Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd, won the Bronze Award in the large category, service sector at the 'Sabaragamuwa Province, Best Entrepreneur of the Year -2020' awards ceremony organised by the Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce and Industries with the National Enterprise Development Authority.

Having started with a single worker in 2005, Mount House Holdings has come a long way to own a fully computerised office, a work force exceeding hundred employees and a fleet of modern machinery and sophisticated equipment used in the construction and mining sector.

Managing Director of Mount House Holdings, T.M. Pamal Ruwansiri said, "I appreciate the tireless

efforts of all my staff without whom this achievement would have been impossible."

Today, Mount House Holdings undertakes all sorts of construction projects in addition to renting out machinery. Ruwansiri personally sorts out any issue to maintain the high standard of his services. His wife, Nirosha Lakmali who is a director of the company, has been a great support in all his endeavours.

Located near White House bridge, Hidellana, Ratnapura, Mount House Holdings operates a 24/7 breakdown service to transport any type of vehicle to a service centre. The company's transport service is capable of moving heavy machinery, a much sought after service in the area.



Managing Director of Mount House Holdings, T.M. Pamal Ruwansiri receives the award

Building resilience against Covid-19

From adversity to serendipity



STRATEGIC STRIDES
by

Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

Powered by



PIM Alumni

It was encouraging to see that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has made a timely move to organise a research conference on Covid-19. It was all about the impact, mitigation, opportunities and building resilience with a fitting theme "From adversity to serendipity". The Postgraduate Institute of Management was so glad to be a strategic partner for this noteworthy endeavour and I was part of the steering committee of the conference, that was ably led by Prof. Ranjith Senarathne, the Chairman, NSF.

Overview
The challenges associated with a hybrid conference where technology had to play a key role was successfully overcome through a collective effort, in reaching out to a large number of Sri Lankan expatriates as well as local participants.

According to the NSF, the main aim of the conference was to bring all the key players of the relevant public and private sector institutions under one roof to deliberate and reflect on the multiple aspects of the pandemic so as to build a robust and resilient community and economy in Sri Lanka.

Plans are underway to edit and publish the proceedings of the con-

ference as a volume which will be valuable not only to Sri Lanka, but also to the rest of the world in coping with, and mitigating the impact of, such pandemics in the future. The NSF expects it to be a comprehensive and authoritative scholarly volume on how to manage a pandemic to minimise its economic, social, and psychological impact.

There were six specific objectives associated with the Covid-19 conference. First to collect, collate, systematise, analyse, interpret, and document information and data gathered on important aspects of the impact of and recovery from Covid-19.

Second, to document lessons learnt, best practices and strategies identified, innovations achieved, and knowledge and experience gained in combatting the pandemic, mitigating its impact, and building resilience.

Third, to determine and address needs in human capital development and capacity building to plan, prepare, manage, and recover in pandemic situations and build resilience.

Fourth, to ascertain and address logistical deficiencies and inadequacies in infrastructure and competencies for developing effective and robust relief operations and supply chains in crisis situations. Fifth, to learn from failures and successes of other countries in combating Covid-19. Sixth, to formulate policies to combat any future epidemics and pandemics effectively with minimal impact and improved resilience based on lessons learnt.

It was indeed challenging to see the emergence of the second wave of Covid-19 in Sri Lanka that shaped the conduct of the conference, shifting from a much-desired success sharing to a more-realistic survival seeking.

Yet, it was very much resonating with the original theme of adversity to serendipity. As NSF correctly observes: "While combatting Covid-19, a wide range of lessons were learnt, many best practices were identified, and new knowledge, insights, competencies, and experiences were gained."

They ought to be further studied, refined, analysed, interpreted, and documented for the benefit of posterity. This should be done without delay lest a lot of the valuable information gathered, and the knowledge gained is lost forever."

The world-renowned virologist of the University of Hong Kong, Prof. Malik Peiris made a virtual presentation outlining the salient features of the planetary pandemic that we are experiencing and deliberated on the way forward in a comprehensive manner.

He stressed the importance of effective communication in re-butting misinformation. He also highlighted the need to have better pre-



Chairman, NSF, Prof. Ranjith Senarathne, addressing the gathering while Minister of Education Prof. G. L. Peiris, State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, Dr. Seetha Arambepola and the Additional Director of the NSF are on stage.

paredness in combating novel viruses that may emerge in the future. There were many other eminent Sri Lankan expatriates representing North America, Europe, Oceania, and Africa also made insightful presentations.

Variety of sessions

The conference dealt with the apt theme of moving from adversity to serendipity through a series of plenary sessions, tracks, cross-cutting themes, and a policy dialogue.

"Strategies and interventions for building a resilient health sector" was the title of the first plenary session chaired by Emeritus Professor Narada Warnasuriya. It covered a range of topics and featured many acclaimed medical specialists. The second plenary session covered the "Global experiences: Successes and failures in combating Covid-19" which was chaired by Dr. Palitha Weerakoon. Third Plenary Session dealt with the "importance of indigenous medicine in combating Covid-19", which was chaired by Dr. Senaka Pilapitiya. "Combating Covid-19 lessons learned and insights from North America" was the topic for the fourth Plenary Session, chaired by Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe. Plenary Session 5 was on Building a resilient community and economy, chaired by Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya.

Apart from the above, there was a panel discussion on "Education During Pandemic", moderated by Dr. Chandra Embuldeniya. It featured Senior Prof. Sampath Amarantunga, Chairman, UGC, Dr. Upali Sadera, Secretary of the State Ministry of Education Reforms and Mr. Janaka Jayalath, Director, Tertiary and Vocational Education. The grand finale was a Policy Dialogue jointly moderated by Prof. Ranjith Senarathne and Prof. Dilanthi Amarantunga from the University of Huddersfield, UK. There were insightful presentations by panelists inclusive of Dr. W.A. Wijewardena, Mr. Shiran Fernando, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Susie Perera, Ministry of Health and Dr. Dushni Weerakoon, Institute of Policy

Studies. It was encouraging to see a wide array of research papers deliberated in six main tracks and cross-cutting themes. The main tracks included, health, mental health and wellbeing, economy, environment, building resilience and society. The cross-cutting themes included, governance, supply chain, research and innovation.

The health track co-chaired by Dr. Palitha Abeykoon and Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe was mainly to reflect on the "Covid19 and the Sri Lanka health sector response: what we did and what we learnt from the pandemic". The session involved the analysis of policy measures, strategies, plans, and actions adopted by Sri Lanka to prevent, mitigate, and control the pandemic. The session also explored the lessons we have learned from Covid19 and propose health policy options and actions that could be taken to prevent such epidemics in the future.

The mental health and wellbeing track, co-chaired by Prof. Athula Sumathipala and Prof. Piyanjali de Zoysa was another insightful deliberation. As stated by the WHO, the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has caused widespread concern, fear, and stress, all of which are natural and normal reactions to the changing and uncertain situation that everyone finds themselves in. Therefore, the mental health and psychological resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic should be better understood and addressed by individuals, communities, and governments.

Dr. Nishan de Mel co-chaired the track on economy. Described by some as the worst economic crisis in recent history, the pandemic extracts an economic toll at micro and macro levels. These effects include weakened monetary and fiscal stability, reduced investment, diminished human capital, fragmented global trade, and a changed social contract. The effects are not limited to the short term, but will also have longer-term consequences, which need to be anticipat-

The pandemic extracts an economic toll at micro and macro levels. The effects are not limited to the short term, but will also have longer-term consequences, which need to be anticipated. Reducing the pandemic's immediate economic costs, safeguarding, and supporting the vulnerable, and setting a path for future economic advancement, needs a studied response

ed. Reducing the pandemic's immediate economic costs, safeguarding, and supporting the vulnerable, and setting a path for future economic advancement, needs a studied response. Emeritus Prof. Sarath Kotagama and Dr. Chaminda Bandara chaired another crucial track on the environment. According to the prior work by Prof. Kotagama, the environment should be recognised as consisting of three components, namely, natural, built and structured, and theoretical. Natural: all the elements into which the humans evolved, and thus it is those components that are left today with no human influence. (Most unlikely today). Built and Structured - all the elements which humans have built or put in order materially - fields, buildings, roads infra-structures etc. Theoretical - All subjects that make us what we are, health, education, culture, social and economics.

There were many relevant presentations. Building Resilience was another significant track co-chaired by Prof. Dilanthi Amarantunga and Dr. Nishara Fernando. As resilience building is a long-term journey, the track aimed to present and discuss the experiences in preparing for, responding to and efforts to recover from Covid-19. It also explored what we need to visualise as the new normal and how planning, preparing and recover from Covid-19, in a way that can strengthen the resilience of the society and the community while

remaining vigilant about the ongoing pandemic.

Cross-cutting themes

The theme presentations on governance were co-chaired by Dr. Lloyd Fernando and me. I also co-chaired the presentations on supply chain together with Dr. Trevor Mendis. Prof. Ajith Alwis and Manju Gunawardena co-chaired the presentations on research, invention, and innovations. The disaster such as the pandemic being experienced is a low probability, high impact event that threatens the viability of the social system that has an ambiguous cause, effect, and resolution.

As such, a viable supply chain should be agile to respond to the nature of demand at each phase; Lean to eliminate all types of waste during the supply linkages between producer and customer by getting earlier demand information to effectively match supply and demand; and Green to meet the standards of sanitation needed for consumption, particularly in a time of a pandemic. Hence, the research related to a lean, green and agile supply chain for food is of utmost importance. It can further be extended to cover areas other than food as well. The response to Covid-19 has involved actions by all levels of government and other public bodies and agencies, especially those responsible for health, civil protection, education, and social issues. It has also rested on the frontline role of local authorities as those who are the closest to citizens and their needs.

The effectiveness of the response to the Covid-19 emergency greatly depends on the level of coordination and cooperation between the different actors involved. It also depends on the active participation of civil society, as regards not only the respect of confinement measures but also the direct involvement in voluntary work aimed at sustaining the response effort.

Hence the research related to governance aspects connected to Covid-19 will be timely and insightful. It can cover a wide array of topics ranging from democratic frameworks to delivery of people needs in a free and fair environment.

Way forward

As Aldous Huxley said a long time ago, "at the end of the day, what matters is not how much you know, but how much you have done". This is much relevant to conference deliberations. The ideas should be translated into action producing results. Documenting the key knowledge for the access for appropriate applications is a vital start. I earnestly hope that the NSF initiative will truly lead from adversity to serendipity in meaningfully contributing to the curbing of Covid-19 for the betterment of humanity.

John Keells and Hemas Consumer to battle plastic pollution

Plasticcycle, the social entrepreneurship project of the John Keells Group has teamed up with Hemas Consumer, in its bin placement initiative to encourage responsible disposal of recyclable plastic waste, adding to the network of over 190 plasticcycle bins in Sri Lanka.

The agreement between the two parties was signed recently with a commitment to sponsor 30 large plasticcycle bins in the Colombo District.

Executive Director, Hemas Group, Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne said, "We are delighted to partner with John Keells in this social entrepreneurship initiative and support a national cause. Hemas is taking many serious steps to ensure Sri Lanka becomes a cleaner, greener and healthier country and



John Keells Group Chairman Krishan Balendra and Hemas Group Executive Director Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne signing the agreement.

brands such as Kumarika and Baby Cheramy are leading the way. We believe that with John Keells, we can

play a big role in promoting responsible disposal and recycling of plastic waste, which is one of the major issues

for our country." Chairman John Keells Group, Krishan Balendra said, "Our Group's intent through the Plasticcycle initiative, is to bring together and work with like-minded organizations towards realizing the vision of this project, of being a catalyst in reducing plastic pollution in Sri Lanka.

We need to work together, towards establishing innovative, practical and sustainable solutions to reduce plastic pollution.

We appreciate the support of Hemas in this initiative." "Plasticcycle has also established long lasting partnerships with the Sri Lanka Recyclers Association (SLRA) and manufacturing companies such as Eco-Spindles to recycle and manufacture value-added products from used plastics," he said.

NBTS launches Facebook's Blood Donation feature

Facebook has launched the Blood Donation feature in Sri Lanka in partnership with the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) and the Health Promotion Bureau (HPB) to make it easier for people to donate blood. To date, 24 blood cluster centres have been linked in this joint initiative. "The world is becoming increasingly connected due to social media," said Minister of Health, Pavithra Wanniarachchi. "We look forward to working with Facebook and partners, to digitise and strengthen our healthcare system and make it easier for people to stay informed and connected while facilitating blood donations. We encourage anyone who is able and willing, to sign up and contribute to the wellbeing of all citizens in the country." A press briefing was held to discuss the launch of Facebook's Blood Donation feature.

"The National Blood Transfusion Service of Sri Lanka is driven by voluntary non-remunerated blood donors," said Director of NBTS, Dr. Lakshman Edirisinghe. "The Facebook Blood Donation feature enables direct communication with blood donors island-wide and this will be a valuable asset to our service, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic."

"Facebook hopes to build communities that support each other in times of need," said Policy Programs Manager for Sri Lanka at Facebook, Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama. "Because of the global pandemic, more people are using digital platforms to create health awareness and form support systems. We are happy to work with the government and partners to make it easier to donate and ensure that more people have access to safe and sustainable blood supply."

MAS sources yarn from PET bottles

MAS Holdings was honoured for its efforts towards a national initiative to reduce plastic waste at the inaugural annual awards ceremony organised by Eco-Spindles (Pvt) Limited recently.

The award recognised MAS Kreedas innovative incorporation of fabric produced by yarn sourced from recycled PET bottles by the local recycled-yarn vendor, to manufacture Kreedas trademark high-end sportswear.

Eco-Spindles noted that in 2020, Kreedas consumption of such traceable, waste-to-value fabric was equivalent to a little under 18 million PET bottles, which would otherwise have ended up in landfills or polluted water bodies in the country. Collectively, MAS has used yarn sourced from over 21 million PET bottles throughout the past year, an indispensable solution supporting the country's journey towards a circular economy.

"The Eco Spindles Award recognises MAS Kreedas commitment to make our supply chains more sustainable and circular, reducing plastic waste as we move together in partnership "Towards a Better Planet," CEO of MAS Kreedas and Member of the Apparel Board Sarinda Unamboowe said.

"We appreciate this recognition for our contribution towards the effective end-of-life management of PET by re-imagining our manufacturing process, while meeting our stringent quality and performance benchmarks." "Kreedas efforts reflect our continuous inspiration by our stakeholders' long-term commitment towards environmental sustainability and making a lasting, positive impact on our planet," he said. Kreedas was placed second to Teejay Lanka PLC, followed closely by Hayleys Fabrics PLC at fourth place.



MAS Kreedas CEO Sarinda Unamboowe and Deputy General Manager, Compliance and Environmental Sustainability at MAS Kreedas, Eranga Dilhan with the award.

SDB bank to boost SMEs and women entrepreneurship

The United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has approved a USD 40 million (Rs. 7.5 billion) term loan facility to SDB bank to promote financial inclusion, resulting in more support to SMEs, particularly female-owned Small and Medium Enterprises.

SDB bank was selected for the loan primarily due to its innovative business model that takes a progressive approach to development, with an

emphasis on financial empowerment and SME development. Forty percent of the loan facility is reserved for women with the remaining 60% being allocated to SMEs in general.

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Business

Short-term concessions not a way out

Boost skills, productivity to raise household income - Economists

There is no end in sight to the woes of many whose cost of living has sky-rocketed in recent times with prices of most essential commodities going up.

Keeping the home fires burning is an uphill task for the vast majority of low-income earners whose income sources have dried up due to the pandemic.

Added to the burden is the repayment of loans obtained to eke out a living which is now a far-fetched dream until normalcy and economic revival are restored.

"What I earn at the end of the day is hardly enough to provide meals to my family," a daily wage earner in Colombo said, adding that he has been forced to skip his meals to feed his children.

Many consumers who noticed that prices of essential goods shot up overnight said unlike in the past where goods were bought in substantial quantities, are now forced to purchase a few potatoes, chillies, garlic and onions.

"We could no longer afford the prices of goods that are rising daily.



The rupee has no value. My family needs a kilogram of milk powder every three days in addition to other food items which comes to over Rs. 5,000 a week," a consumer said adding that they do not get the price reduction made by the Government as traders refuse to sell at that price.

Traders say they cannot sell goods under subsidised rates since they have to purchase commodities at higher prices.

"Prices of goods have to be the same from the producer to sell at subsidized rates," a trader in Pettah said. Currently a coconut is priced around Rs 90-100, a kilo of rice is between Rs. 95 to Rs 130 and a kg of sugar at Rs. 105. Speculation is rife that gas and oil prices would rise as the prices in the global market is on the rise.

A barrel of crude oil in the global market rose to USD 60 last week.

Oil prices are forecast to rise with global demand set to pick up following the revival of economic activities across the globe. The rupee depreciated against the US dollar by 4.1 per cent up to end last week. Given the cross currency exchange rate movements, the Sri Lankan rupee depreciated against the pound sterling (4.4 per cent), the Indian rupee (4.4 per cent), the Japanese yen (1.9 per cent) and the Euro (1.4 per cent) during this period.

However, the trade deficit on a cumulative basis contracted to US\$ 5.416 billion during the first eleven months of 2020 from US\$ 7.213 billion in the corresponding period of 2019 following the ban on imports of non essential commodities last year.

Economists said granting concessions by way of price, interest rate reductions and moratoriums is not a sustainable solution which needs policy measures to improve skills and productivity among workers that will generate employment and income opportunities to lift people out of poverty.

Cargills: "Village to Home" - recommences at Rawathawatta

"Cargills: Village to Home" - an initiative by Cargills Food City - was created with the aim of strengthening the country's budding SME entrepreneurs by offering them a platform to engage with a wider network of customers.

Previously it was held at Kandana, Pelawatte and Malabe. However, with the resurgence of the pandemic in the country last October, this initiative had to be put on hold.

However, with the resurgence of the pandemic in the country last October, this initiative had to be put on hold.

This initiative recommenced at Food City Rawathawatta and as done previously, several local entrepreneurs as partners to promote their diverse range of products in demarcated stalls were invited. Featuring a host of local boutique shops ranging from handloom and handicraft products to ayurvedic cosmetics, a variety of snacks was also on offer.

The thinking behind this initiative was to broaden the reach of our local SMEs by giving them a marketplace.

"We also look to further improve their livelihoods by sharing our expertise in packaging, marketing and quality assurance. Cargills Bank will continue to provide financial support to SME entrepreneurs, helping them to



Customers at the Cargills: Village to Home outlet in Rawathawatta.

grow and serve a larger market, a company official said. "Given the ongoing situation, we understand the risks involved in organising an event of this scale, but we assure you that all health and safety guidelines are being strictly adhered to.

"All invited entrepreneurs have undergone rapid antigen tests and all other safety measures have been taken as well," he said.

The company will continue to host Cargills: "Village to Home" at selected Food City outlets and the Cargills Bank will provide financial support to SME entrepreneurs, helping them to grow and serve a larger market.

"Cargills: Village to Home" will continue to be a weekly event at selected Cargills Food City outlets.

Eco-Spindles launches recycled polyester yarn facility

Pioneering Sri Lankan plastic bottle recycler and manufacturer of polyester yarn and monofilaments, Eco-Spindles (Pvt.) Ltd commenced Phase 2 of its expansion to add 20,000 sq. ft of production space at its state-of-the-art facility in Horana. When completed, the expanded facility will double polyester yarn production capacity at Eco-Spindles.

"All over the world, people are waking up to the urgent need to create and enter a circular economy. The expansion of our Horana facility is another vital step in this direction," BPPL Holdings Managing Director and CEO, Dr. Anush Amarasinghe said. Eco-Spindles is a value-added exporter of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) waste bottles in Sri Lanka, and is on a mission to reverse the island's environmental degradation by converting PET bottle waste, that would otherwise end up polluting sensitive ecosystems, into export quality products that have since captured extensive market share across the globe.

"As the only other entity in the world that is capable of directly manufacturing polyester yarn out of recycled PET flakes, we are extremely well-positioned to capture the rapidly increasing demand for such products. In this manner we are



From left: Horana Export Processing Zone Senior Deputy Director SujeevaThilakumara, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Environmental Pollution Control and Chemical Management Division Director S.M. Werahera, Secretary to the Ministry of Environment Dr. Anil Jasinghe, BPPL Holdings Managing Director and CEO Dr. Anush Amarasinghe, Central Environmental Authority Director General P.B. Hemantha Jayasinghe and Eco-Spindles, Deputy General Manager Manoj Udawatte.

able to generate vital foreign exchange for the national economy, while at the same time, helping to reverse one of the most serious environmental threats of our time using a raw material that we had all considered to have only one use. These are exactly the kind of solutions that hold the key to a sustainable future for Sri Lankans today, and for all future generations," Dr. Amarasinghe said. Eco-Spindles is equipped with the resources to generate 700 tonnes of recycled poly-

ester yarn per annum. With the completion of its expanded production facilities, this capacity is targeted to increase by a further 900 tonnes in the annual production. This represents more than double its current capabilities. PET plastics are currently the most recycled plastic in the world, amounting to over 57% of the global recycled plastics market. During 2019/20, Eco-Spindles had recycled over 81 million PET bottles, amounting to around 2.3 million kilograms of PET.

Online pet needs store launched

Kumar Melvani and Sidath Bandara have launched an online platform, MyPets.lk to meet all pet needs.

At MyPets.lk, you find all you need from your mobile device or computer while sitting at home. The products on MyPets.lk are a comprehensive collection of quality, Industry-trusted brands, imported and distributed by the authorised agents in Sri Lanka.

The website, launched recently, is user friendly and provides vital and accurate product information so that you can make well-informed buying decisions quickly and effi-

ciently, saving time. The products, services and information on MyPets.lk are reviewed and updated regularly by a dedicated content team.

Melvani said, "MyPets.lk is serious about the 'adopt, don't buy' policy. We will never sell or advocate the selling of live animals online. We have witnessed firsthand, the suffering of street animals and will do whatever is possible to promote adoption of pets."

Post Covid-19, online stores have been mushrooming, but expertise and experience of the MyPets.lk team sets them apart as they understand e-Commerce and what it takes

to deliver service excellence, he said. This is also the reason that MyPets.lk attracted investments from a key player in the pharmaceutical industry in Sri Lanka and another from an expert in sustainability solutions and agro biotech.

MyPets.lk Director and Co-founder Sidath Bandara said, "MyPets.lk is your one-stop shop for all things pet related. We sell a range of top quality, industry trusted pet supplies brands imported by only the authorised agents in Sri Lanka. We also offer multiple payment options for payment and Islandwide delivery."

Remote training and skills development for Team Airtel

Starting with the initial lockdown in March 2020, Airtel Lanka has been doubling down on digitisation of employee upskilling, learning and development and the results are already starting to show.

"With the prevailing pandemic, workplace cultures which were once designed to meet face to face, inspire and collaborate is becoming obsolete. This disruption presented a new challenge especially for the continuation of

learning and development. Whilst many organisations resorted to cost cutting in different forms, we believed that learning was more important than ever before. Capabilities aim to make organisations and individuals more resilient, adaptable, and innovative," Airtel's Managing Director and CEO, Ashish Chandra said.

Over the past two quarters, over 85% of the company's workforce switched to digitised training programs

which includes the Airtel Executive Development Program conducted in partnership with the Postgraduate "Developing strong, diverse teams is one of our most important leadership functions. This means that all our employees need to have the skills necessary to thrive even if they are in a remote work environment. That is why we are digitising all facets of our HR process." Airtel Lanka, Head of HR, Kanishka Ranaweera said.

Rapid response... Continued from page 33

The insurance policy has been specifically designed to provide the much-needed financial support during this ongoing emergency situation.

The key benefits of the packages include cover for death due to Covid-19, loss of income due to being hospitalized for quarantine in a government authorized facility and coverage for being placed in an ICU due to Covid-19.

The policy will also cover the cost of the PCR test and most importantly of the Covid-19 vaccine.

He said it is a timely protection cover to ensure the safety and protec-

tion of the nation during these challenging times. This innovative insurance solution provides financial stability as well as enhanced life protection and is customizable as per customer needs. The "Janashakthi Covid Guard" is a comprehensive Insurance product offering several categories such as silver, gold and platinum that can be customized as per the requirement. This insurance policy has been specifically designed to provide the much-needed financial support during this ongoing emergency situation.

Liyana said, "We recognise that this is a need of the hour and we are

committed to support our nation as a purpose driven insurer. This unique solution is introduced to ensure that the protection needs of our community are met even amidst these challenging times. "This solution is designed to offer financial stability and support the policyholders to manage the adversities and challenges due to the ongoing emergency situation.

Through this comprehensive insurance solution, we wish to further establish our commitment towards the nation while ensuring the financial security of our customers and their loved ones," he said.

CSE performance recognised... Continued from page 33

However, the Opposition and certain sections allege that there has been pump and dump in the CSE enabling the market to expand artificially in recent weeks and that it is a repetition of the trend that took place from around 2012 to 2014.

"It was dump, dump and dump during the 'Yahapalana' regime which led to the crash of the stock market and economy. It was during the former regime that broad daylight robberies took place.

Investors were driven away due to chaotic policies. Such bankrupt elements and so called 'economic

experts' didn't do anything other than talking big and taking the people for a ride for five years," the minister said, adding that now they have woken up to the bitter truth which they find difficult to stomach. He said the Government has stabilised the rupee and the foreign exchange and have created an enabling environment for investors.

The Rupee was at its worst state during the former regime and no investors dared to come. The Rupee depreciated to Rs. 196 against the USD in mid January this year and thereafter showed some stability

hovering around 190 in the recent weeks following intervention of the regulator. "People today see action and light at the end of the tunnel and are confident of investing and doing business. We will revive the economy and make it the best in the region soon," the State Minister said.

The Colombo Stock Exchange has been rated the best performing exchange in the world in recent times and the main index of the Exchange, the All Share Price Index (ASPI) was ranked the second best performing stock index in the world as of January 13, 2021 according to Bloomberg.

Import restrictions... Continued from page 33

...the GSP Plus scheme in 2017 which Sri Lanka should strive to sustain," the Ambassador said adding that trade barriers need to be lifted for people to invest and Sri Lanka to boost FDI.

He also noted that the EU considers the government's priorities when it comes to providing assistance to a country. Agriculture and rural development has been a key sector the EU has assisted Sri Lanka.

The EU granted Sri Lanka better access to the region in 2017 under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+).

The trade preferential scheme enables Sri Lanka to export more to the EU which will help Sri Lanka's economy develop and create more and better jobs for its people.

However, the scheme is conditional on Sri Lanka advancing human and labour rights and working towards sustainable development.

"The EU is a demanding market which focuses on quality standards. Therefore trading with the region requires meeting the conditions," the Ambassador said.

The EU is Sri Lanka's second-largest trading partner after India but its

main export destination, absorbing 31% of Sri Lanka's exports in 2015.

In 2016, Sri Lanka was the EU's 62nd largest trading partner in goods accounting for 0.1% of EU trade.

Sri Lanka's exports to the EU are dominated by textiles and clothing, accounting for 82% of Sri Lanka's total exports to the EU in 2016.

Textiles and clothing account for 61.9% of Sri Lanka's exports to the EU, followed by food products with 12.3% in 2016.

On the step-by-step trade procedures functionality of the Sri Lanka trade information portal launched last week the EU ambassador said the trade information portal will help bridge the information gap for Sri Lankan exporters especially for those in the regions who lack vital information to trade with the region.

The portal currently housed at the Department of Commerce contains trade related information in Sinhala, Tamil and English.

Technical support for the project was provided within the framework of the EU-Sri Lanka Trade Related Assistance project implemented by the International Trade Centre and funded by the EU.

Unblemished... Continued from page 33

...at USD 4.8 billion as at end January 2021. Foreign reserves stood at USD 5.7 billion towards the end of 2020. However, with USD 1 billion of foreign debt repayment coming this year the level of reserves is speculated to be inadequate to manage balance of payment.

The Government is determined to move away from dependence on food imports as a long-term policy approach, the Governor said.

However, according to the regulator, economic growth is expected to be in the range of 5.5 to 6 percent this year. "A positive growth this year could be achieved due to the limited closure and vaccination measures taken to overcome the crisis," the Governor said. In the road map launched early this year the Central Bank Chief noted that while working within a framework of market economy, the performance of the open economy policies introduced from 1977 will be reviewed vigorously, so that the country and its economic agents could follow a focused approach to becoming an industrial economy.

He said a policy framework with such long-term objectives would gen-

erate greater macroeconomic benefits than being driven by short-term vicissitudes in the market and unbridled desire for short-term financial gains. In accordance with the policy framework outlined in the 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' and Budget 2021, the Government has provided policy support to improve domestic production, particularly in Agriculture and Industry sectors.

These fiscal stimuli and incentives would help expand the domestic capital base, improving domestic supplies. These developments would reduce the import dependence of the country, enhancing domestic production ratios in agricultural and industrial supplies.

Domestic supply improvements would enhance Sri Lanka's external competitiveness and export potential, while also reducing seasonal volatilities in domestic inflation to a great extent. These features of the new macroeconomic policy framework will be incorporated into economic management decisions of the Central Bank more closely, to ensure a coordinated approach to pushing the country on to a rapid growth path and sustained prosperity.

Apparel sector... Continued from page 33

...requested the government to help them source the required vaccinations. The apparel sector represents 47% of Sri Lanka's exports. The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the Sri Lankan economy. The apparel sector which accounts for a large fraction of our export market was hard hit by the pandemic, particularly during the second wave.

He said building a fabric park in the Eastern Province as proposed in the 2021 Budget will help the industry grow tremendously as we will not bear the brunt of depending on China for raw materials and key players such as the USA are looking to shift from China for raw materials thus the fabric park will be a key in long-term growth.

"Apparel SMEs were severely affected due to Covid-19 and the major issues faced by the sector were: cash shortages, worker absenteeism, mobility issues, scarcity of raw material, increased cost of production, and loss in demand. The second wave worsened an already difficult situation," Lesova Holdings Ltd., Director Malith Jayasinghe said. "The pandemic

Psychological factors affecting entrepreneurship

by
Hemantha Kulatunga



The entrepreneur spirit is a factor that cannot be turned off easily when a person forms an idea to launch a business. Most often entrepreneurs are known to be committed, passionate, and engaged with people during every waking hour, throughout their lives. Particularly, when the business is growing, even if they can relax, they do not usually let go. In my opinion, two factors influence this phenomenon; the first is the persistent hunger for growth and the second is fear of failure and losing what was built. These are the two factors that drive them to success.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that mental health is not a mere absence of mental challenges but it is the psychological well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential. An entrepreneur is described as a person who passionately pursues an idea or concept. In other words, according to legendary and iconic entrepreneur Steve Jobs, they are "the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world".

Entrepreneurs are most often described as go-getters with infinite aspirations and inventive minds. When they are into businesses, over time, they invariably display fearlessness when they are making headway. Business psychologists agree that energetic people, who are motivated to relentlessly pursue a target, are often successful in business, but more likely to have strong emotional conditions sooner or later.

Alone

Entrepreneurs are often alone by choice. They have friends, family, acquaintances, and their team with

them. Yet, the state of the business endeavour is left on their shoulders making them feel alone constantly. They have to put up a front to keep the team, the investors, friends, and family to make them trust. Bearing the brunt of all worries and anxieties can create a pretty lonely space for entrepreneurs in the long run. Hence, the continuation of this inevitable occurrence can cause a psychological imbalance for the entrepreneurs, if not properly addressed on time.

The British based Business Growth Fund (BGF), one of the most active investment companies in the United Kingdom has revealed that 53% of entrepreneurs 'never turn off' while another 20% work over 80 hours a week. Nevertheless, in Sri Lanka, these percentages can be more. This is certainly a calling on the mental health of entrepreneurs. Hence, a balance must be created between business and personal lives to avoid late-life repercussions.

Identifying the magnitude of risk of mental health issues due to entrepreneurial endeavours is not an easy task. Most often entrepreneurs are heads down on the success of their respective entities; they pay little or no attention to the signs of stress. The stress created through this action can be factors such as despair on failure, negative issues in personal lives, poor sleep and eating habits, and change in emotions.

Most of the successful businessmen I have met commonly declared that they are at their peak when they work under pressure. Many of them say that when they relax, they tend to slip important issues, specifically in decision making. In my opinion, although this judgment has some truth, the long-term repercussion on mental health can be detrimental.

To others around successful businessmen, it is hard to imagine that they take a negative psychological toll as they visibly display luxurious lifestyles and create illustrious impres-



sions in society. However, the truth is that most entrepreneurs lead comfortable lives, but not extravagantly as a small percentage who are billionaires.

Nevertheless, the goal of almost all entrepreneurs is inspired by the most successful entrepreneurs. Similar to the richest, achieving goals and maintaining success is the main aim of every entrepreneur. However, the reality is that success turns up naturally with a psychological price. Depression and anxiety often exist with most of them causing mental health concerns, often followed by negative physical concerns.

Under pressure

Several successful businessmen I have spoken with on the subject matter unanimously confirmed that they are constantly under pressure throughout the day, week, month,

and the year with renewing business-related issues since the inception of entrepreneurship. Almost every person said that the tension intensifies with the business growth.

A relatively young successful businessman and a mature entrepreneur shared the same sentiment on the subject of constant stress and anxiety. However, even if they are conscious about the mental toll, they say they can do very little to circumvent it due to the nature of responsibilities lying on their shoulders.

Dealing with stress and anxiety is one of the core business psychology topics discussed by psychologists around the globe. The nature of business is that every day, everything must be right even though in reality it is not so. For example, businessmen think that the revenue must go up, employees and customers must be happy, products must be improved,

and much more. However, the truth is that almost every day the business takes two steps forward and one step back or vice versa.

Therefore, entrepreneurs must be prepared to face this bitter truth. If not, there is a high possibility that they will endure undue mental pressure that will cause anxiety to build up. If an entrepreneur lets these emotions confront them, their business decisions will get affected. It is a proven fact that the decisions made under influence of stress can be damaging in the long-run.

Inability to deal with rejections or failures is a strong issue for entrepreneurs. The two factors are strongly interconnected in any business, anywhere in the world. It is not only a common phenomenon in business practice but also a necessity as the entrepreneur confronts various business-related concerns regularly as a common occurrence. Similarly, failures also are a habitual factor in entrepreneurship.

The entrepreneur's intentions or innovative ideas do not always materialise the way he or she anticipates. Most successful business leaders in the world declare that they have encountered more failures than successes. However, persistency will ultimately accumulate success. The important point is that although rejections and failures hurt, by being in control of emotions, the negative mental stress can be kept in check.

Facade

Another notable mannerism of almost all entrepreneurs is to act as if everything is perfect even at the edge of failure. By creating this façade, entrepreneurs attempt to maintain the confidence of the stakeholders of the business intact for as long as possible. No businessman wants to appear weak in front of his team, customers or colleagues. This type of behaviour can lead to stress and consequent depression later.

Another notable mannerism of almost all entrepreneurs is to act as if everything is perfect even at the edge of failure. No businessman wants to appear weak in front of his team, customers or colleagues. This type of behaviour can lead to stress and consequent depression later

Renowned American psychologist and the founder of the 'humanistic approach' (client-centered approach) warns that human beings are disturbed when expectations are not met. It is more so with people with an entrepreneur mentality who frequently show strong behavioural patterns. Hard-working businessmen can easily get depressed when they cannot achieve what is expected.

It is for these reasons that experts say that entrepreneurs must learn to be open-minded about the eventualities whether it is positive or negative. The recommendation in such conditions is for the entrepreneurs to take time off from business-related activities to rest and revitalise physically and mentally. However, in reality, the irony is that most Sri Lankan entrepreneurs go on holidays but never switch off from business activities.

The mental well-being of entrepreneurs is connected to the welfare of many and is also directly related to the economy of the country as well. Therefore, entrepreneurs, particularly small and medium scale, must realise that emotional difficulties are not signs of weakness. It is another common fact in their lifestyles. The emotional balance of every entrepreneur is of paramount importance as they collectively provide a living for millions of others. Hence, taking a proactive approach to prevent omnipresent mental disturbances is essential.

Huawei's 5G targets industries

- Founder Ren Zhengfei

Leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider, Huawei is confident about the future, and the main goal in the 5G era is to increase the adoption of 5G in various industries, company's founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei said recently.



Ren Zhengfei

"Our previous generations of communications networks aimed to connect numerous homes and several billion people. But in the 5G era, connecting businesses is the main goal," he said, adding that the company's main goal is to increase the adoption of electronic, software, and computing systems in different industries. Zhengfei made these comments appearing in a recent interview with reporters after taking part at the opening ceremony of the Intelligent Mining Innovation Lab in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China.

"There are many industries that we are not too familiar with, like airports, ports, coal mining, iron and steel production, automotive manufacturing, and aircraft manufacturing. That's why we built joint labs to learn more about the needs of these industries," he said.

Huawei hopes to serve these over 8,000 mines well through this new ICT solution and hopes to expand services to mines outside China.

Zhengfei said that Huawei has also kicked-off a program called Nanniwan, that is basically related to the concept of self-reliance in production. This program is intended to help Huawei make breakthroughs in coal mining, iron and steel, and music, as well as in product categories such as TVs, computers, and tablets.

He said that Huawei had helped build the best 5G networks in many cities around the world.

Getting started in shares - Part 2

(Part 1 appeared last week)

Why do investors buy shares?

The form of return that can be expected through a stock investment would largely depend on the company. For instance, the return of an investment would either be through capital gains or through a dividend payment made by the company.

Shares for capital growth

An investor who would choose to invest in shares would do so to witness an increase in the price which would effectively translate into a profit once sold which is exempt from taxes. However, an investor should also bear in mind that he/she could also suffer a capital loss should the share price drop after investing.

Studies have revealed that over the long term a share investment has proven to draw a greater return for its investor in comparison to other forms of savings or investments.

Shares for dividends

A dividend is a form of payment made to the shareholders, usually as a distribution of its profits. A profitable

company could re-invest a portion of its profits back into the business and the remainder could be distributed to shareholders based on the company's profit distribution policy. Certain mature companies over a period of time have been identified as stable dividend paying companies.

Shares for liquidity and flexibility

Shares give an investor a considerable amount of financial control because of its flexibility and liquidity. Unlike assets such as property, shares can be easily purchased and sold through the market and is not subjected to significant transaction costs. An investor is given up to three market days to settle their outstanding amount following a purchase of shares made through the market.

Right to vote

A shareholder is entitled to participate and vote at Annual General Meetings (AGM) and at Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) of the company, allowing them to influence important corporate decisions made.

Therefore, an investor should also note that voting rights are given as per specifications made in the articles of association and the companies act.

Rights issues

A company could raise additional capital through a rights issue, where an issue of rights to the existing shareholders are offered directly from the company in proportion to their existing holding at a discounted rate in comparison to the current market price within a fixed time period.

During an issue an investor could exhaust one of the three options. An investor could either renounce the rights into the CDS which would enable him/her to sell the rights (reference price is decided by CSE). An investor could reject the rights, or an investor could choose to accept the rights which would enable him/her to purchase the shares within a specified time period.

For example, a rights ratio of 1 for 2 means a shareholder can subscribe to one new share for every two shares already held. An investor owning 100

shares prior to the rights issue gets the right to subscribe for 50 new shares or any of the three options mentioned above.

Inflation

Shares are a good investment in an inflationary environment, since share prices adjust to protect investors from the effects of inflation.

Shares as a collateral

An investor is given the ability to use his or her stock holding as collateral in order to secure a loan from a financial institution.

Capitalisation of reserves/Bonus share issues

Companies convert retained earnings (which represent the profits held in the business over time) to capital by issuing new shares to existing shareholders. The shareholders do not have to pay a consideration for these shares. This could be categorised as a benefit to the shareholders.

Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange (Part 3 will appear next week)

Kelsey Homes hosts Central Park groundbreaking ceremony

Kelsey Homes, real estate developer, hosted the groundbreaking ceremony of the third phase of Central Park, Ja-Ela recently.

Central Park is a gated development consisting of over 350 housing units with over 40 amenities. Housing units are designed by the renowned architect Murad Ismail of MICD Associates while Deepal Wickramasinghe Associates (Pvt) Ltd are the Structural Engineers for the project. The property is spread across 15 acres of land.

CEO of Kelsey Developments PLC, Lalinda Kalubowila said, "The success of the first and second phases clearly demonstrated the magnitude of trust and confidence that clients have in Kelsey Homes and we're even more determined to continue raising the bar in creating high quality, beautifully-designed homes and apartments. We're confident that the demand for Central Park will be unprecedented."



The groundbreaking ceremony in progress. Among those present were Chairman, Janashakthi Group, Chandana de Silva, Managing Director and Group CEO, Janashakthi Group, Ramesh Schaffter, Chairman, Kelsey Developments, Eardley Perera, Director, Kelsey Developments, Dinesh Schaffter, CEO, Kelsey Developments, Lalinda Kalubowila and CEO, First Capital Holdings, Dilshan Wirasekara.

Central Park offers an array of unparalleled services and is located only 500m from the Colombo-Negombo main road and embodies the perfect balance of modernity in a natural environment.

"Kelsey Homes is all about creating extraordinary living communi-

ties in Sri Lanka, and Central Park is an extension of this vision. Offering modernity and centrality amidst nature, we are very pleased with the astounding success which the project has achieved so early on," said Chairman of Kelsey Developments, Eardley Perera.

Hayleys Advantis completes first ideation program

Hayleys Advantis Limited, the transportation and logistics arm of the Hayleys Group, has completed its first-ever Group-wide ideation program - 'Advantis Ideastorm' - to boost innovative thinking across all levels of staff from entry level to senior leadership.

The ideation platform was created mainly to encourage employees to brainstorm and come up with new ideas to enrich existing businesses and introduce new business verticals adjacent to the core businesses.

"This program not only underpins our drive in creating a culture which fosters friendly competition, but it also encourages our staff to think out-of-the box and pitch new business ideas, giving them the opportunity and freedom to be creative and innovative," said Managing Director, Hayleys Advantis Lim-

ited, Ruwan Waidyaratne. Launched as a Group-wide online live event, 'Advantis Ideastorm' concluded with over 160 ideas being submitted among over 230 participants.

During the final round the 15 teams presented their ideas to the panel of judges comprising six members of the Hayleys Advantis Board.

Winners of the prestigious Gold Award were Sadna Dissanayake and Lakshika Porage of Corporate Business Excellence, while Dilini Dissanayake and Aruni Perera of Corporate Business Development secured the Silver Award. Maazud Marzook, Lilip Sanjeeva, Asanka Bodhirathna, Roshan Medonza and Andrew Tan of Advantis Ships were awarded the Bronze Award. Six other teams were presented with merit awards.



Sadna Dissanayake and Lakshika Porage receive the Gold Award from Hayleys Advantis Chairman and Chief Executive, Mohan Pandithage.

The most feasible ideas will be implemented during the upcoming financial year, with the support of the top management.

Business

A look back at 2020: A review by Uber and Uber Eats

Uber released its annual analysis - "A Look Back at 2020: Year in Review" recently. It takes a glimpse into how Sri Lankans ate during the lockdown and then slowly began safely moving again as cities started opening up.

The report, backed by insights and data, highlights Uber's support for communities by shifting focus to 'Move What Matters' - which found meaningful ways to use the Uber app and network. UberEats moved food to those who needed it and the platform empowered drivers and delivery partners to earn.

Numbers

* Provided 10 million rides and deliveries of food globally to healthcare workers, seniors, and others in need, free of charge across the world. In Sri Lanka, Uber offered free UberMedic rides worth Rs. 8.5 million to transport frontline healthcare workers to and from their homes and health care facilities. The company also distributed dry rations to the value of Rs. 8.5 million to vulnerable communities island-wide in partnership with the Government.

* Allocated \$50 million to purchase health and safety supplies for drivers across the world. In Sri Lanka, Uber distributed PPE including masks, sanitisers and disinfectants to driver and delivery partners, to the value of Rs. 17.4 million.

* 400 grocery partners: Following the temporary closure of all restaurants and shopping centres during the lockdown, UberEats partnered with supermarkets and small independent businesses to meet the growing grocery needs of Sri Lankans. Uber launched grocery delivery in Sri Lanka, and now works with more than 400 grocery partners in the country.

* Rs. 24 million in tips: Despite all of the adversity, Sri Lankans demonstrated gratitude, and using the new 'tipping' feature in the UberEats app, contributed Rs. 24 million in tips to delivery partners, the entirety of which went to them.

* New services: As cities opened up and people resumed travel, Uber wanted to safely cater to the evolving needs of our com-

Despite all of the adversity, Sri Lankans demonstrated gratitude, and using the new 'tipping' feature in the UberEats app, contributed Rs. 24 million in tips to delivery partners, the entirety of which went to them

munities. The ridesharing company launched three new services, including Uber Connect, a package delivery service that enables customers to transport packages from the safety of their homes; and Car and Tuk Rentals, which allow riders to book affordable multi-hour, multi-stop options to travel in the 'new normal'.

* Safety screens: Uber pioneered the safety screen, our ceiling-to-floor transparent plastic screen between the passenger and the driver and facilitated installation in over 3,000 cars and tuks, setting a new standard for safety in the 'new normal'.

Food trends

* The most popular day of the week for food delivery this year was



UberEats

Thursday, and the most popular time of day to place an order was noon.

* During quarantine, eaters wanted their food prepared exactly to their liking, with requests for "extra sauce," increasing the most. They, however, did get a little less picky when it came to portions, as the demand for



UberRides

"both leg pieces" decreased significantly.

* While physically the world was more difficult this year, our eaters found ways to travel across cuisines. Indian, American, and Chinese were the top three choices for Sri Lankans.

* There was a huge variety of meal selections ordered by people

through the year, but 'Yellow Rice with Chicken' trumped the others to emerge as the most ordered dish in the country through 2020.

* Sri Lankans maintained their etiquette through the challenging year, too, with 'please' figuring in nearly half of the order requests.

Techwire Lanka clinches three NBQSA awards

National ICT Awards

National Best Quality Software Awards (NBQSA) identified Techwire Lanka as a quality software provider by presenting them three awards.

Techwire Lanka was awarded the Gold award for its software product, Techwire Cloud Scada under the category of Industrial Resources, Energy Utilities. Apart from this award, the "Promis" software and "Eagle View" system was awarded Bronze under the Industry Supply Chain Logistic, and Industrial Manufacturing and Construction categories respectively.

Techwire Lanka has been nominated by the British Computer Society (BCS) to represent Sri Lanka at the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards (API-

CTA) which will be held in Malaysia) this year for winning these awards.

CEO of Techwire Lanka, Pahan Rodrigo said, "We are truly proud to have won the awards - this is a true verification of the commitment, hard work, and the passion that is obvious within the Techwire team towards creating unruly but standardized innovations. The possibilities are boundless, and these praises will further drive Techwire to redefine the technologies used for all households in Sri Lanka."

"This year will be very busy for us. We are expanding our reach to the construction field where our home automation systems will revolutionize the industry. We plan to provide an



The Techwire team with the awards.

affordable and yet high-quality smart home system with novel security features the Sri Lankan clientele have never seen before," he said.

Techwire Lanka specialises in building modern, state-of-the-art, hi-tech tools for industrial corporations around the world.

HNB Finance secures gold awards

ACEF Global Customer Engagement Awards 2020

HNB Finance secured two gold awards at the ACEF Global Customer Engagement Awards 2020 recently.

The company bagged Grand Prix Gold Awards for the Most Admired Customer Engaged Brand (Sri Lanka) and the Social Media Brand of the Year in the Banking and Finance industry.

HNB Finance has always invested in not only businesses but the aspirations of the people behind them. Being elected as the most admired customer engagement brand and social media brand of the year, clearly reflects the concerted effort the company invests to keep innovating to enhance and add value to customer



engagement initiatives both online and offline. HNB's highly engaging initiatives are a part of the company's bigger vision to deliver a consistent and compelling experience across all points of the customer journey while also driving operational efficiency, a company spokesperson said.

Recently, HNB Finance was also awarded the Arcturus Award for social content and marketing at the annual Vega Digital Awards 2020 for its interactive and popular 'Ape Gedara Avurudu' digital platform launched to uplift customers left to celebrate Avurudu in their homes during the pandemic-induced lockdown.

Virtual launch of top German Brands in Sri Lanka

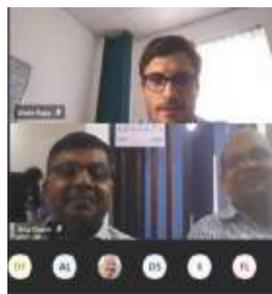
The seventh edition of Top German Brands in Sri Lanka was launched recently.

German Ambassador Holger Seibert and Chief Delegate of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka Andreas Hergenrother were the chief guests. BOI Chairman Sanjaya Mohotala and over 100 representatives of German brands were also present.

"We are very proud that finally, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, 176 German brands have joined Top German Brands 2021, which is an increase of 13% compared to last year" said Chief Delegate Andreas Hergenrother. Top German Brands logos will be shown during the upcoming year at the premises of the German Embassy, the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) and in the frame of multiple events.

German Ambassador Holger Seibert said, "To increase the presence and to encourage further FDI's of German companies, a reliable legal framework and a level playing field are of crucial importance." Referring to the fact that Sri Lankan exports to Germany were three times higher than German exports to Sri Lanka, Germany is committed to free and fair trade. Bilateral trade degenerating into a one-way street is neither free nor fair."

German exports to Sri Lanka decreased until the end of November by 26.8%, while Sri Lankan exports to Germany decreased by 5.8%. Until the end of November German exports to Sri Lanka were worth about Euro 215 million last year, while Sri Lankan exports were over three times higher reaching about Euro 664 mil-



lion. Following the presentations, the participants had the opportunity to continue the discussion with the speakers.

"It has become increasingly difficult for clients to manage their FX exposure, given the unprecedented current market environment and volatility which could continue in the near term. Deutsche Bank has been operating in Sri Lanka for 40 years and has been supporting clients to meet their daily transaction banking and foreign exchange requirements through many different economic cycles," said Dhakshitha Serasundera.

The German-Sri Lankan Fast Track Dialogue, which was initiated in 2019, will be continued on February 25 to support current and future German investments in Sri Lanka. German companies will have the opportunity to discuss in a result-oriented way with the BOI Chairman and other Sri Lankan authorities concrete challenges and opportunities with regards to their existing or future investments.

SLT Group posts Rs. 7.9b PAT, FY2020

Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT) Group concluded financial year 2020, with a 25% YoY growth in profit after tax of Rs. 7.9 billion despite many challenges faced by the Group arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Group revenue climbed to Rs. 91.1 billion for the year with a six percent YoY growth, strongly underpinned by higher broadband revenue propelled by the accelerated fibre expansion program and growth in mobile broadband services. Revenue for PEO TV and career services also advanced during the year.

SLT Group increased EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation) by 16% YoY to Rs. 34.7bn in FY 2020, leading to a higher EBITDA margin of 38% compared to 35% in the previous year, mainly achieved through successful cost management measures.

Group revenue for Q4 2020, rose by 4% QoQ to Rs. 24.0 bn, recording the highest quarterly revenue achieved for FY 2020. The operating profit for the quarter increased by 27% compared to the same quarter of the previous year reaching Rs. 1.9 bn, a decline of 33% compared to 3Q 2020. The Group profit after tax for the quarter reported at Rs. 1.1 bn, a drop of 48% QoQ, mainly due to the higher operating costs and adverse impact from fluctuation in foreign currencies.

Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd, the mobile arm of the SLT Group managed to grow its revenue despite adverse macroeconomic conditions prevalent in 2020. Mobitel reported a strong profitable growth due to

simultaneous growth in revenue and reduction in operational expenditure. Mobitel revenue for FY 2020 stood at Rs. 43.2 bn, up by 8% compared to FY 2019.

Backed by the growth in revenue and aptly supported by operational efficiencies, Mobitel was able to record significant growth in all key profitability indicators. The Company recorded Rs. 3.1 bn improvement in EBITDA, an increase of 23% YoY. EBIT increased by Rs. 2.6 bn in FY 2020 which is an increase by 50% compared to FY 2019. Mobitel recorded its highest ever profit after tax of Rs. 4.9 bn in FY 2020, an increase by 54% YoY.

The Group paid Rs.17.1 bn as direct and indirect taxes including levies to the Government in FY 2020.

SLT Group Chairman, Rohan Fernando said, "Our financial results for 2020 yet again demonstrated that SLT Groups' resilience and success in providing essential telecommunication services to the country and community, notwithstanding unprecedented challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. I am grateful to all our frontliners and staff for providing uninterrupted services to the country during challenging times.

"I am also very appreciative of the strong support given by the Government and will continue to work closely with the Government to support the national digitalisation initiatives through many initiatives. This year, we will focus on enhancing quality in our services and strengthening our strategy in fulfilling our customers' needs," he said.

New Samsung smartphone launched in Sri Lanka

The Samsung Galaxy S21 series has arrived in stores. The Galaxy S21 series brings a suite of new features to Samsung's flagship smartphone line up that make your everyday moments epic.

For over a decade, the Galaxy S series has delivered groundbreaking, flagship mobile experiences for people who rely on their smartphone for expression,

connection and entertainment. The new Galaxy S21 series builds on this legacy to offer a premium flagship experience. The new series debuts a iconic design, an epic pro-grade camera for users of any skill level and advanced processor.

While the Galaxy S21 is designed for those who want a light design and compact 6.2-inch display, the Galaxy S21+

sports an expanded 6.7-inch display and a larger battery, perfect for marathon gamers and binge-watchers. Galaxy S21 Ultra is the largest member of the Galaxy S21 series. Galaxy S21 Ultra delivers Samsung's advanced pro-grade camera system that features a quad rear camera and an upgraded 108MP pro sensor, for capturing 12-bit HDR photos with 64

times richer colour data and more than three times wider dynamic range. For the first time on a Galaxy smartphone, you can shoot in 4K at 60fps across all lenses including front and rear four lenses.



TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO.6 FEBRUARY 9-10, 2021

■ This week's tea auction (Sale No. 6) was conducted on February 09 - 10 (Tue/Wed) and, the offer quantity of 6.3 m/kgs showed a drop of 0.6 m/kgs over the previous auction. The Low Grown Leafy/ Semi Leafy/ Tippy and Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totalled 3 m/kgs, while Main Sale High and Medium category amounted to 0.6 m/kgs. The Ex-Estate catalogue had 0.9 m/kgs.

■ The Ex-Estate market was irregular following quality. A range of Best Western BOP's were firm while the remainder lost Rs.10 to 20 and their corresponding BOP's lost Rs.20 to 40 per kg. Below best BOP's and BOPF saw prices which were Rs.10 to 20 easier but some coloury teas advanced by a similar amount. CTC PF1's from the Western High elevation were irregular and easier while neater Mediums were firm and Low Grown teas easier by Rs.10 to 20. BP1's from all three elevations met with more widespread demand and appreciated Rs.10 and more. Buyers for Germany and Japan were active on the better liquoring teas while there was also greater demand from China for a wide spectrum of teas. UK and Hong Kong were selective but Russia was active for 'Tea Bag' types albeit at lower levels.

■ Low grows met with fair demand. Well-made OP1's were fully firm to dearer but poorer sorts were irregular. OP/OPA's were firm to selectively dearer with customary support from buyers for Russia and Azerbaijan with poorer types again being irregular and easier. Stylish BOP1's were fully firm to dearer. The better made Pekoe's were firm but mixed varieties declined on last. Pekoes in the 'Top' category fully maintained previous levels although bolder, mixed teas were irregularly easier. Select best BBOP's/FBOPF1's were firm to selectively dearer but the balance was irregular following quality. Buyers for Iran and the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries were fairly active. Turkey was active but selective.

■ This week's auction comprised 11,323 lots totalling of 6,386,223 kgs.

■ The catalogue-wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	2,100	923,865
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,821	941,683
Low Grown Tippy	1,996	1,050,297
High and Medium	1,283	610,140
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,388	1,343,549
Dust	556	553,486
Premium Flowery	386	70,811
Ex-Estate	793	892,392
Total	11,323	6,386,223

Crop and weather from February 1-7, 2021

■ Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions: Both regions reported bright mornings with overcast evenings and occasional showers. The Department of Meteorology expects strong winds in the Western Region in the week ahead.

■ Uva/Udapussellawa Regions: The Uva Region reported dull weather with intermittent showers, while the Udapussellawa Region reported clear mornings with scattered showers during the evenings with a few sub-districts experiencing bright weather throughout the week. Occasional showers are expected in the Uva Region by the Department of Meteorology in the week ahead. ■ Low Grows: Bright mornings and gloomy evenings with occasional showers were reported in the Low Grown Region. According to the Department of Meteorology, heavy showers are expected in the Ruhuna and Sabaragamuwa regions in the week ahead.

■ Crop Intake: The Western, Nuwara Eliya and Udapussellawa regions maintained the crop intake, while the Uva and Low Grown regions reported a decrease.

Source: Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd

Midea partners Telesonic in reforestation drive

Consumer electronics powerhouse Telesonic is braving the pandemic to renew its commitment to growing bio diverse forests in Sri Lanka where it is supporting sustained care over mere tree planting.

As temperatures rise to historical highs environment-friendly, energy-efficient air conditioners are becoming an essential commodity, in commercial and personal space.

Telesonic's successful collaboration as Sri Lanka's exclusive partner for Midea, the world's largest manufacturer of appliances including air conditioners brought the company closer to the subject of clean, cool air.

Several years on, Telesonic's partnership with positive impact influencer Geo Explore Foundation is holding firm even through the devastating Covid-19 pandemic as one of Sri Lanka's most ambitious reforestation nexus continues an emphatic effort to grow forests.

On course to becoming a path-bearer in reforestation in Sri Lanka, Geo Explore advocates for bio diversity and sustainability over putting fashionably large numbers of plants into soil. Growing on the ethos of sustainability demands financial and time commitment, the reason why few takes the route. But the ambitious



Plant bank: One of the largest in Sri Lanka



conservation partnership is creating an epic model for Sri Lanka in how bio diverse forests could be grown bringing humans into the equation as guardians of sustainability with bio diverse forests yielding a plethora of benefits in return.

Telesonic's Managing Director Arun Mahtani said, "The economy and the health of the planet are badly hit. One cannot survive without the other and time is running out for both. That's why you see Telesonic, with our global partner Midea leading from the front in committing to the triple bottom-line even in times of

great adversity". Mahtani avers that the brand's relationship with Geo Explore Foundation is holding out an inspiration to the business world driving the message that to thrive in business one must also ensure that people and the environment must thrive.

Geo Explore Foundation's Field Base in Buttala sees an ambitious reforestation project in full swing where it's growing a model forest reserve. The plant count in its vast nurseries stands at around 45,000, reportedly making it Sri Lanka's largest plant nursery. Much of the plants arrived from a women's empower-

ment programme. Plans are afoot to establish a bio diversity research and development center along with several partner programmes in conservation and sustainable development. One such initiative, to reforest an area around a tank in the Yala Buffer Zone, has already begun in partnership with a farmer society.

"What makes our conservation mission all the more difficult is our commitment to ensuring that plants we bring up must be taken care of for up to 3 years so that they can grow into a bio-diverse forest on their own," said Mahtani.

Seylan Bank wins Silver Award



Seylan Bank picked up accolades at the SLIM DIGIS 2020 recently with a Silver for "Deken Dunne", its digital marketing campaign on personal loans.

The bank has always focused on customer convenience and began its digital transformation well ahead of the curve to suit modern-day customer needs. As a financial brand in the digital space, Seylan has gained over 650,000 followers on Facebook alone, and was ranked 87th in financial brands of the world and the 1st in Sri Lanka for the best use of social media by "The Financial Brand" website.

Seylan Bank won two merit recognitions for Seylan "Travel the Island" website and Seylan "Offers Rasiya" campaign at the SLIM DIGIS Award Ceremony 2020 held on January 21, in addition to the Silver. One of the first to disrupt traditional norms in marketing with content driven digital narratives, Seylan Bank won two Gold awards at the inaugural SLIM DIGIS 2019 for the revolutionary "How to balance your Baba" campaign developed to promote the Bank's Travel the Island credit card offers.

It became a trendsetter for digital marketing, having been completely promoted only over Social Media, as never before seen in Sri Lanka.

"At Seylan Bank, digital marketing is an extended part of our 360 marketing mix and communication activities, and not a separate entity. Digital is here to stay, and adapting to it is crucial for business continuation as we saw globally over the past year. We have a team that is passionate about the digital future and has strategically integrated digital media into our day-to-day business. We believe in engaging customers through social media and building conversation through innovative means, gaining insight to deliver new age banking solutions," said Gamika De Silva, AGM Marketing

and Sales, Seylan Bank, discussing the Bank's focus on digital marketing.

Seylan Bank has carried out several innovative digital engagement ideas for different market segments over the past year, specially in the backdrop of the pandemic. The 'SeylanTikiri' video series with Dr. Kumudu on Child Psychology focused on Children who were compelled to stay at home all day for a long time, a video series on YouTube with Business Tips for SMEs, the SeylanTikiri "WadhithiyosahaPodihityo" Digital Campaign, the Seylan Smart Banking 24/7 Digital Campaign, the "Suba Dasun" Digital Campaign and the 'Past memories of Roy-Tho for School Cricket' Digital Series were some of the innovative customer focused digital initiatives that took place.

Organized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing, the SLIM DIGIS celebrate and commend corporates on their best digital marketing efforts, creativity and talent with the hope of encouraging organizations to amplify their efforts on digital platforms to reach global digital marketing standards.

Seylan Bank operates with a vision to offer the ultimate banking experience to its valued customers through cutting-edge technology, innovative products, and best-in-class service.

The Bank has been endorsed as a financially stable organisation with performance excellence across the board by Fitch Ratings, with the bank's national long-term rating revised upward, from 'A-(lka)' to 'A (lka)'.

The bank was ranked second among public listed companies for transparency in corporate reporting by Transparency Global. Seylan Bank has also been named the Most Popular Banking Service Provider in Sri Lanka in Customer Experience by LMD consecutively in 2019 and 2020.

LB Finance relocates Maligawatta branch

LB FINANCE one of Sri Lanka's largest finance establishment in the non-banking financial institutions sector licensed under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, recently relocates Maligawatta branch broadening the branch network to deliver better and convenient services to its customers also known to be Sri Lanka's trailblazer in innovative financial services.

The Maligawatta Branch was relocated at No. 65/A, Sri Saddharmawatha, Maligawatta Colombo 10 while declaring open by Senior Manager Mr. Suraj Karunanayaka and Sudeep Perera - Head of Marketing along with the presence of other staff of LB Finance and the community of the area both Business and Retail.

Community in the region and neighbouring areas can now experience the vast range of benefits offered by LB Finance, with a rich history of nearly five decades in financial tradition in Sri Lanka, LB Finance offers a vast portfolio of financial solutions



which are trusted by corporates and individuals. LB Finance ensures that customers get the best service in town with innovative financial solutions & speedy service. The financial facilities range from Leasing, Gold Loans, Mortgage Loans, Factoring, Housing loans, Educational Loans, Foreign currency, Western union & Investment opportunities such as Fixed deposits, Savings accounts and many

other financial solutions with competitive benefits and returns. Customers can enjoy hassle-free services to facilitate their financial needs from the new and upgraded units. Established in 1971, LB Finance has become a trusted and a much respected financial company in Sri Lanka. LB Finance was awarded as the best financial service provider of the year at the SLIM NIELSEN PEO-

PLES AWARDS 2020 for its unparalleled superior convenience and friendly services.

As a finance company close to the hearts of Sri Lankans, LB Finance will continue to offer attractive financial solutions to the citizens. LB Finance PLC's long term rating of 'A-(lka)' Outlook Stable was affirmed by Fitch Ratings Lanka Ltd during the annual ratings review of NBFIs.

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SDB bank and DIMO renew MoU

Will provide leasing solutions for agri equipment

By extending their previous MoU, SDB bank is geared to offer A to Z leasing solutions on agricultural equipment sold by DIMO.

DIMO is recognised as the authorized agent for Mahindra and Swaraj Tractors as well as CLAAS and LOVOL Combine Harvesters in Sri Lanka.

DIMO joined hands with SDB bank as part of the 'SDB/DIMO Lease Promotion' in an effort to offer greater conveniences to farming communities and boost the agriculture sector island wide.

The two-year MoU offers the lowest down payments in the market along with competitive pricing, and promises a significant rise in productivity across both small-scale and industrial farms, through the use of



Ranjeev Beadle, Head of Leasing, SDB bank

state of the art agricultural machinery and equipment.

For both harvesters and tractors, SDB bank offers leasing facilities with

a minimum down payment from the total invoice value, carrying a maximum tenor of 4 years involving 8 seasonal payments and 5 years spread across 10 seasonal payments respectively.

SDB bank's leasing solutions provide farmers numerous benefits including hassle-free registration documentation, competitive pricing plus the lowest down payments marketwide.

The SDB-DIMO partnership is set to boost the aspirations of both small and large-scale farmers islandwide, allowing them to obtain the latest agricultural machinery and equipment at the lowest rates in the market, ensuring they can improve their farming operations, grow profits, and comfortably meet their leasing payments.

Union Assurance launches self-service app

Union Assurance adds another facet to its digital experience with a self-service app - Clicklife to meet the increasing demand for mobility and remote accessibility to policyholders.

The Click Life mobile app is part of an end-to-end digital insurance solution offered by Union Assurance, and now allows consumers to manage and be updated in real-time on their policies including balances, dues, claim status and loan submission.

The Clicklife app allows customers to connect with Union Assurance anywhere, anytime, managing policies, making claims premium payments conveniently, efficiently, and securely.

The Clicklife app goes one step further by enabling consumers to carry out digital policy loan submissions, which previously consumed time and required tedious paperwork.

Rumesh Modarage, Chief Technical Officer stated, "We are disrupting legacy systems to make transactions



Ms. Lucille Diaz - Chief Marketing Officer, Union Assurance

100% transparent. Policyholders can now access real-time information on their policy at their fingertips.

Call centres and agents have been the frequent touch point for customers to change, or request policy-related information such as address or contact change, claims submission, loan submission and balance statements.



Rumesh Modarage, Chief Technical Officer, Union Assurance

But now, the app will offer all these services, empowering the customer to have 100% control over their portfolio."

Lucille Diaz, Chief Marketing Officer of Union Assurance, said, "Union Assurance is leading the digital transformation of Sri Lanka's life insurance landscape, simplifying the process of buying protection."

CDB wins Service Brand of the Year award at SLIM Brand Excellence 2020

The only banking and finance sector winner in the category

Citizens Development Business Finance PLC, the revolutionary financial institution ranked as one of the top 05 NBFIs in the country; brought home the "Service Brand of the Year" Bronze award at the recently concluded SLIM Brand Excellence Awards Ceremony 2020, a well-deserved recognition for their pioneering initiatives towards the Finance sector in the country to build a smart and sustainable Sri Lanka.

The SLIM Brand Excellence, applauds and honours corporates for outstanding performances in their specific sectors, recognizing consumer-driven ground-breaking initiatives on a national level with the aim of encouraging local corporates to reach global standards.

CDB is an organization that strongly believes in sustainable business processes and focuses its approach on People, Planet & Profit. A strategic pitch about the company's purpose driven business model, which was designed to empower aspirations and bring convenience to



Standing from right: Gayan Perera - Senior Brand Manager - Singer Sri Lanka, Sanath Senanayake - Chief Executive Officer - SLIM, Suranjith Suwaris - Immediate Past President - SLIM, Darshana Jayasinghe - Deputy General Manager Marketing - CDB and Charitha Warnakulasooriya - Head of Brands - CDB

its customers through digital transformation, championed at this year's selection. CDB believes in offering its customers techno backed solutions,

further reducing its carbon footprint and taking forward their goal of building a smart and sustainable Sri Lanka.

Cargills among Top 10 Most Admired Companies

Cargills (Ceylon) PLC was recognised as One of the Top 10 Most Admired Companies of Sri Lanka at the annual Most Admired Companies Awards ceremony organised by the International Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (ICCSL), the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and Daily FT.

The award recognises companies that have demonstrated excellent business performance and created value for customers, employees, shareholders and the wider community in general. It re-iterates Cargills' philosophy of balancing profit with purpose and using business as a force for good.



On left: Sanjeewa Fernando - Head of Marketing - Cargills Retail receives the award. On right: Sanjeewa Fernando, Chandana Kelegama and Ms. Rukshani Wanigasekara with the award.

Advertorial

Ceylon Biscuits and CBL Natural Foods among 40 Best Workplaces

Ceylon Biscuits Limited and CBL Natural Foods Private Limited were ranked among the 40 Best Workplaces in Sri Lanka 2020 by Great Place to Work (GPW) while, CBL Natural Foods was also ranked among the 10 Best Workplaces for Women; recognising its efforts to empower women in the workforce and value chain. With over 85% of its dynamic workforce falling into the category of Millennials, CBL Exports was also ranked among the 10 Best Workplaces for Millennials in 2020.

CBL Group subsidiaries Ceylon Biscuits Limited, CBL Natural Foods Private Limited and CBL Exports Private Limited registered and were certified as Great Places to Work. The certification recognizes the commitment of these companies to develop the people and culture of their organizations.

"Our companies being ranked among Sri Lanka's 40 Best Workplaces



The Ceylon Biscuit Limited team at the awards ceremony.

and among the 10 Best Workplaces in Sri Lanka for Women and Millennials is a strong testimony to CBL's commitment to living our core values through purpose driven business." Says Sheamalee Wickramasingha Group Managing Director of the CBL Group. She explains that the Group has always focused on building a strong perfor-

mance driven caring culture strengthened by core values of caring, quality, innovation and integrity and, ensuring that the right people are in the right position with the necessary tools and support for development is vital to achieving this goal.

The CBL Group is driven by a 6000+ employee base manufacturing,

marketing and distributing brands Munchee, Ritzbury, Revello, Tiara, Samaposh, Nutriline, Sera and Lankasoy across its subsidiaries. The CBL Group is a key contributor to Sri Lanka's economy and to the development of our food supply value chain through its operations from farm to table.

AMW delivers reconditioned Yamaha two-wheelers with full AMW assurance

Associated Motorways Pvt Ltd (AMW), the authorised agent for Yamaha Motor Co. Ltd, Japan (YMC) in Sri Lanka since 1981, again gives two-wheeler riders the opportunity to own a world-class machine, with professional care and exceptional value for money.

This groundbreaking venture by Yamaha includes the re-purchase of any Yamaha motorcycle/scooter, complete reconditioning of the machine so it rides as good as new, and then making it available to riders at an unbeatable price. This latest addition to AMW - Yamaha portfolio will be a permanent feature and is aimed at giving riders a holistic service, with plenty of value additions that will make riding a Yamaha motorcycle/scooter even more of a pleasure.

Yohann De Zoysa, Director Passenger Vehicles - AMW, said, "Creating a true biking culture around the



Zahran Ziyawudeen, Deputy General Manager, Yamaha, AMW (left) and Yohann De Zoysa, Director, Passenger Vehicles - AMW at the launch of 'Yamaha Certified'.

iconic Yamaha brand has always been at the very heart of what we do.

This new project is a long-term venture that is designed to give motor-

bike riders a superior experience whether on or off the road."

Zahran Ziyawudeen, Deputy General Manager - Yamaha, AMW commented, "We have always been the first choice for riders who demand the very best, whether it's the motorbike they ride, aftersales service or superior value for money. This latest venture makes reconditioned Yamaha two-wheelers accessible island-wide at an unbeatable cost with the complete assurance and backing of AMW"

Yamaha will also be partnering with several online platforms in the near future to make this innovative venture accessible to anyone, anywhere on the island. This will also give users more information about their motorcycles and scooters, with the aim of increasing transparency, so comparing prices, options, and making a purchase becomes so much easier for the customer.

BOC launches loan revival program in North Central Province

With the aim of assisting Micro and SME customers who faced financial difficulties during the Covid-19 pandemic to revive their businesses, the Bank of Ceylon (BOC) has initiated a loan revival program that will visit customers and attend to their financial needs. In this regard the Bank held yet another program in Anuradhapura recently with the patronage of the Chairman Mr. Kanachana Ratwatte and the General Manager Mr. D.P.K. Gunasekera. Senior DGM Human Resource MR. K.E.D. Sumanasiri, DGM Sales and Channel Management Mr. Priyal Silva and AGM North Central Province Mr. Mahinda Bandara also represented the forum on behalf of the bank's Corporate and Executive Management.

During the forum customers were able to discuss their concerns with regard to loan facilities directly with the bank officials at this program. Bank officials discussed with customers to obtain an in-depth understanding of customer's true



concerns and were able to provide tailor-made financial solutions for their problems.

In regard to revive the economy after the COVID 19 pandemic, Bank of Ceylon has extended a gamut of benefits for the development of micro and SME sector in the country to rebuild their businesses and sustain the functioning. The Bank has so

far been able to disburse loan facilities to entrepreneurs with special attention to agriculture, tourism, exports, tea, apparel, IT, logistics and spices cultivation.

The Bank wishes to extend these facilities to many customers as possible to ensure that there will be a significant impact on economic and social wellbeing.

Munchee crowned Brand of the Year

SLIM Brand Excellence 2020

Munchee, the flagship brand of Ceylon Biscuits Limited (CBL) clinched the coveted 'Brand of the Year' title at the SLIM Brand Excellence Awards 2020.

'Brand of the Year' was among five awards claimed by Munchee in an impressive sweep which included 'Local Brand of the year' - Gold, 'Export Brand

of the Year' - Gold, 'Best New Entrant Brand of the Year' - Gold for Munchee Choc Shock and 'Product Brand of the year' - Silver.

This was the eighth consecutive time that Munchee has won the 'Brand of the Year' award and is the only brand to win this coveted award on

four consecutive years. Janmesh Paul Anthony, General Manager Marketing at Ceylon Biscuits Ltd said, "This is a testament to the trust that our consumers have in us and the commitment and passion of the CBL Family to create enriching moments of happiness across Sri Lanka."



The CBL team at the SLIM Brand Excellence Awards

Pan Asia Bank - 'Best Green Bank'

Pan Asia Bank was awarded the 'Best Green Bank' accolade recently by the Global Banking and Finance Review Awards 2020.

The awards recognise companies of all sizes that demonstrate expertise and excellence within the global financial community and are well-respected throughout the global banking and financial community. The accolade reflects the innovation, achievement, strategy, progressive and inspirational changes taking place within the financial sector.

Winning 'Best Green Bank' on the international platform provided by the Global Banking and Finance Review Awards 2020 reflects the global acknowledgement of Pan Asia Bank's efforts in driving a more sustainable future for society.

Pan Asia Bank believes that extending green funding will create the perfect opportunity to generate long term sustainable economic benefits to uplift the living



standards of people by creating cost-efficient energy solutions for businesses and employment, while also preserving the environment by promoting renewable energy.

The Bank's green efforts were reaffirmed by the bestowal of the prestigious 'Global Climate Partnership Award' 2019 by The Global Climate Partnership Fund (GCPF), one of the world's largest climate funds which recognises outstanding performance and impact across categories such as capacities and skills, institutional capacities and green lending offerings, and outstanding energy efficiency or renewable energy projects.

Cargills Bank expands to Nawalapitiya



Cargills Bank opened its latest full-service branch in the hill country hub of Nawalapitiya, at No 88 Gampola Road, Nawalapitiya.

The new branch is the 21st branch in the Cargills Bank network and provides customers with access to a full gamut of banking and financial services. The branch operating hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and 9am to 1pm on Saturday. Striving to be Sri Lanka's most

inclusive bank with a focus on supporting the development of the Agriculture sector and SMEs, Nawalapitiya was identified as an ideal location for the latest addition to the Cargills Bank network.

The town serves as an economic and social hub in the area and is home to a healthy, active and progressive community of small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurs from various sectors including agriculture, manufacturing and services.

AIA Insurance recognised as a GPTW for eighth year and Best Workplace for Women for third time

AIA Insurance is proud to have been recognised as a Great Place to Work® in Sri Lanka for the eighth consecutive year. The company was also adjudged the 'Best Workplace for Women in Sri Lanka' for the third straight year.

For 2020, AIA passed the rigorous measurements through analysis of results of the Great Place to Work® Trust Index® survey and Culture Audit® questionnaire and scored among the best in the country, thus receiving this global recognition.

AIA's Director HR- Thushari Perera noted that "consistently winning this prestigious award is an indication of the emphasis we place on employee wellbeing. As a company committed to helping people live healthier, longer, better lives, we prioritize the health, happiness and wellbeing of our staff. This is how we have differentiated AIA as a great place to work for our employees and established ourselves as a superlative employer of choice."

She added, 'the Best Workplace for Women' award is an important



recognition for AIA, as it is testament and recognition of all the hard work and focus, we put into gender equity and parity.

AIA is an equal opportunity employer that values all our employees, regardless of gender and our commitment is to ensure a truly fair and productive workplace for all

staff. We understand that gender parity is central in having a dynamic balanced workforce and needless to say, our female staff play an integral part in our business success. I am happy to see our efforts in creating a female friendly working environment with gender smart policies being recognized and appreciated."

RDB Ragama and Negombo branches to develop fishing industry

A multiday fishing trawler year was recently declared open in the Pamunugama area by RDB Bank Chairman Mahinda Saliya on the invitation of Regional General Manager of the Western Province of the RDB Bank Cecil de Silva for the development of fishing industry with the intention of contributing the fish harvest to the national economic development.

By now, moulds for 50 ft boats are being manufactured and it is expected to widen the production up to 60 feet boats. Loans for this are proposed to be provided by the Ragama Branch and these vessels are manufactured targeting the local and foreign markets. Already employment opportunities have been provided to 24 persons and it is commendable.

RDB launches a Multiday vessel from Negombo

Simultaneous to the efforts of the RDB Ragama Branch, Negombo Branch launched a multi day vessel to



the sea under the auspices of RDB Chairman with the help of a crane and this has been funded by the Negombo Branch. This small scale fisherman owns six small boats and he has been

granted the license for fishing in the international limits of the sea. Deputy General Manager Mr. Munasinghe Bandara was also among those who graced this occasion.

The story of Kisa, the wild blossom

By
Mandira
Wijerathna



Michelle Dilhara, the young actress who gives life to various feminine characters, is an upcoming personality in the tele-screen. Her contribution as a climate activist and as a philanthropist has raised her admiration in public. Her unique career path has achieved numerous awards through the years.

Her contribution to *Sudu Andagena Kalu Avidin* tele-drama telecast on the Rupavahini channel has gained her career validity and credit through her character as Ayoma. The Raigam Tele Award Ceremony 2020 nominated her as the Best Upcoming Actress of the Year for the role of Ayoma in *Sudu Andagena Kalu Avidin*; that also became the Most Popular Tele-drama in Sumathi Tele Awards 2019.

Kisa

Kisa is the epitome of the young girls in the countryside who aspire and dream to see a world beyond limitations of penury. The realistic depiction by Michelle gives life to the character.

As a consequence, Kisa is an adored persona in the hearts of the viewers. The tele-drama *Meti Kadulu* directed and written by Nimal Rathnayake is an exceptional piece of artistic story based on the struggles the contemporary villagers face despite age. Kisa, who is at the peak of juvenility speaks out about the conflicts, struggles, dilemmas and obstacles that scattered in her unknown and unforeseen path of life.

Director and scriptwriter Nimal Rathnayake has brought an untold saga of rural life in every level through motion pictures. Kisa, the main role of the drama is interlinked with the rest of the characters of the drama and is a direct influence for them. The gut and the young energy of Kisa create turning points in her life while bewildering others. *Meti Kadulu*

exposes a portion of rural life where people are tied to miseries and restricted to the charm and comfort of the outer world which is completely a mystery for them.

Trilogy

Sudu Andagena Kalu Avidin, *Can You Hear Me* and *Meti Kadulu* are a trilogy that broadcast on the Rupavahini channel. The trilogy is three different reflections of the poverty-stricken society which highlights and glorifies the efforts and strengths of failed characters.

The poverty-stricken and emotionally

KISA IS THE EPITOME OF THE YOUNG GIRLS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WHO ASPIRE AND DREAM TO SEE A WORLD BEYOND LIMITATIONS OF PENURY. THE REALISTIC DEPICTION BY MICHELLE GIVES LIFE TO THE CHARACTER. AS A CONSEQUENCE, KISA IS AN ADORED PERSONA IN THE HEARTS OF THE VIEWERS

frustrated protagonists of award-winning *Sudu Andagena Kalu Avidin* and *Can You Hear Me* tele-dramas are embedded with heroic qualities to inspire and overwhelm the spectators. The positive feedback of the audience towards the trilogy manifested the success of the endeavours of the cast, directors and the crew.

Dramatics

"Drama is more like the interface of the society. It is where the realities of people's lives are brought into one platform. The trilogy of dramas is raising the people high who battle and tame the everyday struggles they encounter. When the suppressed characters of the society and their unspoken conflicts are brought through pieces of art, such as

Meti Kadulu, it becomes an inspiration and a motivation for the onlookers to learn how to stand above the life struggles.

"If we could be someone's hero and strength which influence them to raise and believe in themselves in the journey, that is the only fulfillment and satisfaction I look forward to through my contribution as an actress. I'm glad about the positive feedback I received for the trilogy of tele-dramas. I'm grateful for the opportunity and guidance I received from the directors I work with. My special thanks go to Director Sunil Kostha who directed the two tele-dramas *Sudu Andagena Kalu Avidin* and *Can You Hear Me* and Nimal Rathnayake, the Director of *Meti Kadulu* Tele-drama. I'm also grateful for the support I received from the cast, camera crew and all others I worked with," Michelle said.

Vision and mission

"I have aligned the targets and the ambitions with the work I do. The career, charity work, awareness programs, social service, and philanthropic activities are all synchronised with the future goals I have planned years back. I'm glad that the way they reflect through the work I'm doing, I'm proud of the achievements and the appreciations I receive along the way of my journey. Especially, I should mention the Kithul Tree Project to Fight Back Climate Change that I coordinated as a Guest Lecturer.

The event was coordinated by Ministers Ramesh Pathirana, Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Arundhika Fernando, Bandula Gunawardena, Dr. Nimal Warnakulasooriya, Dr. Sumith Wanniarachchi, Dr. Senaka Pilapitiya, Prof. Sirimal Premakumara, Dr. Ravindra Withanarachchi and Dheera Hettiarachchi.

The project aimed to raise awareness on global warming and climate change and how we can contribute to minimising the growing concern through the Kithul tree plantation. The Kithul tree is useful in multiple ways. It could be used in environmentally friendly ways to diminish climate change. As a climate activist, I intend to enhance and expand awareness projects. If it not for the ones who encourage, guide and help me throughout the journey, I wouldn't have come this far," she said.



Michelle Dilhara with Anuradha Edirisinghe and Jehan Appuhami



Michelle Dilhara



Director Nimal Rathnayake, Michelle Dilhara, DOP Nishantha Pradeep, Assistant Director Nilantha Ranasinghe

Science probes 'PK' mystery

BY R.S. KARUNARATNE

Throughout human history, people have believed that beyond their real world of the five senses – sight, hearing, taste, smell and feeling – there is a realm not governed by ordinary rules of nature. It goes against our scientific thinking. As we have no solid proof of another realm, we are rather sceptical about unexplained phenomena.

Nothing remains static and everything is in a flux. Today, modern scientific methods have been adopted to analyse and understand such strange phenomena in the world. Scientists are probing the reality of telepathy, clairvoyance and other feats performed using psychic powers. Sir Cyril Burt, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at London University said, "It would be easy to compile a long list of eminent physicists, biologists and neurophysicists who take an active interest in parapsychology. In the universities of many countries, there are now departments regularly engaged in psychical research."

Fuzzy world of the occult

Parapsychology has been defined as a designation of hypotheses and concepts pertaining to psychic events whose explanation lacks strictly scientific grounding and to which psychologists primarily assign so-called extrasensory perception, i.e. reception of information otherwise than by the sense organs known to science, for instance through telepathy or clairvoyance.

Scientists seem to have taken a new interest in the fuzzy world of the

occult. This is not surprising because higher mathematics and particle physics are sliding into the fantastic world of phenomena.

They include "antimatter, five dimensional universe and electrons which move backward in time." Although scientists do not fully endorse clairvoyance and telepathy, they have to agree that there can be something out there still unexplained scientifically. This new study is called parapsychology.

The existence of another reality was first acknowledged by Hans Bender, a German physician and psychologist. He did his experiments at his Institute for border areas of Psychology and Mental Hygiene at the University of Freiburg.

According to him, the other reality is not something supernatural although we cannot explain it fully. The psychokinesis or 'PK' is the study of abnormal motion of objects.

The strange case of Karl Bauer, 16, is a classic example of PK. In 1967, he was employed at a glassware store in Hamburg. When he assumed duties, glasses and dishes crashed to the floor without any reason. As the police could not find the cause, the management asked Bauer to leave the establishment.

When he left, the glass breakage stopped. Bender sent Bauer as an apprentice to a carpenter. There again strange things began to happen. Solid hooks supporting electric cables started loosening. Then Bender and his team fixed two strong hooks in the concrete walls and put Bauer at a distance. Again the hooks became loose. Bender could not explain how the screws got loose. It was called another instance of PK activity.



PARAPSYCHOLOGY HAS BEEN DEFINED AS A DESIGNATION OF HYPOTHESES AND CONCEPTS PERTAINING TO PSYCHIC EVENTS WHOSE EXPLANATION LACKS STRICTLY SCIENTIFIC FOUNDING AND TO WHICH PSYCHOLOGISTS PRIMARILY ASSIGN SO-CALLED EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION, I.E. RECEPTION OF INFORMATION OTHERWISE THAN BY THE SENSE ORGANS KNOWN TO SCIENCE, FOR INSTANCE THROUGH TELEPATHY OR CLAIRVOYANCE

In another interesting case, light bulbs popped inexplicably in the office of Siegfried Adam, a lawyer in Rosenheim. The event also took place in 1967. In addition to the electric bulbs, the office telephone system began to malfunction. At times, all the four office phones started ringing simultaneously.

Electricians and telephone repairmen could not explain what had happened. As a last resort, Bender was summoned.

He discovered that the strange phenomenon occurred only when a particular employee was present. The

employee – Annemarie Schaberl – was found to be the cause. Bender found her to be a girl oppressed by her father and her work. He said, "Unhappy youngsters can somehow liberate their pent-up energy to relieve inner tension."

Another strange phenomenon is poltergeist which means "noisy and mischievous spirit." The activities include wanton destruction of objects, shifting and hiding them elsewhere. Sometimes, objects are made to hang in the midair.

The centre of such activities is thought to be troubled adolescence.

When Brigitte attained puberty, stones began to penetrate her parents' house. However, doors and windows remained intact. Toys began to fly around her room and her clothes appeared in different places.

While Bender's team was observing all the strange phenomena, Brigitte said she heard her kitten meowing. Bender's coat was found outside the front door.

Nobody knew how it happened. Bender always wondered how such strange phenomena took place. He wanted to know who or what produced the energy to move objects from one place to another.

Physicist Helmut Schmidt of the Institute for Parapsychology in Durham, North Carolina, also tried to solve the mystery using the laws of physics.

His curiosity in parapsychology was aroused by Dr J.B. Rhine's psychokinesis experiments. Rhine found that some people could actually control things at their will. According to the laws of probability, this could not be due to chance. He concluded that the test subjects were mentally affecting the flow of electrons. However, such conclusions go against the laws of physics.

Science fiction

All the experiments and conclusions have no effect on those who do not believe in parapsychological phenomena. They say they read such events only in science fiction. Whatever that may be, scientific experiments suggest that human mind can affect the flow of electrons.

According to research done in Russia, certain people have the abil-

ity to make objects slide around on a table top. Matches, match-boxes, pieces of plastic responded to Nina Kulagina's will power. There is a movie of Nina at work showing how she does such strange acts.

Another area of parapsychology is Extra Sensory Perception, popularly known as ESP. It is not only the most misunderstood faculty of man, but also the most neglected.

There are some people who are not bothered to develop their psychic gifts. Psychic perception is a natural ability not confined to a handful of people.

We all have it because psychic ability is of the psyche or soul. According to Jaime T. Licaucó, an authority on the subject, psychic ability is an awareness that does not pass through the intellect which has often become the stumbling block in reaching our higher self.

There are many examples of ESP application. In 1985, a man reported that his wife lost her diamond from her wedding ring. In desperation he tried using his ESP in willing a colony of red ants to find it. After nine days of intense communication, he recovered the diamond.

The ants had placed it on top of a sand pile. In "Ripley's Believe it or Not," a popular television series, showed a man who could talk to animals via telepathy. Pet owners brought their animals to him and they told the psychic how they felt.

According to Bender, more experiments need to be done in parapsychology. He hopes that his challenges for science will lead to a better understanding of man and his relationship with the universe.

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A Warrior Buried in Time



The Sutton Hoo House where Edith Pretty lived and the untouched mounds today

BY CHAMARI SENANAYAKE

Burials take a special place in some cultures. They consider that sending their loved ones to afterlife should be done in a spectacular way. The best example is the Egyptian culture where they dedicate decades and thousands of man power to create the Tombs, elaborate offerings, and sophisticated mummification.

Along with famed Egyptian culture come many other cultures that are unknown to many, who also consider that burials should be done in a memorable way. Many years ago, I watched a documentary about a special archaeological find in England which was married with fascinating tales of ancient warfare, leadership, love and honour, voyages as well as mystery and when later I read more into it, found more intriguing details about this unique discovery.

Recently there was renewed interest all around the world on this find, with a new Hollywood movie 'The Dig' starring Academy award nominee, BAFTA and Tony winner Ralph Fiennes, made on a famous novel by journalist and author John Preston and it renewed my own interest in this truly fascinating story. Based entirely on a rich and remarkable grave, dredging up what has been emotionally buried in one's heart dominates the entire film.

The love story

To begin with, the whole story is connected to many lives, and revolves around something profound about a sleepy hamlet and a mournful household being awakened by a magnificent burial. According to her biographies, Edith Dempster was from such a wealthy family, that she had grown up with an indoor staff of 25 in addition to 18 gardeners. It is also said by many sources that she was proposed to, by Frank Pretty seven times, first on her 18th birthday.

He was also from a wealthy family and had been a Major in the Suffolk's Regiment's 4th Battalion and had been wounded twice during the War. Later he was promoted to the rank of Lt Colonel. After her marriage she bought the 526-acre Sutton Hoo estate, including the Sutton Hoo house along the River Diben, in Suffolk, England. At the age of 47, Edith Pretty gave birth to a son, Robert Dempster Pretty.

Tragically, her brave and loving husband Frank Pretty died just four years later from stomach cancer. As Edith's father had an Engineering firm, R. & J. Dempster with his brother, John, when she was young Edith and her family had travelled to many countries such as Egypt and Greece.

This has fathomed a deep interest in her, in archaeological digs which progressed later into action after seeing 18 ancient burial mounds in her new estate.

At that time she was a widow, raising her son, and profoundly grieving her beloved husband's death. From her actions thereon, it is evident why a lonely, wealthy woman wanted to open something that laid untouched for centuries.

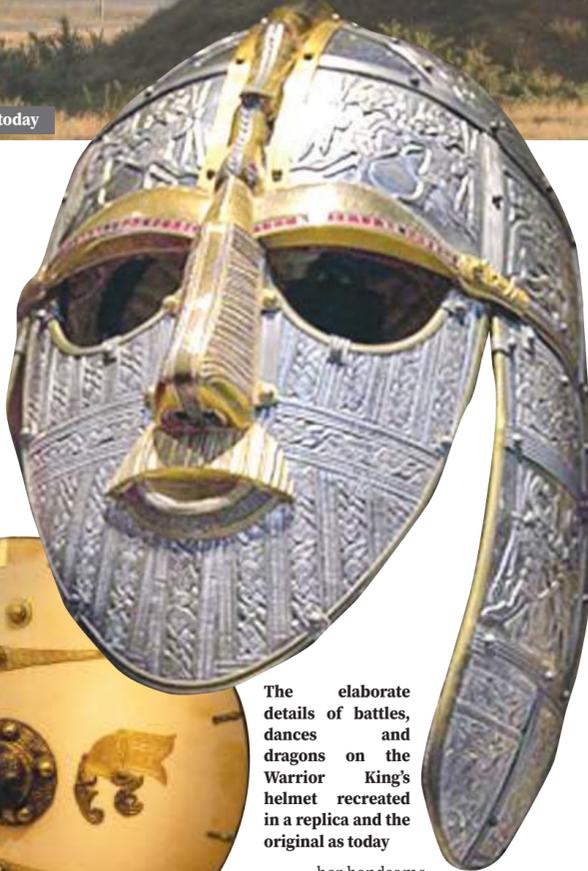
After contacting the Ipswich museum, she was sent a self-taught working-class archaeologist Basil Brown. A BBC documentary states that she even had dreams or visions of warriors with swords on horseback on these mounds that she could clearly see from her bedroom windows.

His instincts

Although the estate boasted of 18 known ancient burial mounds, the shabby villager without any University degrees- Basil Brown's instincts made him start excavating the mound that he thought was untouched by grave robbers.

The real dig started in June 1938, and over the next two months Brown and his supporters, the gardener and the game keeper, supplied by landowner Edith explored three mounds and found some interesting bits and pieces; an axe, and what seemed to be iron rivets. In 1939, he unearthed what is now considered the richest archaeological find of England, a large ship burial.

According to the novel and many



The elaborate details of battles, dances and dragons on the Warrior King's helmet recreated in a replica and the original as today

Breathtakingly beautiful artistry on the Royal shoulder clasps

accounts Basil Brown had later recalled, "felt rather like digging into a small mountain" and with limited resources, using a coal shovel, pastry brushes and a penknife, his assistant John Jacobs had found a rivet, and eventually the men uncovered the ship's outline. After the news of the discovery spread across the nation, the site was taken over by experienced archaeologists at the British Museum, led by a Cambridge academic called Charles Phillips, and Basil Brown's historic discovery the academic establishment instantly tried to appropriate, without credit.

Although he was recommended by the Ipswich museum, it was the landowner Edith's personal belief in his abilities and instincts that had made him start this historic excavation. At many instances, the historical accounts states that the newly arrived State archaeologists tried to dismiss the man who made this discovery but it was the landowner and financier of the project, Edith Pretty who had made sure he was there till the end of the excavations later even to protect the site from being damaged during the World War.

Against the protests of the authorities she had even allowed interested parties to come and see the site, before it was temporarily closed during the War. Edith Pretty, a remarkable woman with curiosity and dedication to her convictions who was determined to unearth the dead and show their magnificence to the world, later died of a stroke in 1942, at the age of 59, leaving her young son to be cared for by her sister. When the whole world became interested and many museums offered

her handsome amounts of money to hand over the ancient artifacts, she had generously donated the entire treasure trove to the British Museum to be owned and viewed by the public.

It is also documented that it is the biggest treasure that anyone had ever donated to the nation, and in recognition of this then Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill later offered Pretty the honour of a CBE, but she had declined.

The 27 metre long amazing ship burial contained no crown, but something more spectacular to hint who was buried there more than 1,000 years ago. The burial chamber had collapsed with time, and the seemingly large body has been claimed by the acidic soil. The regalia found around the decayed body was mostly of armour, fit for someone more than a king, a warrior king.

Instead of a crown, it contained a metal helmet which was decorated with intriguing details of battles, dragons and dances, as well as features of a man. Buried with him was gold jewellery, Byzantine silverware, a sword with a gold and garnet-inlaid hilt, coins, shield fittings, with 263 relics in the hoard, with some precious jewels from as far abroad as South Asia, possibly from his sea conquests. Some historians believe some of the garnets used in the eye-brows in the helmet may have come from as far as India or Sri Lanka.

By the time it was rediscovered the oak ship had decomposed and the outline of the ship was just compacted sand, the ghost of its frame having stained the soil. But, as gold doesn't tarnish or corrode in the same way as the iron remains of the ship's bolts and other features the gold artifacts had come out of the ground looking as it does in the film. Brown had written in his journal that "all the objects shone in the sunshine as on the day they were buried".

According to academics, this very sophisticated burial belonged to the 'Dark Ages', the final resting place of someone who had died in the early seventh century, during the Anglo-Saxon period, a time before 'England' existed. Most historians believe it is the final resting place of King Raedwald, the seventh century Anglo-Saxon ruler of East Anglia. This amazing burial with memorabilia of such breathtaking artistry, beautifully crafted gold and metal armour, a strong built huge ship that was dragged by hundreds of men into the grounds, and a carefully planned underground grave forever echoes of the love and honour his people gave him as a send off to afterlife befitting his bravery and leadership.

Traditional Chinese medicines to beat Covid-19

BY ISURU THAMBAWITA

The whole world is haunted by the dark shadows of Covid-19. Surprisingly China, better known for its long history was the birthplace of this global pandemic. At present scientists and researchers are racing to discover a medicine to save thousands of lives affected by the virus.

However, much attention has been focused on traditional Chinese medicines (TCM) to beat the Covid-19 virus. According to the theoretical system of TCM, the material basis of the human body is named as essence, spirit, blood and body fluids. In addition, the viscera of the body and its manifestation are named Zangxiang in Mandarin.

The structures that hold the physical basis of the body and connect the viscera are called meridians and collaterals, vessel and trijiao. The function of the human body as a whole is in a delicate and dynamic balance. According to TCM when the homeo-stasis is broken and the regulatory ability is out of control the diseases can occur.

In 2003 TCM had occupied a vital role during the SARS epidemic. It has been revealed that the traditional Chinese medicine for infectious diseases has a long history. If we wish to have a striking effect it is not sensible to lose sight of the Chinese Acupuncture. According to clinical studies, acupuncture therapies include different treatments such as, acupuncture, moxibustion, electro acupuncture, fire needle acupuncture, acupoint injection and auricular point therapy. The famous doctor named Sun Simiao in the Tang Dynasty stated in his book titled, *Beiji Qianjinyao Fang*, "Those who travel to the areas affected by infectious diseases have to undergo moxibustion - acupuncture and form moxibustion so that they will not be infected by malaria and warm malaria."

Also, a famous physician named Li Shi Zhen in the Ming dynasty had suggested in his book, 'compendium of materia medicine' that Moxibustion-acupuncture can smoothen the meridian patency, cure hundreds of diseases, and cure people who suffer from long-term illness.

According to the statements made by the ancient doctors it is clear that acupuncture can prevent infectious diseases. However, the main objective of TCM is strengthening immunity.

It is evident that acupuncture had been widely used to relieve breathlessness and possible symptoms, for instance, anxiety disorders, nausea, insomnia, leukopenia, fatigue, abdominal pain and so on. Hence, during the outbreak of Covid -19 acupuncture-moxibustion had been recommended by scientists for Covid-19 patients. According to clinical researches acupuncture can improve the function of the lungs, strengthen immunity and remove residual virus.

Jinhua Qinggan Granule

Except for acupuncture, the other traditional Chinese medicines such as Jinhua Qinggan Granule, Lianhua Qingwen Capsule, Xuebijing, Qingfei Paidu Decoction, Huashi Baidu Formula, and Xuanfei Baidu Formula can be considered to be "Three TCM prescriptions and three medicines" that act as a group of effective therapeutics against Covid-19 in China.

The Jinhua Qinggan granule is proven to be a patented Chinese formulation which was developed for the treatment of influenza A (H1N1) in 2009. It consists of 12 Chinese medicines including Jin Yin Hua (Flos Lonicerae), Bo He (Menthae Haplocalycis Herba), and Gan Cao (Glycyrrhizae Radix). Studies have pointed out that Jinhua Qinggan in combination with routine treatment could significantly and rapidly improve not only the symptoms including fever, cough, fatigue, and expectoration but also the patient scores on the Hamilton anxiety scale.

According to the findings, Jinhua Qinggan Granule was selected in the Diagnosis and Treatment Protocol for the Covid19 global pandemic. Clinical

studies have demonstrated that Jinhua had a significant therapeutic effect on the clinical symptoms of mild Covid19 patients, such as fever, cough, fatigue, and expectoration.

According to clinical researches the Lianhua Qingwen Capsule exhibits its broadspectrum antiviral effects and it has been composed of Lianqiao (Forsythiae Fructus), Jinyinhua (Lonicerae Japonicae Flos), Zhi Ma Huang (Ephedrae Herba), Mianmanguanzhong (Dryopteridis Crassirhizom atis Rhizoma), Ban Lan Gen (Isatis Radix), Shigao (Gyp sum Fibrosus), Boheno (Menthol), Guanghuoxiang (Pogostemonis Herba), Hongjingtian (Rhodiola Crenu latae Radix et Rhizoma), Yuxingcao (Houttuyniae Herba), Dahuang (Rhei Radix et Rhizoma), Chao Xuxingren (Processed Armeniacae Semen Amarum) and Gancao (Glycyrrhizae Radix et Rhizoma).

Xuebijing injection

Xuebijing played a vital role in adjusting and strengthening the immunity of the human body. Xuebijing (XB), a traditional Chinese medicine injection approved by the China FDA activates blood circulation to dissipate blood stasis, eliminating pathogenic heat from the blood and degrading toxins.

Qingfei Paidu decoction

Qingfei Paidu decoction (QFPD) is one of the recommended Chinese medicine prescriptions. It is a traditional Chinese medicine compound first created by Zhang Zhongjing.

It is composed of Ma Xing Shi Gan Decoction, She Gan Ma Huang Decoction, Xiao Chai Hu Decoction, and Wu Ling San. Herba Ephedrae, Radix Glycyrrhizae, Semen Armeniacae Amarum, Gypsum Fibrosus, Ramulus Cinnamomi, Rhizoma Alismatis, Polyporus Umbellatus, Rhizoma Atractylodis Macrocephalae, Poria, Radix Bupleuri, Radix Scutellariae, Rhizome Pinelliae Preparata, Rhizoma Zingiberis Recens, Radix Asteris, Flos Farfarae, Rhizoma Belamcandae, Herba Asari, Rhizoma Dioscoreae, Fructus Aurantii Immaturus, Pericarpium Citri Reticulatae, and Herba Pogostemonis. In terms of modern pharmacological analysis, the prescription has multiple functions of antiviral, anti-inflammatory, immune regulation, and antipyretic. No doubt it has also been clinically proven to have a good effect on Covid-19.

The Huashi Baidu

The Huashi Baidu decoction is composed of Ma Huang (Herba Ephedrae), Xing Ren (Armeniacae Semen), Shi Gao (Gypsum Fibrosus), Huo Xiang (Pogostemonis Herba), Hou Po (Magnoliae officinalis Cortex), and Da Huang (Rhei Radix et Rhizoma). This prescription is capable of strengthening the immunity against viral infections, reducing inflammation, and enhancing immunity. The Huashi Baidu decoction has been proven to be suitable for treating patients exhibiting mild, moderate, and severe symptoms of Covid-19. Clinical studies have confirmed that it can be effective as a multi-target comprehensive treatment regimen in SARS-positive patients as well.

Xuanfei Baidu was created on the basis of classic decoction formulae which includes Moxing Shigan, Moxing Yigan, Tingli Dazao Xiefei, and Qianjin Weijing. It also includes 13 Chinese herbal medicines such as Ma Huang (Ephedrae Herba), Xing Ren (Armeniacae Semen), Shi Gao (Gypsum Fibrosus), Huo Xiang (Pogostemonis Herba), and Qing Hao (Artemisiae annuae Herba).

Xuanfei Baidu was proven to be effective for the treatment of mild and moderate cases of Covid-19. Clinical researches have demonstrated that this formula effectively shortens the improvement time of clinical symptoms and temperature spikes.

We hope that 2021 will be the victorious year in which Covid-19 is beaten.



Excavation on the ship burial in 1939

Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, for the second time this year.

"I have proposed Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith because if we do nothing to prevent the fanatics who kill in the name of religion, it will be the cause of mass killings of the innocent, wars, conflicts and refugees," said Dr. Amara Ranaweera, Sri Lankan born petroleum scientist, residing in Norway.

Nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2021 closed at midnight on January 31.

National politicians and some university professors can nominate candidates for the Nobel Peace Prize, which will be awarded in December.

There were 318 candidates for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020, of which 211 were individuals and the rest were organisations.

As justification for the nomination Dr. Ranaweera presented the following:

"His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, no doubt was the toast of all Sri Lankans for the role he played in ensuring peace in the wake of the horrendous fate that befell the Catholic community in Sri Lanka by the Easter Sunday terror attacks. The composure he maintained amid the grave provo-

cation of the Catholics, his injunction to them not to harm even a single Muslim brother and the leadership he gave to his stricken flock came in for much praise from members of the Buddhist clergy and other religious leaders, so much so, there had been a growing campaign in the country to nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

His timely appeal to his Catholic devotees to be calm and be peaceful and not even raise their hands to their fellow Muslim brothers is something praiseworthy. This appeal which was accepted and respected by the relatives and others who suffered from the disastrous Easter carnage prevented a bloodbath and a catastrophe which Sri Lanka would have experienced.

His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith's faith in God and love to the people is something unique. His respect to other religions and the ability to sit and work together with religious leaders is something remarkable.

Archbishop of Colombo, Malcolm Ranjith, had called upon Sri Lankans not to 'take the law into their own hands', after a series of explosions targeting churches and hotels on Easter Sunday killed hundreds of people. 'I condemn, to the utmost of my capacity, this act that has caused so much death and suffering,' he said.



"Religion is life. These people have been killed because of their faith. Those who carried out the attacks did not know the value of life," he said.

His intervention from the very first day of the terror attack prevented a disastrous blood bath among ethnic groups and a civil war which would have erupted in the country.

He initiated meetings with the different religious leaders of the country and appealed to the people to be calm

and be peaceful during the unstable situation of the country that prevailed because of these terrible terrorist attacks.

Archbishop of Colombo, Malcolm Ranjith, single-handedly controlled the Negombo hot bloods from rising against the Muslims.

He was worried and concerned of the victims of the bombings and how they could be supported in rebuilding their lives.

He also made several political statements after the Easter Sunday terror attacks. He denounced the negligence of the Government, which willfully ignored warnings from external intelligence and those from the Muslim community. If heeded, it may have prevented the bombings and the loss of lives. His condemnation is deserved. His statement absolving the Muslim community of responsibility for the attacks, rightly pinning the blame on a few misled extremists is also welcomed.

On another occasion, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith rushed to Katuwapitiya, to pacify and disperse people protesting the damage caused to the glass panels of St. Sebastian's statue.

The statue on the by-road from Mirigama to the Katuwapitiya St. Sebastian's Church had been damaged by

stones. Addressing parishioners at the church premises, the Cardinal requested them to act in an exemplary manner as Christians without trying to take the law into their own hands.

The Cardinal said he rushed to the Katuwapitiya Church the moment he heard about the protest because he was sensitive to all the needs and problems of his flock. He said in such moments they should try to act with patience as true Roman Catholics.

He said he also accepted their right to know the truth about the devastation caused to them by the attacks. He said they should act in an intelligent manner during such catastrophic situations.

The Cardinal, on April 21, 2020, in his message on the first anniversary of the Easter Sunday carnage, expressed his sincere thanks to all those who stood by the victims, showing their solidarity with them and assisting them in every way possible. These victims belonged to all ethnic and religious groups in Sri Lanka and included foreigners.

"We honour, especially, all those who lost their loved ones and those who were injured, for their spirit of magnanimity in not reacting in anger and hatred. What was remarkable in

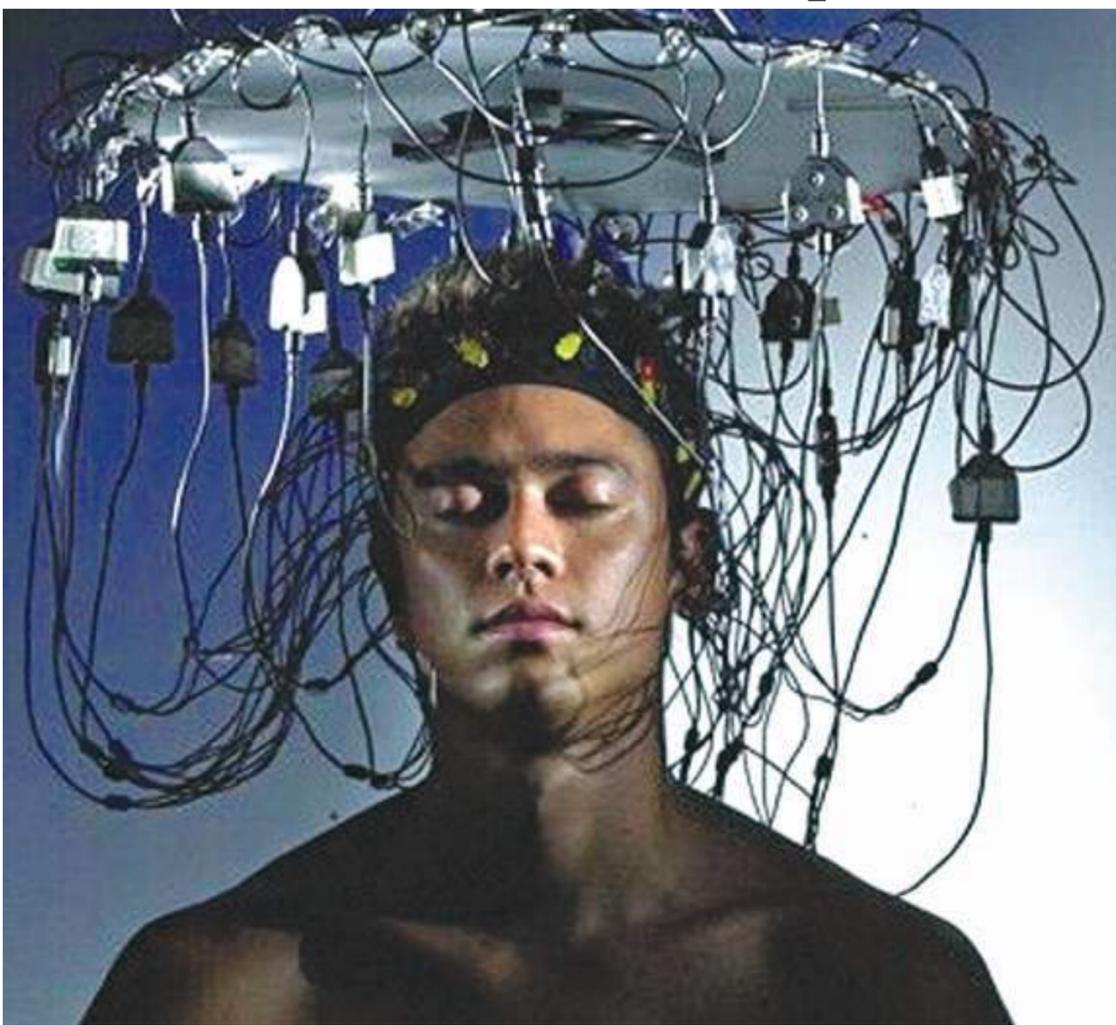
that was the resolve to stay calm and peaceful so that an evil plot to destabilise Sri Lanka, with racial or religious riots, was defeated by all Sri Lankans.

"I wish to commend all those who espoused the cause of peace and extended a helping hand to those injured, and to the families of the victims, in many ways. We also call to memory and pray for the 42 foreigners who came with their families to visit this beautiful and peaceful Island and lost their lives in this heinous attack.

"We are thankful to the international media, especially, those who interviewed me locally and via phone, for reporting the true facts to the international community. I wish to state that even in the future we need you to support us in reporting to the international community the true facts and the true image of our beautiful island nation which has been called the Pearl of the Indian Ocean".

By awarding the Nobel Peace Prize for 2021 to his Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, the Archbishop of Colombo, a very strong message is sent out to those fanatics and fundamentalists who are engaged in mass killings and destructions in the name of religion, that they are not tolerated and accepted anymore by any society in the world.

Dream-reading machine of Japan



BY ISURU THAMBAWITA

Have you ever thought to record and play back your dreams like a movie? Certainly your answer will be "No". But now recording your dreams is not a dream anymore.

A dream is a series of thoughts or images that happen in your mind during your sleep. As if through a miracle, Japanese scientists have discovered a method to record your dreams by means of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner (MRI Scanner).

In this digitalised era, the development of science and technology has transcended all the boundaries making everything possible to achieve. Indeed, humans seem to be undergoing a magical transformation.

Theory

To decode the images in the mind during the sleep with the dream-reading machine, they have integrated the data into the algorithm which reconstructs

the dreams. Speaking of the algorithm, it can be used to integrate the data from a brain to the appropriate correlated images. The phenomenon they have used is the fact that the human brain produces hormones when we dream during our sleep.

On the other hand, the hormones produced by the brain is related to what we have dreamt in our sleep. For instance, when we see a rat in our dreams, our brain will produce hormones to distinguish it.

Techniques

According to the studies, the scientists have used two techniques to achieve the goal of the dream-reading machine. In the first technique, a person was asked to sleep in the MRI machine and allowed to dream about something.

The scientists used the EEG readings to identify when the person began to enter a dreaming phase. In the next stage, the same person was woken up and asked to recall what he was dreaming about.

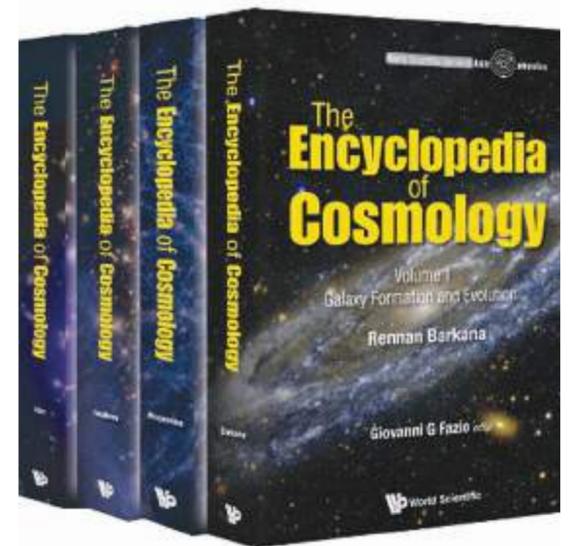
A DREAM IS A SERIES OF THOUGHTS OR IMAGES THAT HAPPEN IN YOUR MIND DURING YOUR SLEEP. AS IF THROUGH A MIRACLE, JAPANESE SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED A METHOD TO RECORD YOUR DREAMS BY MEANS OF THE MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SCANNER

It is reported that this process was repeated nearly 200 times for each a person.

The scientists have divided the collected data and discovered the fact that certain common types of objects from the persons' dreams could be correlated with the brain patterns as recorded by the MRI scanner.

In the next stage, the scientists have used an internet search engine to look for images that were similar to the objects from the persons' dreams and entered the data into a learning algorithm that can refine the model even further.

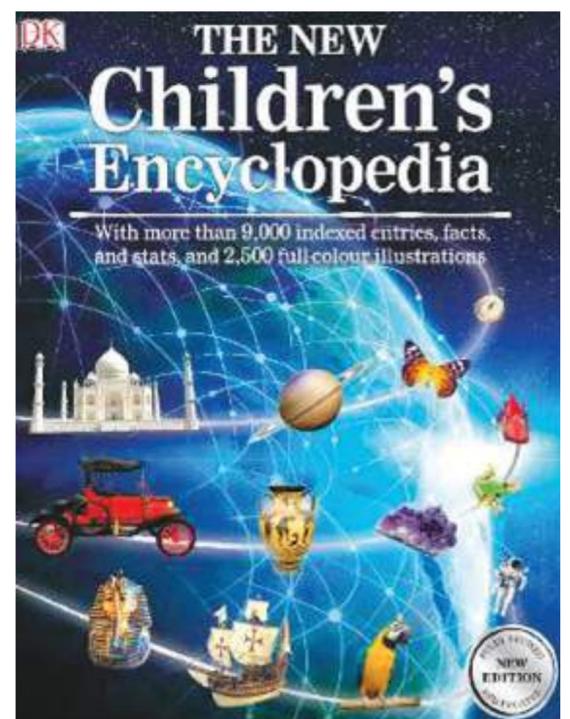
The constant experiments and researches implemented by the Japanese scientists have enabled them to discover the "Dream-reading machine".



Encyclopedia

From far your appearance was
That of a common text
Which was far from the truth;
You were an encyclopedia
Yet, devoid of the characteristics
Of that bibliographic genre:
Solemn, grand stately exterior.
Hence, a common-or-garden paper back
Those who hadn't met you earlier.
Despite this simplicity
What existed within it was
Astonishingly rich and rare.
The writer, translator, teacher,
Journalist, nature lover,
Among many other virtues.
In human domain too you displayed
Similar paradoxical traits,
A case in point being
The mildness of moon and
The warmth and brightness
Of the sun you emanated,
Which blended you into a mixture
Of simplicity, profundity, brilliance
And most of all amiability,
Making thousands to adore, admire
And respect you.
Void your demise created
Is difficult to be filled.
Unassuming intellect!
(Mobile library)
May you attain Nirvana.

Suwardaratna (Library Sc.) Kelaniya University



Features

SURVIVAL

SARAH'S BIGAMY



-The
Devastation
Revealed-



BY SANTHOSHYA JAYAMALI SENEVIRATNE

Sarah and Nicolas, the soon-to-wed couple bring Samara across the border to Canada, hidden in their vehicle as she's wrongfully accused of carrying illegal drugs. They pretend to be married although they aren't. At the border, Sarah is arrested for carrying an ornamental gold pagoda in her handbag. She's bailed out the following day. She wonders why Nicolas and Samara don't turn up to inquire after her and, learns later that they're in a secret affair and they've betrayed her. She attends the court case alone, pays a fine and faces a suspended sentence of six months imprisonment. The following week, she flies to a city far away.

Episode 5

Sarah found herself a little apartment; it was her new home. She began her search for a job the day after she arrived. It was a wide search which ended up in a few hours. She was in a booming little town and, she gained from it although she wasn't given much hope at the beginning. She walked from place to place, looking for survival until she reached the right place, a restaurant that was waiting for her. She walked in. The young girl sitting at the front desk welcomed her thinking that she was a guest. Really, she was. But, she was mistaken to be a guest who had come to dine.

"I'm here to meet the manager," Sarah explained.

The girl walked in and informed the manager about the visitor and Sarah awaited the manager, in fact, the manageress - the most welcoming lady she had ever met. She was greeted with questions and admiration. Questions

were asked about Sarah's visit although the lady guessed why she had come.

"I'm on the lookout for some work."

The lady smiled as it was the most expected and commonly known need.

"These days we don't hire servers. But we do have some work in the kitchen, something like dish washing. Will you be interested?"

Sarah was over the moon. She knew that it was a flourishing town but, she never guessed that she could be that quick in finding a source of income.

"Yes, sure, I'm interested." She gave a quick answer.

The manager gave her a business card; Sarah had a quick look at it, only to grasp the first name of the lady - Cecille.

"This is my number. I can't have an interview with you now, so call me next week, I'll designate a time for an interview."

Sarah was jubilant about her find as much as her face revealed and Cecille the manager could gather it well from her face.

Sarah returned home, happy, and about a week later she faced the interview. However, it didn't appear like a formal interview. She was already appointed on the day she met the manager.

Dish washing was a good pastime. It gave her pleasure. It was a rare form of pleasure for the majority, anyway. Sarah made sure that all the dishes were spotless; she ensured that all the dirt was rinsed before they went in the sanitiser. She felt very happy when they came out like brand new. She was paid every two weeks and was happy about what she made. Actually, it was a lot for the gratification she was receiving. No one could understand it. No one could sense it. It was nowhere near human identification, so she was sympathized.

One evening, she fell into conversation with her work colleague, Amy, who knew that Sarah found contentment in dish washing, although not many did. Amy watched her closely, her diligent hands. The dishes were put to drip-dry. It was a natural way of drying dishes; Sarah liked it. And to Amy's surprise, Sarah became talkative suddenly.

"I think air drying is the best method of drying washed dishes."

Amy smiled. She enjoyed Sarah's rarely seen talkativeness. Also, she was going through her own understanding of Sarah. It was a good one. She loved it.

"When there's a quick need for dishes and you don't have any washed ones, you need to wipe them dry, and that's okay too," Amy explained.

"Yes," Sarah said, nodding her head.

Dishes were getting washed little by little and they were placed on a rack. It was beautiful to watch and rare to adore. She experienced a kind of trance in this relaxing endeavour. It was deeply satisfying.

"But if they're washed after every meal, you wouldn't really have to face anything like that," Amy explained further.

"Anything like what?" Sarah asked.

"Not having them dry on time."

Amy confirmed.

Sarah was drawn away from the dishes for a brief time. She wasn't sure if Amy was right in her conclusion.



However, she couldn't remember any occasion that there was a sudden need for dishes or a time they ran out of them. But the non-occurrence would be the very reason to expect it, whatever the occurrence was, on whatever grounds. Sarah was suddenly overcome by some kind of understanding.

"But there can always be an emergency," She burst out.

The words came quick and she realised that she had voiced them together with Amy. And then they both burst into laughter. Yes, they both knew that there could be an emergency need for dry plates, just like for anything else.

So passed days, months and a whole year. Every evening she took the bus to work and returned home. During the day, she followed a course to become a teacher.

After a day of laborious work, she came home, calmed down and relaxed. Some evenings she took a walk on the river bank. What glory it was!

Sarah didn't know how to swim. She dreaded water; she had an instinctive phobia to it. Water up to her knee level made her think of the worst as she thought she was going to drown. It was the sky and the stars she wandered around, not the water and the corals. They stood contradictory to each other. She didn't wander among the corals as much as she did among the stars. The river bank was one of her fondest places to relax. She could see rowboats but only a few. Some people were fishing, not as a hobby but, it was simply

their living. She walked closer to a fisherman and saw the fish he had in a basket. Some creatures were still alive. She saw their struggling to live. Her heart was filled with sympathy, thinking of their right to live.

"Do you come here every day?" Sarah asked, trying to get into a conversation with the fisherman.

"Almost," he said.

It was a rare moment that a passerby promenading by the river side had stopped to talk and, no wonder he was alarmed. But, he had no question about it.

Sarah observed the basket further and noticed that some fish had given up the struggle and were simply resting in peace. She tried to think and feel like the ones that were still facing the battle. It was not different from the struggle of a human being drowning in water.

It was horrifying as Sarah herself dreaded water like no other. She tried to reason whether it was a fair judgment for the fisherman, as it was his living and, also if it was fair by the living beings to forego their lives simply because the living of another needed to be justified. She also tried to view the same from the angle of those who consumed them. Anyway, she had no argument about the non-living as there was no life there.

"Do you eat fish?" Sarah asked.

"No, I only catch them." The fisherman confirmed.

But, Sarah ate fish. She wasn't a vegetarian.

Her visits to the community convent were equally significant. That's where she met Sister Priscilla for the first time. Sarah's attraction was the library attached to the convent where she found her interest and also some study material. At the very first sight, she felt connected to Sister Priscilla.

"Are you new to this town?" The nun asked her one day, following her smile and sitting next to her in the library.

"Yes," Sarah replied.

"I thought so. I haven't seen you much."

Sarah looked deep into her face; she thought that Sister Priscilla was an older version of herself. Yes, they looked alike, to a great extent and, after a brief moment the nun held her silence, reading her in-depth. They both spoke nothing and everything. It was their first meeting and Sarah came home with her heart full.

The next day was the best day of all. She was returning home in a bus and, she was about to come across the most awaited, the most destined. She couldn't escape it; she was stopped. Yes, she was just stopped.

To be continued next week

Human-elephant relationship

By
Nirosha
Rajapakse



In the Asian and the African continents, elephants were once frequently spotted, and throughout the 19th century a large number of elephants were killed for their tusks which fetched a lot of money. At present however, due to restrictions and regulations that have been imposed on the ivory trade, the killing of elephants has relatively declined. But still elephant conservationists complain that the number of elephants in their entire former range has alarmingly decreased. Their survival is mainly threatened by the destruction of their habitat, while persistent poaching for ivory and trophy hunting are also some of the other threats faced by the elephants.

Asian, African elephants

The elephants found in the Asian continent are easily recognised due to their comparatively small ears, while their counterparts in the African continent have large ears.

Also, the Asian elephant has four hooves on its hind foot while the African elephant has three hooves. Several studies conducted recently note that the 'African elephant' has two unique species; the 'African forest elephant' (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) and the 'African



bush elephant' (*Loxodonta africana*).

Wild elephants need a lot of space and a great deal of nourishment. They consume many hundreds of kilos of plant matter daily.

As revealed in a research conducted by Jamie Lorimer, Asian elephants are "companion species par excellence: too social and sagacious to be objects; too strange to be human; too captive to be wild, but too wild to be domesticated".

The mahoutship and the main-

tenance of elephant management represent the fact that humans and elephants can have a good companionship.

In the context of the Sri Lankan elephant conservation, there are challenges of affability with regard to the companionship of the humans and elephants.

A population of about 4,000 elephants live in protected areas of forest fragmentation, transit centres, orphanages, cultivated lands and

lands belonging to private owners. It is reported that both, humans and elephants in their encounters get affected, and both get killed annually during these encounters.

Frequent occurrence

Due to the rapid increase of human settlement and urbanisation, the human-elephant conflict is not a strange phenomenon but a frequent occurrence equally disturbing both,

the human and the elephant. The squabble for land space is one of the central reasons for the conflict.

M.P.J Dharmaratne and P.C. Magadaragama in their research of 'Human-Elephant conflict and solutions to it in Sri Lanka' state that the elephant survival is mainly threatened by deforestation, monoculture tree plantations, encroachment, burning and shifting cultivation.

There has been news on human-elephant conflict happening particu-

DUE TO THE RAPID INCREASE OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND URBANISATION, THE HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT IS NOT A STRANGE PHENOMENON BUT A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE EQUALLY DISTURBING BOTH, THE HUMAN AND THE ELEPHANT. THE SQUABBLE FOR LAND SPACE IS ONE OF THE CENTRAL REASONS FOR THE CONFLICT

larly as the elephants infiltrate into the cultivated lands of the farming community whose lands are located adjoining elephant habitats.

The conflict is ubiquitous in areas where elephant migration route lies through small forest pockets. Bengtsson and his fellow researchers suggest that 'dynamic reserves' which can cling to the lively migration routes of the elephants beyond their existing boundaries should be encouraged without restricting the elephant's movement to the protected areas.

This type of approach might lessen and mitigate the dreadful consequences of the human-elephant conflict and reshape the cordiality of the age-old human-elephant companionship.



MONTAGE

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FEBRUARY 14, 2021

RESURRECTING MEMORIES OF COSMOPOLITANISM

BY SASANKA PERERA

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New Delhi

One of the most obvious issues in culture and its politics in Sri Lanka today at the level of popular manifestation is our collective amnesia when it comes to our 'cultural pasts.' People often believe their heritage can be traced from an 'ideal' and 'un-mixed' moment in the distant past via a linear line right up to the present.

In this scheme of problematic and simplistic cultural reckoning, what is generally lost is the ability to take stock of our cultural pasts in a more nuanced sense, and to see what kind of cultural influences and practices might have informed our common-sense at different points in the past and made us who we were and who we have become. My interest today is to only focus on a brief moment in this lengthy cultural past informed by what we might call a sense of cosmopolitanism.

Cultural amnesia

My interest was triggered after reading Prof Gananath Obeyesekere's recent book, *The Many Paces of the Kandyan Kingdom 1591-1765: Lessons for Our Time* (2020) and the long-term realisation of the cultural amnesia many of us suffer from. What I have flagged in this essay comes from Prof Obeyesekere's book.

Today, the popular perception is, when it comes to culture and particularly of the Sinhala, the Kandyan period is the most pristine and authentic reservoir of past cultural knowledge and practices. This is why, practices from dance to music and sartorial codes from this period have been adopted in present day cultural and political practices as the most authentic representation of the country's past.

It is true that information from the Kandyan period is far more readily available to reconstruct its cultural past more clearly than it would be possible with Anuradhapura or Polonnaruwa. But in these journeys into the past, we forget often the far more complex and interesting cultural practices from that time which made the Kandyan period one of the most cosmopolitan phases of Sri Lanka's past.

To begin with, the Kandyan King-



Joseph Vaz

IT WILL MAKE CONSIDERABLE SENSE IF WE CAN FIND WAYS THROUGH SCHOOLS, TEXTBOOKS, MASS MEDIA AS WELL AS MORE POPULAR CONTEMPORARY MEANS, SUCH AS SOCIAL MEDIA TO EDUCATE OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN OF WHO WE ARE, AND WHO WE HAVE BEEN. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CULTURAL PROJECT FOR THE FUTURE THAT MIGHT AS WELL BEGIN IN 2021

dom was known for an important cultural practice that is relevant today as well. This is its tolerance of difference in faith and accommodation of religious and ethnocultural pluralism in the kingdom. Information on this is more readily available particularly from the time of Kings Vimala Dharma Suriya I (1591-1604) to Narendra Singha (1707-1739).

According to Dutch historian and theologian Phillipus Baldaeus (1632-1672), the king allowed "everyone a free exercise of" religion "according to their own will and pleasure."

The two kings who assumed power after King Vimala Dharma Suriya, King Senarat (1604-1635) and King Rajasingha II (1635-1687) have also established their tolerance and acceptance of plurality. For instance, they accommodated Catholic refugees persecuted

by the Dutch irrespective of the kingdom's hostility to the Portuguese. In the same vein, the Goan Catholic Missionary, Father Joseph Vaz was given the freedom of movement and faith in Kandyan territories by King Vimala Dharma Suriya II (1687-1707) and his successor King Narendra Singha (1707-1739). In doing so, both kings ignored the provisions of the '1638 Convention' signed between the Dutch and the Kandyans in the time of Rajasingha II.

Accommodation and tolerance

It demanded that Catholic priests must be expelled from Kandyan territories. This level of accommodation and tolerance is further established in

1701 report by the Catholic order, the "though the King of Kandy is zealous for his religion [Buddhism], he has permitted fathers to perform public acts of Christian devotion, such as processions and feasts." Similarly, when the Portuguese expelled four thousand Muslims, King Senarat not only offered them protection, but also later facilitated their settlement in the east coast.

Beyond this kind of religious accommodation, the Kandyan period was also known for its ethnic and cultural plurality. As Joris van Spielbergen, the Dutch diplomat who visited King Vimala Dharma Suriya I in the early 1600s notes, "among the Singales there live many Moors, Turks and other heathens, who all have special laws. Brahmos (Brahmins) are there in large numbers." That is, even a foreign visitor to Kandy in the time of King Vimala Dharma Suriya was able to easily see the kingdom's pluralism as a matter of routine reality.

Spielbergen further states, all these people "have special laws." This is an indication of the fact that different groups could maintain their own distinct religious and cultural practices. This kind of cultural pluralism also extended to the royal court. As Spielbergen further informs us, he was received "and accompanied thus to the city of Candy by some thousand armed soldiers of all nationalities, such as Turcken (Turks), Mooren (moors), Singales, Cafferos (Kaffirs) and renegade Portugueses."

Cultural roots

But despite the availability of this kind of historical and cultural information, we have not thought carefully what the cultural landscape of the Kandyan kingdom must have been when all these practices and potential influences are taken into account, and to what extent our present day cultural symbols taken from this past might ultimately trace their genesis to these numerous roots.

These are merely a few examples of the cultural pluralism and accommodation from our collective past. Unfortunately, however, most people today have forgotten 'this' more colourful and important past in their efforts at creating more exclusive pasts for the different ethnic and religious groups of which they are a part.

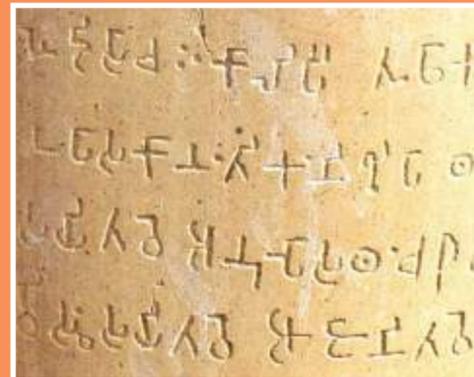
Due to this historical and cultural amnesia, not only have we lost sight of an important aspect of our own past, but also a crucial foundation for the present and a means to imagine the future.

In this context, it will make considerable sense if we can find ways through schools, textbooks, mass media as well as more popular contemporary means, such as social media to educate ourselves and our children of who we are, and who we have been. It seems to me this is the most important cultural project for the future that might as well begin in 2021.

One way to do so would be to make texts, such as Prof Obeyesekere's book referred to earlier available in Sinhala and Tamil. But we should not assume such a venture is the responsibility of the state alone.

It can be. But it can, and should also be the responsibility of concerned people in general. Investing in a sensible understanding of Sri Lanka's cultural pasts is not merely a matter of the past. It is an investment for the present and the future.

SCRIPTS IN ANCIENT SRI LANKA



Brahmi script

SANSKRIT USED IN VEDAS LOST ITS VALUE IN THE 5TH CENTURY AD. THE SECOND STAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SANSKRIT WAS FLOURISHING IN LITERATURE. IT BECAME A LANGUAGE FOR DOCUMENTATION AND AS AN INSTRUCTIONAL LANGUAGE. IT FUNCTIONED AS A LINK LANGUAGE IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

BY K S SIVAKUMARAN

Sri Lankan history is recoded, interpreted and commented by scholars and academics and also by racial minded people in such, way to portray their political stances and an agenda of ethnic superiority.

However, inscriptional evidence is often not considered for an impartial establishment of facts. Parts of our precarious maladies are due to falsifying facts and conveniently ignoring them. This is seen in accounts by nondescript commentators who cannot sufficiently claim authority and authenticity. This indifference on their part comes from ethnic-oriented ultra-nationalists belonging to different ethnic communities in the island.

In this context, I wish to give a few facts gleaned from a few articles written in Tamil by a living historian. But that information, I hope, would not prevent you from reading what Prof S Pathmanathan has got to say. In this piece, I am retelling in English his introduction on two terms that are not completely understood by many: Brahmi and Prakrit.

What follows are selections of what Professor Emeritus S Pathmanathan has written in his articles. From the 3rd century BC to 4th century AD, all documents in the subcontinent of South Asia were written in Brahmi script. The Brahmi script used in Thamilnadu was known as Tamil Brahmi script. This was because there were special alphabets peculiar to the Tamil language.

South Asian languages

Prakrit language does not have these peculiar sounds. The South Asian languages that prevail at present, such as Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Sinhala, Bangla, Marathi and others are based on Brahmi scripts. Brahmi is different from Prakrit which was a link language in a specific period in the South Asian subcontinent.

Prakrit was a spoken language in North Indian States. It was prevalent even during the period of the Buddha and Mahavira. The basic literature of the Buddhist and Jain religions was in the Prakrit language.

There were regional dialects of the Prakrit language. Four such usages are mentioned in some works. In Southern India, Prakrit was only a communication language.

But by the 4th century, Prakrit lost its influence as a link language. Sanskrit replaced Prakrit. There is a relationship between Brahmi and Prakrit. Inscriptions in Prakrit were written in Brahmi letters. The early documents in post-Indus Valley Civilisation were available in the Prakrit language but in Brahmi form. Those documents were inscriptions.

When the original Prakrit language lost its impact, even in North India, the Devanagiri script came into existence. In Sri Lanka, there are many Brahmi inscriptions. They are mainly found in hills and large rocks. In Maddakalappu and in Ampara district in the east, Brahmi inscriptions are found on large rocks. There is a long inscription at Kaayankuda towards four kilometers west to Chengaladi in the Batticaloa district.

Brahmi inscriptions

In Sri Lanka, the Brahmi inscriptions are written in the Prakrit language. Most are related to Buddhism. They are within the caves. They were inscriptions regarding donations. We find inscriptions belonging to more than six centuries. There are nearly 2,000 Brahmic inscriptions. Dr Senarath Paranavithana said these inscriptions were written in the Sinhala language. He interpreted the words found in the inscriptions in terms of Sanskrit grammar. The *Sinhala* did not derive from Sanskrit. It grew through the Prakrit language.

Sanskrit used in Vedas lost its value in the 5th century AD. The second stage of the development of Sanskrit was flourishing in literature. It became a language for documentation and as an instructional language. It functioned as a link language in South Asian countries. No body spoke in Sanskrit in Sri Lanka.

According to Paranavithana, the *Naagas* outline in the Mahavamsa were descendants of the Aryans who came from North India. There is no mention in any place that no section of Lankans were Aryans.

Tamil Brahmi letters were found in the country. Arya Abeyasingha and Saddamangala Karunaratne have explained this feature showing examples.

Three letters were differently written Tamil Brahmi and Ashoka Brahmi. These two kinds were in existence in the country until the demise of Brahmi scripts.

The formation of letters of two different languages -Tamil and Prakrit- was found in the inscriptions. This shows that the inscriptions were written in both languages. Prof. K. Indrapala said that the words, such as *marumahana*, *parumaka*, *vela*, *aya* and the like found in Brahmic inscriptions are not Prakrit words.

Prof Indrapala said that Tamil words are also found in Brahmic inscriptions.



VOC Admiral Joris van Spielbergen being received by King Wimala Dharma Suriya in 1602. Netherlands (Delft), 1605. Engraving. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam (RP-T-1904.1). The king wears a skirt cloth (*tuppotiya*) with a floral border and a sawtooth pattern at each end; the tumpal motif came to dominate Indian trade cloths for the Malay Indonesian market

Features

A glimpse of Clifford Richards

By
Mandira
Wijerathna



Clifford Richards is a renowned personality in the media industry. His notable and excellent onstage performances have stolen the heart of many of us. His voice aired on the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation has marked a special note in the listeners' ears and now as a presenter on TV, a compeer and as a singer on stage, Richards outshines any show where he is presenting and receives immense admiration from the public. On behalf of the fans of Clifford Richards, Sunday Observer caught up a glimpse of his life which lesser-known by many.

Excerpts

Q: Yoga plays a major role in your life. Tell me how it all started?

A: I was into Yoga for over six years. Yoga started accidentally just like compeering. Six years back I was compeering a Yoga program at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute which was conducted by Anoja Weerasinghe who is a dedicated Yoga teacher. I never had a good impression of Yoga. Then what happened during the program inspired me to learn it from a scratch. That is how I became interested in the subject.

I went to India for further training in Yoga. There, I learned Hatha Yoga for one month. Hatha Yoga is more conventional. It is a traditional form of Yoga. The benefits you gain from practising poses and Asanas are multiple. It helps the brain and mind function properly. It makes a person healthy physically and mentally. This is why Yoga differs from other forms of exercise. The main motive of Yoga is to bring mindfulness, focus on one place and enjoy the present moment.

Q: How does it regulate the form of a person?

A: "Hatha Yoga focuses on breathing. Breathing is important as your entire life relies on it. About 99 percent of the people don't breathe correctly depriving your body of receiving oxygen. Likewise, there are a lot of things throughout the process that positively change you mentally. Attitude, stress levels, anger, all change. In the end, you gain the ability to survive even in a chaotic environment."

Q: You have an appealing personality. What is the secret behind it?



"WE MUST REMEMBER THAT LIFE IS SHORT. MAKE SURE YOU NEVER MISS OUT ON ANY FRACTION OF TIME TO ENJOY IT TO THE FULLEST. IT IS WORTH REMEMBERING TO TAKE THE CORRECT PATH TO THE RIGHT DESTINATION"

A: "I have the attitude of being happy even amid turbulent circumstances. Being miserable or overthinking them is not a quality of mine, because nothing is perfect and you are not living in a perfect world. When here are things that we don't like and out of our control, the best thing is to ignore them

and move on with the flow. If you let the negative things affect you, that is the biggest crime that one could commit against oneself.

If something or someone else is affecting you, you are the one who loses your cool if you don't handle it healthily. For example, let's say someone is not



treating you well. If you become upset, you are the one who gets affected. The other person will not lose anything. Here also, Yoga plays a major role in attitude correction. One must understand nowhere you will be able to find a place that fits you perfectly. There is always some misfit in the place where you are. You need to understand and accept that fact and live your life and continue what you were doing.

Q: Tell us what your roots are?

A: I started my education at Trinity College, Kandy. I pursued higher education at the University of Perad-

eniya as an engineering student. When I passed out, I did production engineering. After finishing my higher education, I couldn't practise as an engineer as I joined a family business. My father-in-law has an orchid nursery and I got involved in that.

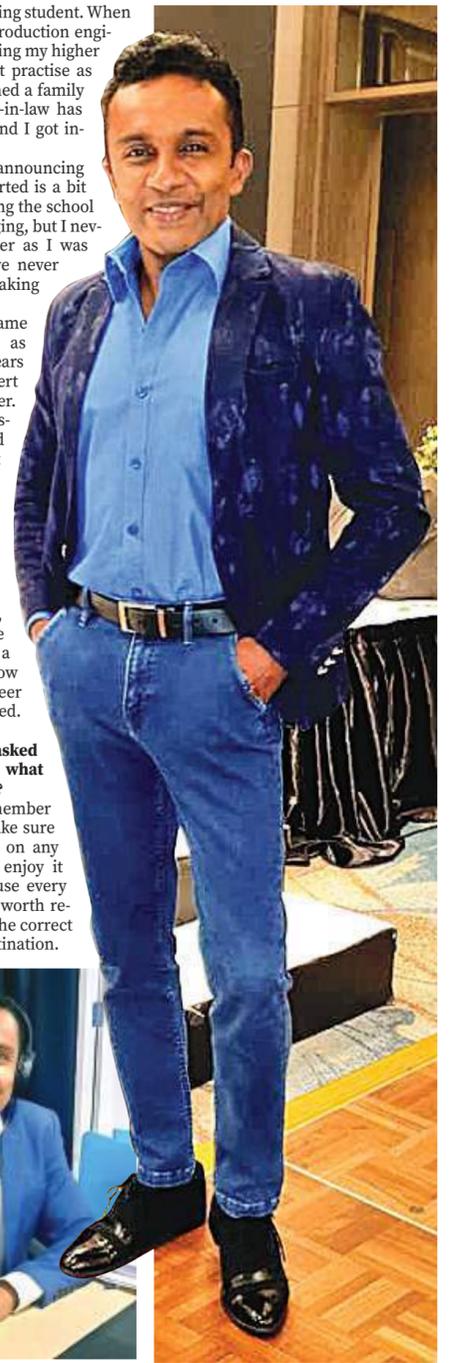
How singing, announcing and compeering started is a bit of a long story. During the school years, I was into singing, but I never was an announcer as I was a shy person. I have never done any public speaking at that time.

Compeering came by accident, such as Yoga. Some 25 years back I was in concert to perform as a singer. Suddenly, the organising committee found out that they didn't have an announcer.

The person in charge asked me why I don't take the opportunity. Reluctantly I said okay and however, I did it. Later on that day, I received a positive feedback that I did a good job. That is how my career as a compeer and announcer started.

Q: If anybody asked for a life tip, what would you give him?

A: We must remember that life is short. Make sure you never miss out on any fraction of time to enjoy it to the fullest. Because every second counts. It is worth remembering to take the correct path to the right destination.



RETRO REVIEWS: CINEMA OF YESTERYEAR

Man of the Forest

By
Dilshan Boange



IT IS A STORY OF FRONTIERSMEN WHOSE CHALLENGES INCLUDE THE CLASH OF INTERESTS OF THOSE WHO WANT TO EXPAND THEIR WEALTH AND POWER WITH NO REGARD FOR LAW AND ORDER AGAINST THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE NEED FOR MORAL UPRIGHTNESS AND DECENCY

An American film released in 1933, 'Man of the Forest' is a movie directed by Henry Hathaway and is based on a novel by Zane Grey. Starring screen legend Randolph Scott in the lead heroic role, this movie looks at the rough and challenging nature of the American frontier that pioneers had to deal with in the great expansion of agriculture and industry across the vast wilderness of North America.

It is a story of frontiersmen whose challenges include the clash of interests of those who want to expand their wealth and power with no regard for law and order against those who believe in the need for moral uprightiness and decency. There is a vein of the 'Wild West' engrained in the characters and the storyline of this movie although the setting is not a dusty Texan town surrounded by an inhospitable cacti speckled desert.

Hostilities

Randolph plays frontiersman Brett Dale who uncovers a plot by unscrupulous ranch owner Clint Beasley to abduct the niece of Dale's friend, ranch owner Jim Gaynor with whom Beasley has been developing cold hostilities over property and waterway interests. Ageing Jim wants his niece Alice to be the heir in title to his property and Beasley engineers a plot with the help of hired guns that will ensure his expansion to go uninhibited.

Dale intervenes on his own accord and intercepts the carriage in



which Alice rides to her uncle's ranch and forcibly takes Alice away before the men Beasley hired can abduct her. A humorous situation develops between Dale, Alice Gaynor and Dale's pet mountain lion 'Mike', up at Dale's cabin in the mountains as the 'captive' city girl struggles to believe Dale's story of having kidnapped her to save her from the real aggressors and thereby spends the night at the log cabin which has not many modern comforts.

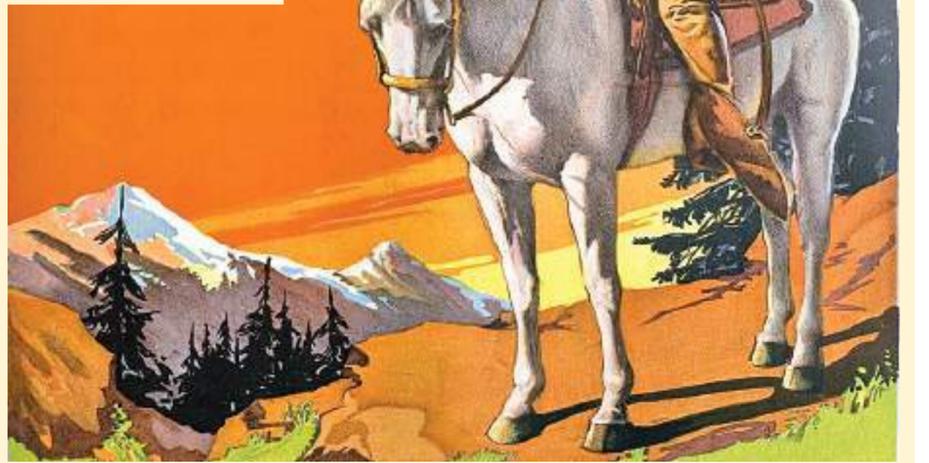
Soon what ensues is Beasley's greed and unscrupulousness results in the murder of Jim Gaynor before the night is through and the framing of Dale as the murderer. With the town's Sheriff in cahoots with Beasley for gains following the plan Beasley has to gain control over Jim Gaynor's ranch, a scheme of corruption and menace begins to take shape.

However, the plan is not meant to be seen through to its nefarious end by having Dale hanged for the murder of Jim Gaynor as a rescue mission is mounted to free Dale by Gaynor's ranchmen that see through the elaborate web spun by Beasley.

Thrilling end

The end is thrilling and in the style of a true classic 'western' brings on a 'war' in the small town, fought with guns and fits, as Beasley and his men clash with Dale and Jim Gaynor's ranchmen.

'Man of the Forest' is a good retro movie of how men seeking their fortunes by challenging the frontier pave the way for friction to erupt between factions that battle between personal greed and the principle of upholding what is right over wrong.



Leprosy patients with profound nerve damage at diagnosis is around five to seven percent In Sri Lanka

Leprosy can be cured if detected early

By Carol Aloysius

Due to interventions by the Anti Leprosy Campaign and the Health Ministry the disease has declined drastically. The key to beat Leprosy is educating society on all aspects of the disease and the cooperation of the public, says Consultant Dermatologist, Anti Leprosy Campaign, Colombo Municipal Council, and National Hospital Colombo, Dr Indira Kahawita. With her hands on experience she discusses the main issues faced by patients, highlighting that changing public attitude to patients and encouraging them to seek treatment readily available at the Central Leprosy Clinic at the National Hospital Colombo is the need of the hour in an interview with the *Sunday Observer*.

Excerpts

Q. When Leprosy Day was observed recently (January 31) what was the theme that was highlighted and its significance?

A. This year's theme is "Beat Leprosy" - its significance being our need to defeat the disease in every aspect, be it clinical, social or psychological.

Q. As many still don't know what exactly leprosy is, tell us what this disease is and the signs to look for.

A. Leprosy is a bacterial infection affecting the skin and the nerves. The bacterium is slow growing and takes a long time to manifest clinically after someone acquires the infection. It may present as skin patches with sensory loss and/or neurological manifestations. It is the neurological problems that lead to most of the consequences due to leprosy.

Q. What causes it?

A. The bacterium causing leprosy is called *Mycobacterium leprae*. It is a slow growing bacterium which survives inside cells. The bacterium mainly affects humans. The only other potential hosts being nine banded Armadillo and mice

Q. Is it transmissible? How?

A. Through respiratory droplets. A person with the infectious forms of leprosy can secrete the organism in the droplets when breathing, talking or sneezing. It is usually not transmitted by touch. Therefore, you need not fear to touch someone with leprosy.

Q. Can anyone get leprosy? Who are

those most at risk of getting it?

A. Persons of any age or any social status can be susceptible to leprosy. Even though it is seen more commonly in persons with low socio-economic status, the real reason may be overcrowding and easy transmission rather than the social status.

Q. Can one inherit leprosy?

A. Leprosy is not an inherited disease. But persons living within the same household with someone having the infectious forms of leprosy are more susceptible to catch the infection. It is the prolonged close contact (breathing the same air) that causes the susceptibility, not the heredity.

Q. What about infants and very young children?

A. Infants and very young children may also be infected but the disease is not common in infancy, probably due to the long incubation period. On the other hand approximately 10 percent of our annual case load comprises children below 15 years.

Q. What are the first signs of leprosy?

A. The commonest sign of leprosy is one or a few pale skin patches with impairment or loss of sensation with the patch. During the early infection these symptoms and a thickened peripheral nerve may be the only signs.

Q. Can a person with these symptoms transmit the infection to others?

A. No. A person with such lesions cannot transmit the disease to others.

Q. Symptoms as it advances?

A. In the more advanced disease there may be many skin lesions without sensory impairment and more nerves may be affected. Such lesions may easily be misdiagnosed as other skin diseases such as aluhang. The more advanced, infectious form of the disease may also show change in facial appearance, e.g. the earlobes and eyebrows may thicken with the whole face being puffed up. By this time they may have nasal stuffiness indicating involvement of the mucosal surfaces. Such patients may also have numbness of hands and feet.

These patients are capable of transmitting the infection to others. It also affects the eyes. In some patients weakness of nerves supplying the facial muscles may lead to incomplete closure of eyes, dryness due to exposure and blindness. In some patients the entire eye may be affected with painful red eyes and difficulty in facing a light (photophobia). Fortunately, blindness due to leprosy is rare in Sri Lanka.



Q. Treatment- How do you treat them?

A. Treatment is with a combination of drugs called "Multi Drug Therapy (MDT)". The drugs are provided free of charge by the WHO (World Health Organization). The less severe form is treated for six months. Infectious forms need treatment for a minimum of 12 months.

Q. Is there a vaccine to prevent leprosy?

A. There is no vaccine for leprosy. Vaccine trials are being conducted in India, but we cannot expect that the vaccine will be able to stop transmission. Like the vaccines for tuberculosis they may only reduce the severity of the infection.

Q. Is the treatment the same for infants, the young and the older victims?

A. The drugs are the same. The doses vary according to age and body weight. There are two types of blister packs for adults and children between 10 and 14 years. For younger children the doses are adjusted according to body weight.

Q. Do you have any new data on leprosy patients in Sri Lanka?

A. According to data from the Anti Leprosy Campaign Sri Lanka, the number of new cases reported each year in the country has remained constant, around 2,000 since year 2000. But we have seen a slight decline in the number of new cases during the past few years. According to the Weekly Epidemiological Record published by the WHO in 2020, the number of new cases reported in Sri Lanka in 2019 is 1,658, of which 176 (10.61%) were children. There were 91 patients (5.48%) with visible disability (neurological deficit in hands/ feet or eye involvement) at the time of diagnosis.

Q. Do you think actual numbers could be higher due to their being unreported?

A. All diagnosed cases are reported so the problem of under re-



Dr. Indira Kahawita

porting at health care institution level does not occur. Our main concern is the diagnosis being missed, either due to patients not seeking treatment or doctors not suspecting leprosy.

Q. Who can identify them?

A. Any health care worker aware of the major signs and symptoms should be able to suspect leprosy. Confirmation is usually done at skin clinics country wide.

Q. How is this done?

A. In most instances the diagnosis is done by a thorough examination of the patient but sometimes investigations like a skin smear (examination of a sample of tissue fluid under the microscope) or a skin biopsy (to look at the changes in the skin due to leprosy) may be necessary in doubtful cases

Q. Can it be cured with early detection?

A. Leprosy can be cured without disability if detected early. Our concern is that patients disregard the early symptoms and seek treatment when the nerves have been severely affected. In such instances the nerve damage may persist despite treatment. In Sri Lanka the percentage of patients who have profound nerve damage at diagnosis is around five to seven percent.

Q. Once treated and cured can a patient get re-infected?



challenge?

A. More than myths what we have had to address over time is the society's reactions to persons affected with leprosy. When someone is diagnosed with leprosy there is a tendency for work colleagues to keep away from them due to various misconceptions about its infectivity.

Q. Is public awareness of leprosy, including the medical and social implications of the disease and the rights of persons affected, your current focus?

A. Yes, it is the current need. The public needs to know the signs and symptoms of leprosy to ensure that they seek treatment promptly. In addition, society must be aware that leprosy is not different from any other skin disease. This will ensure equal status to patients affected with leprosy, without discrimination or stigma.

Q. In our technologically advancing nation how do you see the future for leprosy patients in Sri Lanka?

A. The prognosis for patients with leprosy is good. The vast majority will get cured without any disability or lasting signs of the infection, without help from high tech methods for diagnosis.

It is the timely intervention, and the compliance of the patients for a fairly long course of treatment and supportive treatments like physiotherapy that determines the success of treatment.

Q. Gaps you'd like to fill in ensuring optimum benefits in care for leprosy patients?

A. The need of the hour is awareness on the real facts about leprosy. In addition, we need a change in the public's attitude towards diseases as a whole.

Q. Your message to the general public?

A. Beating leprosy requires team effort. We need public support in detecting cases, providing care and ensuring a fruitful life for persons affected with leprosy so that together we can beat leprosy.

Q. What is your Message to persons with suspected symptoms reluctant to seek treatment?

A. Leprosy is curable especially if diagnosed and treated early. So don't hesitate to seek treatment if you suspect you have leprosy. You can be treated at the nearest skin clinic. In addition, the Central Leprosy Clinic at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka functions as a walk in clinic, so that you may just visit us and discuss your fears.

A. A small number of people present with features of leprosy after successfully completing a course of treatment. But this is rare.

Q. When is someone considered non-infectious to others after starting treatment?

A. The drugs used to treat leprosy are strong antibiotics, hence, they can kill a large number of bacilli within a short period. We can safely assume a patient to be non-infectious one month after starting appropriate treatment.

Q. What happens to a victim if the condition is untreated for some reason?

A. If the disease is left untreated the nerve damage may continue. The patient may end up with permanent neurological problems like weakness of muscles (claw hand or foot drop) or permanent sensory loss in hands and feet leading to subsequent ulceration. This sensory loss and ulceration may lead to shortening of digits in neglected cases. It was this deformity that was referred to as 'dropping off of fingers' by many lay persons. But in effect this is not different from the ulceration of digits that occurs in those with Diabetic neuropathy.

Q. Main obstacles that prevent patients from seeking early treatment? Is it stigma?

A. In my opinion stigma is not the main cause why patients do not seek treatment. It is not being aware of leprosy as a disease entity prevalent in Sri Lanka.

Q. What are the most common myths in Sri Lanka and where are such myths prevalent?

A. One common myth is the 'dropping digits'. Another common myth is about leprosy and heredity. No one can pass the infection genetically to their offspring even though they may get infected due to close contact within the household.

Q. How has your Association met this

Family Time Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				15					14	
15			16					17		
18							19			
		20		21		22				
23	24	25		26		27		28	29	30
32			33				34			
35				36				37		
		38	39			40		41		
42	43	44				45		46	47	48
49				50	51	52				
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

DOWN

- (K) U-turn from this?
- Hindu's "sir"
- (K) Opening in a vending machine
- (K) Sulks
- (K) It comes after Sept.
- (K) "Which person?"
- "Well ___-di-dah"
- (K) Mower's path
- (K) Frosty the Snowman has one
- Some of the squares in Monopoly, briefly
- Some Japanese monetary units
- Promo campaign for two products together (2 words)
- Super
- (K) "Just between you ..." (2 words)
- (K) Things appliances and TVs have
- (K) Many laptops and desktop computers
- (K) Color eggs, say
- (K) Word with "ginger"
- (K) Hot brewed drink
- (K) Frozen and slippery
- Use poles at Aspen
- Little teaspoon?
- "... the bombs bursting..." (2 words)
- (K) Springs or bounds
- (K) Something you attend regularly
- Congested-sounding
- Old Testament book
- "Is it just is it freezing in here?" (2 words)
- Help someone steal
- Capitol of Latvia
- (K) You need this to 30-Down
- (K) Breakfast staples
- (K) Sound from a pigeon
- (K) Ewe's mate
- Rocky assaying sample

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

W	D	N	S	I	S	M	I	S	L	E
G	A	H	N	I	O	I	S	H	T	W
S	T	A	R	T	I	N	G	P	R	I
A	S	E	R	E	R	M	A	N	S	
A	T	E	R	O	N	E	P	D	E	
M	A	L	I	P	R	A	I	N	U	S
L	I	M	A	C	I	D	E	K	I	T
S	T	R	A	I	D	R	O	S	T	
I	R	R	C	S	P	O	M	S	I	D
A	I	M	S	T	E	B	N	O	L	N
W	O	S	T	A	N	C	I	E	S	

ACROSS

- Little tablespoon?
- (K) Birds with huge eyes
- (K) Do this when your stuff is rung up
- Angel's glowing feature
- Unhealthy chunk of tobacco
- (K) "___ been here before"
- Imminent (3 words)
- (K) ___ frutti ice cream
- Lock of hair
- (K) It's not as big as an ocean
- Fraternity letter, sometimes
- Kissing outside letters?
- (K) "What's gotten ___ you?"
- (K) Some water from a waterfall
- Some door securers (2 words)
- (K) Witnessed
- (K) Created
- Poodle's sound of greeting
- Valuable card in the deck
- (K) ___ Francisco 49ers
- (K) One way to send a message
- Analyze grammatically
- Pedestrian right of way in Africa? (2 words)
- (K) Lobster eggs
- (K) Good thing a kite will do
- Bug-eyed
- (K) It can involve painting
- (K) A few, but not many
- (K) What criminals break

Sudoku 4

Have fun with this highly addictive logic-based number placement puzzle, the objective of which is to fill the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The solution to the puzzle will appear next week.

			9	4	3			
			6	1	7			
				2				
8	5			6	4			
7			4					9
	2	7			5	8		
	1							
6	3		7					
	5	4	8					

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Riddle:

Rock in the middle of "odd or even"?

Last week answer: 25-D) Elm

Last week solution

7	8	6	1	9	3	5	2	4
2	4	9	8	5	6	7	1	3
3	1	5	7	2	4	6	8	9
5	9	3	4	8	2	1	6	7
8	6	4	9	1	7	3	5	2
1	2	7	3	6	5	4	9	8
6	3	1	2	4	8	9	7	5
4	5	2	6	7	9	8	3	1
9	7	8	5	3	1	2	4	6

Tharulengala forest hermitage

The longest cave in Sri Lanka lies in a remote corner of the Ampara district



The longest cave with abodes of meditative bhikkhus

—Text & Pix by—
Mahil Wijesinghe



A little beyond the junction of Hulannuge, is Tharulengala where a historic Tharulengala forest hermitage rises majestically against a backdrop of lush greenery. The place is another sample of ancient Digamadulla. Situated on a rocky boulder called Karadahela, the site is in close proximity to the beautiful Hulanuge tank. In ancient times, this place was known as Karadahela Vihara and also Habu-tagala Vihara. The hermitage covers around 20 acres of thick forest where numerous stone ruins have long since been buried by rubble and time.

Hulannuge is a farming colony established in early 1943. The animal infested forest engulfed the Karadahela Vihara. Even today leopards reign in this area, while elephants and sloth bears roam free. We are told the story of a bhikkhu who died by being attacked by a sloth bear.

Hulannuge, bordering the areas of the Eastern Province, had constantly faced terrorist threats during the battle against terrorism. The village was attacked by the LTTE which killed several villagers. Some have lived to tell the gruesome tales.

However, they say the dark times are over and they have fresh hopes and aspirations about their future. In the 1940s, the whole area was an animal-infested jungle and if anyone ventured into its folds it was for hunting. The Karadahela Vihara is buried in the thick jungle there.

Thick jungle

This historic temple is said to have been built by King Kawantissa, who ruled the Kingdom of Ruhuna. The ruined structures show how the place was developed over time.

We enjoyed the drive down the

picturesque road from Moneragala to Pottuvil in the Eastern part of the Ampara District. The sight ahead, through the vehicle windscreen, of the shrub jungle and thick forest of the much famed Lahugala against the mild rays of the sun was beckoning us.

Coming from Lahugala, where we stayed overnight in the Banamaduwa of Magul Maha Vihara at Lahugala, we rose early to reach our next destination.

Our moods changed like the weather as we passed acres of lush green forest on either side of the Hulannuge-Pottuvil road.

Shrub jungles and farming lands filled the landscape. The gentle breeze was rejuvenating in the early morning as we headed for Hulannuge, which however, was not my destination. It was merely a scenic locale that we stopped by.

Parking our jeep in the slope of the hill, we began to climb the Karadahela hill and a few metres ahead of the cave we found a stone inscription.

Towards the mid-section of the hill, through bushes of wild flowers, we glimpsed a cave that had been converted into a shrine. The cave was drip-ledge with brick walls

built around it. Today, the walls have disappeared. The cave is about 175 feet long and is about 35 feet in height. It houses a 41-foot long Buddha statue built with bricks and clay. The reclining statue has been severely damaged by treasure hunters.

Buddhist shrine

However, no doubt in ancient times, when the Kingdom of Ruhuna was flourishing it was probably a magnificent Buddhist shrine which has decayed over time. Evidence shows that Veddhas lived in this cave in early times where their paintings are still seen.

The resident bhikkhu in the Vihara told us that the front view of the Buddha statue was turned to the East to catch the first rays of the rising sun in the East coast. Adjoining the main cave is an abode where the chief bhikkhu lived.

This is called a Kuti, a small room where the bhikkhu meditates and masters the Buddhist doctrine. Here we saw a small but well-cleaned shrine room which contained several Buddha statues and Ola leaves.

A small chaitya and a pond lie on the summit of the Karadahela hill. The chaitya was being renovated when we visited the place. It resembled a Sanchi stupa in India, although smaller in size.

When we climbed to the top of the hill, we had a view of the entire Eastern Province and the Kumana sanctuary as far as the eye could see.

The striking feature of this place was its unique cave believed to be the longest cave in Sri Lanka.

The magnificent cave which lies on the summit of the hill is 512 feet in length. The cave is being used for meditation by monastic bhikkhus. Long pathways and abodes are built

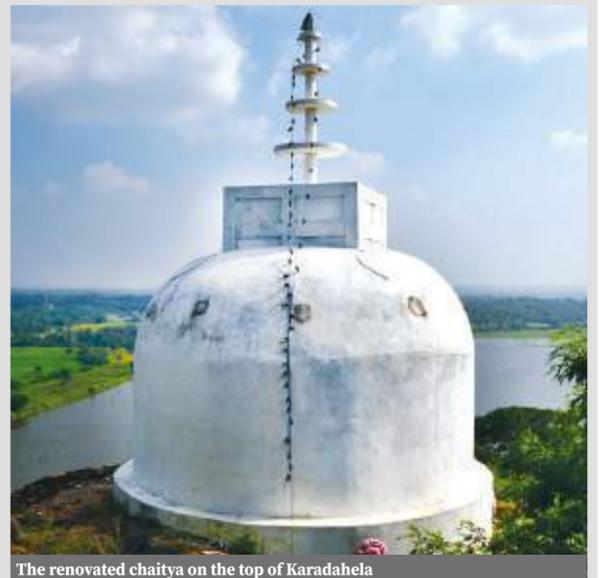
inside the cave for the use of bhikkhus.

The forest canopy in the vicinity of the cave became an ideal place for meditation. There are also several drip-ledge caves scattered on the Karadahela hill. All of these are used by monastic bhikkhus for meditation. Several inscriptions have been found near the site.

On the Eastern side of the hill are several ruined structures believed to have been vandalised by treasure hunters.

The flight of steps which lead to the top of the summit show signs of decay. Today, the place is called the Tharulengala forest hermitage administered by the chief bhikkhu of the Kudumbigala forest hermitage. Bhikkhus of the Kudumbigala hermitage had taken refuge here during the battle against terrorism.

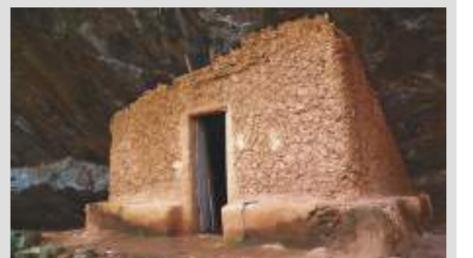
Kudumbigala lies around 30 kilometres west of the Kumana jungle in the Yala East National Park and belongs to the 3rd century and is famed as a reputed Buddhist shrine in the East.



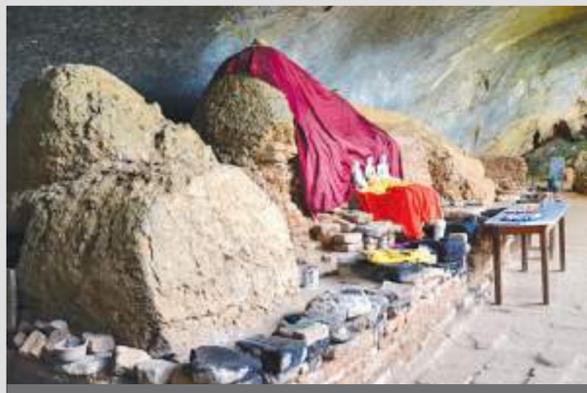
The renovated chaitya on the top of Karadahela



One of the inscriptions found at the site



The Hulannuge tank



The main cave and the reclining Buddha statue of Tharulengala in Hulannuge



OBSERVER EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 14, 2021



AAT SRI LANKA PLANTS
50 RARE SPECIES...

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ASGROPTIC OFFICIATE
WEBSITE LAUNCHED...

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A SMALL STEP TAKEN
BY MSI - HUGE...

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FOUR NEW DEGREES
OFFERED BY...

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All Western Province schools will reopen on March 15th

Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris said that every school in the Western Province (all three districts) for all grades from grade one will be reopened on March 15th. Minister made these observations at a Press Conference held at the Ministry of Education on the 10th of this month.

Speaking further, the Minister said " We got down recommendations from the Regional Co-ordination Committees. We decided that it is not appropriate for the Ministry of Education to take a decision as the situation in every school differs from one to another.

Accordingly, we got down the suggestions of the School Committees headed by Principals. We expected that many schools in the Western Province could be re-



opened on the 15th of February as per the decisions of those Committees. We were very firm that those recommendations can be carried out only subject to the recommenda-

tions of the health authorities. This morning we received the recommendations of the Director General of Health Services. Accordingly, the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination

– Minister of Education Prof. G.L. Peiris

will be conducted from March 01 to March 11th. Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena informed us that it is most appropriate to reopen all schools in all three districts of the Western Province from March 15th after the end of the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination. We, the Education Authorities and Health Authorities together created an environment for the reopening of schools. After taking decisions had long discussions and have got the opportunity to make all the health security arrangements in schools.

There are 11 zones and 38 divisions within the Western Province

and discussions were held in all these Zonal and Divisional heads during the last few days and the Principals and the School Committees worked tirelessly on this issue and ultimately we created a background for reopening of schools as quickly as possible, the Minister opined.

Accordingly, the recommendations of the Health Authorities is that it is appropriate to reopen all schools in the Western Province on the 15th of March. Classes to students who are admitted to Grade One will also be started on the same day.

This decision will be applicable

to International Schools and Government approved Private schools too. Schools in other areas of the island are already reopened.

Grade 11 classes that have started in schools in the Western Province and the classes for them will be halted two weeks before the examination.

Speaking further, the Minister said attendance of students in schools that have been reopened throughout the island has grown up to 72% and the attendance of teachers too has risen up to 88% and this shows that the parents are confident that the Health Security measures in the schools are in order.

General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination – 2020 (March 2021)

CONDUCTING PRACTICAL TESTS

It is hereby notified that the Practical Tests relevant to the undermentioned subjects at the General Certificate of Education (Ord. Lev.) Examination – 2020 (March 2021) will be conducted as held earlier.

Further, this time the Practical Tests will be held after the written examination.

Admission Cards for sitting the Practical Tests that consist of the Places and Dates the said Practical tests will be held will be issued by the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka later.

- 40 – Music (Oriental)
- 41 – Music (Western)
- 42 – Music (Karnatic)
- 44 – Dancing (local)
- 45 – Dancing (Bharatha)
- 50 – Drama and Theatre (Sinhala)
- 51 – Drama and Theatre (Tamil)
- 52 – Drama and Theatre (English)

It is also notified that the changes that will be effected in the evaluation and assessment methods are expected to be carried out under the new educational reforms.

All schools in the island to reopen for all Grades on March 15th

Hon. Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris said that all schools in the Island will be reopened for all grades on the 15th March 2021.

Schools other than those in the Western Province and in the locked down areas had already been opened and steps had been taken by the Ministry of Education to obtain recommendations from the District Development Committees regarding reopening of schools in Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara districts of the Western Province.

As of now, the recommendations have been received from the Colombo, Kalutara and Gampaha districts and these recommendations have been referred to the health authorities, and after the approval is received many schools in the Western province could be opened from February 15th.

There are altogether 492 schools in the Colombo district and the District Development Committees have recommended that there is no problem in reopening 412 out of those schools on the 15th of February 2021.

Accordingly, recommendation have been received from Committees to reopen 73 out of 76 schools

in the Colombo Divisional Secretary's Division, 29 out of the 31 schools in the Sri Jayawardenepura Divisional Secretary's Division, 17 out of the 49 schools in the Kaduwela Divisional Secretary's Division, 11 out of 26 schools in the Padukka Divisional Secretary's Division, 7 out of 32 schools in the Maharagama Divisional Secretary's Division and 24 out of 27 schools in the Ratmalana Divisional Secretary's Division and all schools in the Kolonnawa, Homagama, Kesbewa, Dehiwela, Moratuwa and Seethavaka Divisional Secretaries' Divisions on the 15th of February 2021.

According to the District Development Committee only 80 schools in the Colombo district cannot be reopened on the 15th of February.

Hon. Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris further said that all steps have been taken to conduct the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination from coming 01st of March to 11th of March and thereafter steps would be taken to reopen all schools in the Island with the approval of the health authorities on the 15th of March 2021.



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Advertorial

Seminar on 'Everything about tea' conducted by Institute of Chemistry Ceylon

A hot steaming cup of tea on a cold day warms you up, a glass of iced tea on a summerly hot day cools you down.

It cheers you up when you are depressed and pacifies you when you are anxious all around.

The world is split into various opinions and beliefs of different people but when it comes to tea, a unanimous and unified agreement is made that it is a crowd's favorite beverage.

There's hardly anyone who dislikes it. Several discoveries about the health benefits of tea has pushed it to the forefront of consumption.

After water, tea is the most commonly consumed beverage. It is an age-old remedy for common and ordinary ailments.

With the intention of dissemination knowledge on all avenues related to tea, especially on its health benefits as it enters



THE GENEVA PROCESS INVOLVES FOREIGN POLICY OF MEMBER STATES INTERACTING WITH MEMBER NATIONS, THE UN AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANISATIONS. FOREIGN POLICY IS AN EXTENSION OF DOMESTIC POLICY AND THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN REFLECT THE WHIMS OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL STATES

most bodies on a daily basis, the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon (ICChemC) has organized a webinar on the topic of "Everything about Tea" on 4th of March 2021, from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm.

AAT Sri Lanka plants 50 rare species in Beddagana wetland



The Association of Accounting Technicians of Sri Lanka (AAT Sri Lanka) conducted a tree planting and a clean-up event at the Beddagana Wetland park premises recently. According to the requirement given to AAT Sri Lanka, have planted over 50 rare plants inside the park where a new forest area is planned to be developed.

Also, AAT Sri Lanka has placed 20 name boards at the park premises in the purpose of identifying the general names and scientific names of the trees and plants. There were about 20 staff members were participated in the event and they have planted all the trees and placed the name boards and had a walk inside the park while conducting a clean-up activity. Further, there was an interactive session with the team and the staff was able to gain great knowledge about the biodiversity around the park and the history of the area.

Some of the species are, Antidesma ghaesembilla, Morus alba, Murraya paniculata, Asclepias curassavica, Bauhinia acuminata, Clerodendrum paniculatum, Duranta erecta, Hellenia speciosa, Hedyotis fruticosa, Woodfordia fruticosa, Annona reticulata, Tecoma stans, Saraca asoca, Osbeckia octandra, Mussaenda frondosa, Xanthostemon chrysanthus and Senna auriculata. Most of the plants are very rare and difficult to be seen in the city area; hence this would be a good opportunity for the people and students for their educational purposes in future.

Beddagana Wetland Park was opened in 2016 at Beddagana, Kotte and it extends to nearly 18 hectares



of wetland surrounding Diyawanna Lake. This park is very much famous among the school students and researchers to observe birds, butterflies, mammals, trees, plants, and aquatic animals.

This is the first time that AAT Sri Lanka has extended their corporate social responsibilities to the environ-

ment and it is also a valuable step to grow plants at the wetland according to the requirement of the park and the persistence of the plants are assured. AAT Sri Lanka is expecting to do more CSR activities during this year as to fulfill the social requirement under this pandemic situation.

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University of Kelaniya
Centre for Distance and Continuing Education

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (GENERAL) DEGREE SECOND EXAMINATION (EXTERNAL) - 2015

Applications are called from the eligible candidates for the above examination from 15th February to 2021 05th March 2021

(Applications are not posted individually to each candidate).

Duly filled applications should sent to Senior Assistant Registrar, Centre for Distance and Continuing Education, P.O. 03, University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya along with the customer's copy of the bank slip on or before 10.03.2021 by registered post. "BBMgt 2nd Exam - 2015" to be written on the top left corner of the envelope.

Incomplete and delayed applications will be rejected.

Application can be downloaded up to 05.03.2021.

<http://www.cdce.kln.ac.lk>

For further details please contact,

011-2987000
011-2987001
011-2914478

Registrar,
University of Kelaniya,
Kelaniya

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Bristol Institute's intake for LLM degree draws huge numbers

Developed to put legal business practices into the context of the global marketplace, giving students the knowledge and skills to work effectively within both Local and International Corporations, the LLM Masters in Commercial Law offered by Bristol Institute in partnership with the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE Bristol), recently completed its first successful intake in Sri Lanka with a large number of aspiring lawyers joining the program.

The interest garnered for the program stems from the degree being a first-of-its-kind that offers a specialist pathway for in depth study in law relating to the current business scenarios, that is designed to groom a new breed of legal practitioners who will be well equipped to take on the legal challenges that many organizations would face in



Chief Operating Officer M.J.M. Dilshad of Bristol Institute

the 'New Normal'.

The course is action-oriented and focuses on law, business transactions and operational skills, so

that students acquire the technical and interdisciplinary training that helps them become leaders in the legal services sector.

The one-year program serving as a quick return on investment, encompasses a broad, contextual and critical understanding of the area of Commercial Law and also covering the operation of judicial, legislative and administrative action in relevant domestic, European and International contexts.

The degree is designed by the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE Bristol), and is taught by a combination of top industry professionals who are both former and current practitioners, as well as research and teaching Academics who are focused on delivering practical know-how of the legal practice, rather than theory based knowledge.

Chief Operating Officer M.J.M. Dilshad for Bristol Institute stated "The LLM, is an intense one-year course, that enables students to study law at an advanced level and start to develop specialist knowledge in the field of commercial law.

In the post pandemic era it is predicted that we will see a spike in demand of commercial lawyers, due to the many challenges that organizations will face including restructuring, bankruptcy and employment law, which pick up when there is an economic downturn.

Consequently, demand for LL.M. graduates in these economic sectors is robust and our degree comprises of in-depth knowledge in all the key relevant subject areas that will equip our students to be well versed and trained to assist companies in volatile business situations."

Located at No 7, Walukarama Road, Colombo 3, the Institute offers students a state-of-the-art learning environment.

"Our commitment towards offering world class tertiary education in an affordable way to Sri Lankans drives us to keep setting the bar higher for our students" commented Dilshad, adding that the accomplishment of its first successful intake that has had an influx of students signing up for the program not only speaks volumes of the quality standards of the program, but is also a motivating factor for the institute to continue their quest in offering some of the best globally accredited degrees that will widen the scope and elevate the standards of the knowledge quantum of students in Sri Lanka.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) IN EDUCATION AND MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPhil) IN EDUCATION
CALLING FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

Applications for the Doctor of Philosophy in Education and Degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Education will be entertained from 14/02/2021 to 14/03/2021. These programmes will be only conducted in the Faculty of Education at the main campus in Nawala.

Medium of Study - These programmes are offered in three media: English, Sinhala and Tamil.

General Admission Requirements		Specific Admission Requirements of the Faculty of Education
Doctor of Philosophy in Education	Master of Philosophy in Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates who do not possess a Post Graduate qualification in Education of SLQF 9 or above will be considered after a selection process. All Candidates should successfully complete the short course in Research Methodology in Education conducted by the Faculty of Education (except those who possess two years Master with a research component of 18 course credits) prior to registration of the programme.
A candidate should have one of following qualifications: 1. A Master of Philosophy Degree in the field of Education Or 2. A Master's degree in the field of Education at SLQF 9 or above preferably in the field of Education with a significant research component Or 3. A Bachelor's Honours Degree of Level 6 in the field of Education with a minimum GPA of 3.00 on the scale 0-4 or Second Class (Lower Division). Or 4. An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate. And 5. Other specific requirements stipulated by the Faculty of Education.	The candidate should have one of the following qualifications: 1. A qualification of Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) Level 7 or above in the field of education, Or 2. A Bachelor's Honours Degree at Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) Level 6 with a minimum of thirty (30) course credits in the field of education. Or 3. An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate. And 4. Other specific requirements stipulated by the Faculty of Education.	
Application Form		Selection Procedure
Downloadable from the web site of the Faculty of Education https://www.ou.ac.lk/programmes-faculty-of-edu/		1. Candidates should submit a duly filled application form along with copies of birth certificate, National Identity card and highest academic qualifications and 2. Copy of certificate of successful completion of a short course in Research methodology in Education. 3. Submit a comprehensive research proposal according to the format given in the Faculty website.
Format for Proposal		Downloadable from the web site of the Faculty of Education https://www.ou.ac.lk/programmes-faculty-of-edu/

For further details; Assistant Registrar (aredu@ou.ac.lk), Faculty of Education, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka
Registrar - The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda.



APIIT GRADUATION 2020



It was a celebration of success for 338 students who graduated with Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Business, Computing and Law from Staffordshire University, UK at the annual APIIT Graduation Ceremony held at the BMICH on 10th February 2021. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman, University Grants Commission while Mr. Fabrice Cavallin, Managing Director, Nestle Lanka PLC graced the occasion as Guest of Honor.

We believe that these graduates are much more than professionals in business, computing and law. We believe that they are great communicators, great team players and lifelong learners, empathetic towards their fellow human beings and conscious of the environment and the world we live in.

It was a particularly fulfilling moment since the majority of these courageous young adults completed their final year amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic. These graduates are a fine example of what the human spirit is capable of when the odds are stacked against them.

We are very proud of our graduates and wish them well as they take on the world!



Chief Guest, Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman, University Grants Commission addressing the congregation



Guest of Honor, Mr. Fabrice Cavallin, Managing Director, Nestle Lanka PLC addressing the congregation



Mr. Bandula Egodage, Chairman, APIIT-Sri Lanka addressing the congregation



Professor Liz Barnes, Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University, UK sharing her message via video



Degrees were awarded by Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman, University Grants Commission and Mr. Fabrice Cavallin, Managing Director, Nestle Lanka PLC



Gold Medals were awarded by Mr. Fabrice Cavallin, Managing Director, Nestle Lanka PLC

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Advertorial

Religious Advisory Board appointed



The Ministry of Education presented appointment letters to the Religious Advisory Board at the Ministry of Education recently.

Minister of Education Prof. G.L. Pieris presented appointment letters to the Shri Rohana Chapter Ven. Omare Kassapa Nayake Thera, Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister and Prime Ministers Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs Co-ordinator Shiva Shri Dr. Babu Sharma Ramachandran Kurukkal, Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister and Prime Ministers Muslim Religious and Cul-

tural Affairs Co-ordinator Ash Seyed Dr. Hassan Moulana, Director of Education and Western Province Private Schools Co-ordinator Rev. Gemunu Dias and Sri Lanka National Christian Council General Secretary Rev. Maxwell Doss

Also Shiva Shri Dr. Babu Sharma Ramachandran Kurukkal drapes the golden shawl to the Minister of Education Prof. G.L. Pieris at this ceremony.

Additional Secretary to the Ministry Hemantha Premathilake, Commissioner of Examination Sarath Pujitha, Muslim Schools Unit Director Z. Thajudeen and Ministry officials were also present.



The Importance of the Chinese Language

There prevails an array of dialects confabulated in the momentous lands of the East. From among them, 'Mandarin' is considered to be the national language of the People's Republic of China. As of today, it is recognized as the most widely spoken language in the world, consisting of up to 1.3 billion native speakers. The language is not only articulated within the geographical perimeters of China but it exceeds beyond; to countless nations and parts of the world. The diaspora makes it arduous to find a town in the world that does not utilize Mandarin. It is apprehended as one of the four official languages of Singapore and acknowledged as one of the six official languages in the United Nations.

The origin of language in the Chinese culture retraces centuries. The discovery of the famous 'Oracle Bones' is believed to be the earliest examples of Chinese script. These bones date from the Shang Dynasty (approximately 1600 -1046 BCE). Through the course of time, the language has evolved and advanced to become the established Sinitic language spoken across the globe today.

All Chinese dialects are tonal, which means that the way words are pronounced varies their meanings. Mandarin has four tones in contrast to the other Chinese dialects which consist of up to ten distinct ones. Mandarin utilizes a standard accumulation of Chinese characters.

These characters possess a history dating back to more than two thousand years. The initial forms of Chinese characters were pictographs



**Amaz Ali Sahib, Founder
Mandarin Institute of Sri Lanka**

(graphic representations of real objects), but characters became more stylized and emanated the representation of ideas as well as objects. The Chinese characters do not constitute an alphabet or a compact syllabary. Rather, the writing system is roughly logo syllabic - writing that uses a combination of logographic and syllabic signs.

The twenty-first century provides Mandarin a vast and monumental prominence given the status quo. China is the world's largest manufacturing economy and exporter of goods. It is also the world's fastest-growing consumer market and second-largest importer of goods. It gloriously holds the title of being the second largest economy in the world and the world's most populous country, with a population of around 1.4 billion.

Furthermore, Mandarin is also

an open door to a colossal job market in all of the countries where Mandarin is the language of commerce. The knowledge of Mandarin opens doors to abundant opportunities for government and business careers as well as scientific and cultural exchanges.

Any business in the twenty-first century will be trying to engage in occupation in China and in doing so will be required Chinese speakers to negotiate agreements and develop these trade deals. With China rapidly becoming a world economic power, it opens its doors to individuals who possess knowledge of Mandarin for foreign investment which is valuable to business. The bilateral relationship between Sri Lanka and China is a broadly amicable and cordial alliance.

Nevertheless, contrasting the aforementioned xenophobic ethos, it is undeniably a much more elegant vista, an inspiring sentiment, an endeavor of rectitude to diminish the mindset of segregation and to consolidate, hand in hand despite our diverse backgrounds. To disregard our differences and to enjoin our divergent cultures through the true essence of beauty, in variety, what a beautiful way to do it than through a language.

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart" - Nelson Mandela

By learning the language of Chinese, an individual would not only be learning a language, but will also be engaging in a new culture. The said individual would be diminishing var-

ious stereotypes and creating a vastly pleasant atmosphere between individuals of Chinese descent.

The founder of the 'Mandarin Institute of Sri Lanka', Sri Lanka's first dedicated Chinese Language Institute mentions the following with regard to the vitality of the language.

"Sri Lankans are highly qualified and talented, what they lack is the pro activeness in my point of view. The history of our country being under many nations such as Portuguese, Dutch and British bear witness that we have always been reacting after the bus goes.

If our men and women would have quickly learnt the invaders language we could have avoided them sneaking in to our country, where as what happened was the opposite, they learned our language and took forward their agendas. We don't want history repeating hence why I urge our Sri Lankans to be proactive and learn this new language.

If we know to communicate well we can get rid of the xenophobic attitude and work towards prosperity. On many mutually beneficial opportunities."

Language is intrinsic to the expression of culture. It is the manner which enables the communication of values, beliefs and customs. It is the means by which culture, traditions and shared values may be conveyed and preserved. It promotes solidarity and understanding whilst providing an invigorating perspective of life.

"To have another language, is to possess a second soul"
- Charlemagne

ASGROPTIC Officiate Website launched by SLIIT

SUCCESS STORIES OF PROJECTS EXPECTED SOON

Association of Sri Lanka Growers of Plant Tissue Culture (ASGROPTIC) was formed as an outcome of the RIC (Research Innovation and Commercialization) grant offered by World Bank through AHEAD Operations in 2019. The RIC grant: 'Commercialization of Low Cost (CSUP) Micro-propagation for Export and Production of Improved Ornamental Plants through Genetic Modifications', was offered to the Faculty of Humanities and Sciences, SLIIT and the Principal Investigator is Emeritus Professor Sriyani E. Peiris.

ASGROPTIC was formed in order to share expert knowledge with growers of plant tissue culture, promote horticulture export in Sri Lanka by encouraging more enterprises to step in to export market, increase the economic status of families and to encourage women to engage in business to uplift the social status of their families.

Prof. Colin Peiris, Director, Academic Development & Quality Assurance of SLIIT is the founder President of the association. ASGROPTIC was formed with 17 founder members and now the membership has grown up to 21 members in the tissue culture field in Sri Lanka. The 17 founder members are: SLIIT (Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology), Natural Foliage, Ranmal Flora (Pvt.) Ltd., Ramya Horticulture (Pvt.) Ltd., Hayleys Agro Biotech (Pvt.) Ltd., Aruna Plant & Agrotech (Pvt.) Ltd., Dakshina Plant Nursery & biotech (Pvt.) Ltd., Canary Biotech (Pvt.) Ltd., Evergreen Agriculture (Pvt.) Ltd., Greengrow Agriculture (Pvt.) Ltd., Siyane Agro Bio-Tech (Pvt.) Ltd., Ora Flora Nursery (Pvt.) Ltd., Polyzon Industries (Pvt.) Ltd., Ruvini Aqua Plants Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd., Sound of Anthurium, Nimasha Plants (Pvt.) Ltd., Lumbini Plant Nursery (Pvt.) Ltd. There are 4 other full members as well - Eastern Horticulture (Pvt.) Ltd., Lakmini Orchid (Pvt.) Ltd., X Flora Horticulture (Pvt.) Ltd and J. C. Biotech (Pvt.) Ltd.

ASGROPTIC launched their official website (www.asgroptic.sliit.lk) on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at



SLIIT Malabe Campus. Prof. Lalith Gamage, Vice-Chancellor of SLIIT was the Chief Guest of the website launching ceremony. This event was also graced by Prof. Lakshman Ratnayake, Chairman of SLIIT, Prof. NimalRajapakse, Deputy Vice Chancellor of SLIIT and Dr. MalithaWijesundara, Dean/ Faculty of Humanities & Sciences of SLIIT and EDB officials - Ms. GayaniWijethilake and Gayan Weerasinghe. Website was launched after a successful discussion among members of the association and the SLIIT officials.

The Association and the website are big steps for SLIIT to enter into research collaborations with industry. This Association provides a

good platform for all the members/ establishments in the field to get expert knowledge and enhance their business opportunities said the Prof. Lalith Gamage in his welcome note. Furthermore, he stated that it is important to get more members in to the association and get the involvement of State Universities to get more benefits for the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) establishments in the sector. He invited members to contact SLIIT for the research related matters and future collaborations. Prof. Colin Peiris, President of the Association stated that this is a good milestone for the Tissue culture sector in Sri Lanka, as there are 21 leading establishments in the field who

are currently working with the Association.

The website will create a linkage among all the members of the Association and it broadens the knowledge sharing platform. ASGROPTIC website was designed by Dilanka Nayanajith under the supervision of JagathWickramaratne, Faculty of Computing.

Ms. Thushari Weerakoon, (Treasurer) Ramya Horticulture, Dr. P H R Suraweera (Secretary), Ranmal Flora Pvt. Ltd. and Dr. P.S.S. Perera, (Vice-President), Natural Foliage Pvt. Ltd. also shared their inputs about the work done through Association and extended their gratitude to SLIIT officials.



Arresting power of media literature



The newest type of literature that has been defined as a distinct genre is media. This categorization was created to encompass the many new and important kinds of texts in our society today, such as movies and films, websites, commercials, billboards, and radio programs. Any work that doesn't exist primarily as a written text can probably be considered media, particularly if it relies on recently developed technologies. Media literature can serve a wide variety of purposes.

The media has a strong social and cultural impact upon society. Because of its inherent ability to reach large number of public, it is widely used to convey message to build public opinion and awareness.

Among other things media can educate, entertain, advertise, and persuade. More and more educators are coming to recognize the importance of teaching media in the classroom.

Students are likely to be exposed to far more of this type of literature than anything else throughout their lives, so it makes sense to teach them how to be critical and active consumers of media. Internet literacy is a growing field, for example, since the skills required to understand and use online information differ in important ways from the skills required to analyze printed information.

Teaching media literacy is also a great way for educators to help students become participants in their own culture, through lessons on creating their own websites or home movies or commercials.

The term media is derived from Medium, which means carrier or mode. Media denotes an item specifically designed to reach a larger audience or viewers. The term was first used with the advent of newspapers and magazines.

However, with the passage of time, the term broadened by the inventions of radio, TV, cinemas and Internet.

The role of media in education is evident today by the number of computer labs, television sets and libraries that have become part of curriculum in most schools today.

Media comes in different forms and each form affects the way students learn and interpret information. Media has brought the world closer.

Media can be used in almost any discipline to enhance learning, both in class, and also for out-of-class assignments.

Short film and television clips, written articles, and blog postings can be viewed to reinforce concepts and spark discussion. Songs and music videos, especially when the lyrics are made available, can be used to the same effect.

The widespread availability of media, especially in relation to technology, is changing the ways educators teach as well as how students learn. Media in the classroom engage students in learning and provide a richer experience.

Interactive media, such as SMART Boards, allow students to move items around on a screen for illustrative purposes, a definite plus for those who are considered visual learners.

Many forms of media are current and updated multiple times

THE MOST EFFECTIVE TEACHERS DON'T DEPEND ON ONE SINGLE TEACHING STYLE BUT INSTEAD USE A VARIETY OF METHODS TO REACH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF STUDENTS. PROVIDING A RICH LEARNING EXPERIENCE THROUGH CLASSROOM MEDIA KEEPS STUDENTS FOCUSED AND ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN LEARNING



throughout the day. This access to real-time information allows teachers to lead discussions and assign projects about current events, which is significantly less tedious than having students find and bring current materials to class.

Media appeal to visual, auditory and kinesthetic learners. Students can watch a movie, listen to music or interact with digital media using top-notch teaching resources, such as individual touch screen tablets and SMART Boards which are essentially interactive chalkboards.

The most effective teachers don't depend on one single teaching style but instead use a variety of methods to reach the greatest number of students. Providing a rich learning experience through classroom media keeps students focused and actively engaged in learning.

Using newspapers, brochures, job application forms and news broadcasts provides authentic opportunities for students to learn using real-world media.

These media often simulate future educational and career experiences in which students must read, evaluate and interpret information based on items that they need in their daily lives. Added to these educators can use media to sharpen critical-thinking skills in those students can write a song, analyze a movie or evaluate a news broadcast.

Instructors can use the media to ask probing questions and facilitate discussions that extend beyond basic comprehension questions as well as asking students to create projects while actively engaged with classroom tools. These hands-on activities challenge students to use their creativity skills to make connections between ideas and concepts.

Using media in the classroom makes students aware of the ever-changing world of electronic communications; giving them a better understanding of such resources now will prepare them to be successful in the future.

Students not only learn how to use the Internet to access educational videos or locate digital periodicals for information, but they also learn the value of respecting and protecting expensive media tools.

In addition, they can learn how to determine the value of media and become familiar with methods to produce their own media.

Likewise, media should be an essential element of classrooms. It creates an authentic learning experience. Media in the classroom engage students in learning and provide a richer experience. It strengthens critical-thinking skills and their intrinsic motivation.

A small step taken by MSI - huge advancement for national Hospitality and Tourism industry

Ever since the start of the pandemic and the trying time that ensued, the whole country and especially the national Hospitality and Tourism industry have been greatly affected. All the progressive ideas for Sri Lanka to be the #1 tourism hotspot had to be put on hold. Yet, as said industry is one of our main sources of income and contributes to our international branding, we should never give up or give in to the pandemic.

In fact, we are now in a position of better understanding to live alongside the pandemic. Our ideas can be adjusted to adhere to the health and safety precautions in place and ensure protection for all.

For the students of MSI's Bachelor in Hospitality and Tourism Management, instead of going ahead with a generic, indistinctive event, they had planned one set to stand out; with MSU Malaysia President Professor Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri & MSU Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Junaina as patrons; support from MSU Post Graduate Centre Senior Vice-President Professor Dr Ali Khatibi and Management and Science Institute (MSI) Director Mr Sam Peiris; leadership and guidance by Event Management lecturer Mr Suranga Tennakoon; and participation by MSI management, administration, and academic staff.

Its primary aim being to raise awareness and bring forth enlightenment on the future of Sri Lanka's Hospitality and Tourism industry, the event is a programme for the A-Level students of St. Sebastian's Central College in Katuneriya; who had cited interest in getting to learn more about the industry and build a professional career in it.

The event, which is also based on the 4th Sustainable Development Goal 'Quality Education', is to be held in two sessions; a presentation and a discussion in the first session, and a live demonstration in the second.

This would be an opportunity to update all on the current situation and illuminate the way towards a brighter future for the Hospitality and Tourism industry. With four



FOR THE STUDENTS OF MSI'S BACHELOR IN HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT, INSTEAD OF GOING AHEAD WITH A GENERIC, INDISTINCTIVE EVENT, THEY HAD PLANNED ONE SET TO STAND OUT; WITH MSU MALAYSIA PRESIDENT PROFESSOR TAN SRI DR MOHD SHUKRI & MSU VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR DATUK DR JUNAINA AS PATRONS; SUPPORT FROM MSU POST GRADUATE CENTRE SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT PROFESSOR DR ALI KHATIBI AND MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE INSTITUTE (MSI) DIRECTOR MR SAM PEIRIS; LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE BY EVENT MANAGEMENT LECTURER MRS SURANGA TENNAKOON; AND PARTICIPATION BY MSI MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, AND ACADEMIC STAFF.

(MSI) on the 9th of February, 2021. Here's to success for all, and a positive change turning the thickness of uncertainty.

MSI is the Colombo center for MSU Malaysia. MSU achieved Excellent Status University twice on the national university-rating system SETARA by the Higher Education Ministry Malaysia. It achieved highest global standards by attaining 5 STARS in the 2016 QS Stars University Rating for Teaching, Employability, Facilities, Social Responsibility and Inclusiveness. It is Winner of The Most

Entrepreneurial Private University 2016 by MOHE, Malaysia. MSU is member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), UK and recognized by University Grant Commission (UGC) Sri Lanka.

For further information in obtaining MSU & MSI programmes please contact us on 0112576644, 0112576700, Hot Line 0770777880, email info@msi.edu.lk or visiting MSI Colombo at, No 300 Galle Road, Colombo 03 website www.msi.edu.lk or www.msu.edu.my

main areas of focus - travel and tour operations, front office operations, and F&B operations among them, the students shall be guided on their Hospitality and Tourism career pathways and become better equipped for career-making decisions later.

It is our express hope that in conducting this event with all the SOPs observed and adhered to, the outcomes include sparks of hope re-ignited for the industry, and for others to attain similar success in a not-too-distant future.

For the students of St Sebastian's, our expected take-away outcomes are:

- A better understanding of the inner-workings of the hospitality and tourism (H&T) industry;
- An increased interest in the H&T industry;
- Eradication of pessimistic ideas about being in the H&T industry amid the pandemic;
- Inspiration to achieve career goals and revive the national H&T industry.

Skills expected to be gained and aid progress in future professional H&T careers include:

- Presentation and organizational skills;
- Effective knowledge sharing;
- Feasibility planning for the industry post-coronavirus crisis;
- Crisis handling and management;
- Creativity and innovation;
- Teamwork.

Post-event, a previous Corporate

Social Responsibility (CSR) Project by the students, who had planted over 200 mangrove seedlings at Anawilundawa a few months back on the 19th of September 2020, will continue. The second phase of the project, aimed at supporting the adage of small changes leading to big impacts, has been designed to deliver the 14th and the 15th Sustainable Development Goals; respectively for Life Below Water and Life On Land.

The first meeting to set the wheels in motion into kick-starting the event was conducted at Management and Science Institute



msi TREE PLANTATION PROJECT AT ANAWILUNDAWA 2020
Photographer: Niraj Marasinghe





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Advertorial



Founder and Chairman of Informatics Group – Dr. Gamini Wickramasinghe with the winners



Stelan Bryan - Silver for Smart Shoe (IT Category)



Dilum de Silva - Bronze for Augmentor (IT Category)



Nisal Sudil - Merit Award for CadiRhythm (IT Category)

IIT bags many awards including first-ever 'BCS Chairman's Award'

NATIONAL ICT AWARDS (NBQSA) 2020

Informatics Institute of Technology (IIT), the pioneer in British Higher Education in Sri Lanka and the country's premier IT and Business Campus, won multiple awards including the first-ever BCS Chairman's Award at the recently-concluded National ICT Awards (NBQSA) 2020 held at the BMICH, continuing its winning trend in this prestigious Annual Award ceremony.

The BCS Chairman's Award was presented to IIT in recognition of having the highest number of Award-winning Students at the event as seven IIT Students' bagged awards for their outstanding IT and Business innovations. IIT students have been winning awards at National ICT Awards for several years and a number of



IIT received the BCS Chairman's Award for 'Tertiary Education Institute of the Year'

those winning innovations have gone on to receive international acclaim while also becoming successful in business ventures.



Hannah Natasha - Merit Award Chain of Ownership (Business Category)



Irfan Ismath - Gold Award for Trust Credit (Business Category)



Kavishma Jayasinghe - Silver for Style Guide (Business Category)



Gayalie Jayawardhane - Merit Award Trans Assist (Business Category)

SLASSCOM signs MoU with Open University of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's IT and BPM industry is one of the nation's fastest growing sectors with burgeoning potential both locally and overseas. With the industry in need of almost double the workforce it commands today, the Capacity Forum of Sri Lanka Association for Software Services Companies (SLASSCOM) has been continually investing its efforts to bridge the existing talent gap for IT professionals in the market.

"The IT industry has always looked at graduates to fuel its workforce, but given the urgency of the sector to bridge its skill gap, the Capacity Forum has been looking outside the box to empower non-graduates to take on such jobs that in turn will open up a plethora of new career opportunities for them" said SLASSCOM Chairman Channa Manoharan.

In line with this mission, the Capacity Forum of SLASSCOM has initiated a Boot Camp series targeting A/L qualified students. With its Future Careers Bridge programme in place to assesses Youth on their suitability for the IT sector via a series of IT-centric assessments, and undergo soft skills development and IT-fundamentals for six months, prospective students are selected for the Boot Camp programme where they are provided scholarships for learning while working for internships with reputed companies. Based on an open source syllabus compiled by industry experts to prepare students for the industry, the Boot Camp programme is centred around the concept of industry-focused development.

"We want to fix the gaps in the existing education system and move away from a theory-heavy teaching to include a lot of practical application," said Mangala Perera, General Council Member - SLASSCOM

The first in this series was a MoU recently signed between SLASSCOM and the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL). The MoU was signed by Channa Manoharan - Chairman SLASSCOM and Prof. S. A. Ariadurai - Vice Chancellor - Open University of Sri Lanka, with key members from both SLASSCOM and OUSL that included Ashique M. Ali - Vice Chairman 2 SLASSCOM, Nishan Mendis - Board Member - Capacity Forum SLASSCOM, Chaminda

de Silva - Executive Director SLASSCOM, Didula Perera - Program Manager SLASSCOM, Vindya Jayasena - Registrar - OUSL, Dr. Ajith Madurapperuma - Senior Lecturer & Director, Industry Liaison Centre, OUSL and Nadeshani Pragharathne - Manager, Industry Liaison Centre, OUSL.

Through this program students will be picked to complete an initial training following which, they will undergo interviews for internships starting from February with reputed IT companies which in turn are offering them scholarships to learn while working.

"We want students to learn industry relevant skills in the preliminary six months, falling under three-broad categories: soft skills such as developing a growth mindset and positive thinking, communication skills including language skills in writing, reading, comprehension and presentation and of course technical skills which will encompass the essential tech stack needed for IT jobs. The tech skills will include fundamentals of programming such as computational thinking, data structures, creating data bases and APIs, and web and mobile development based on the latest available technology stacks. "We will also cover entrepreneurship, industry insights how to apply software development methodology and user experience among others", explained Mangala Perera.

The programme's delivery will be via paired teaching where for each module, students will learn from an industry expert who will show the applicability and industry context as well as an Academic from the University who will cover the theory areas.

With the IT sector being an integral part of a country's economic development, justified ever more strongly by the current pandemic which has rendered the sector as the backbone of a functioning society, the growth of IT jobs and the demand for IT experts are increasing at an accelerated pace. SLASSCOM as the National Chamber for the knowledge and innovation industry in Sri Lanka hopes to make the Boot Camp program, a game changer in the industry.

Rejuvenate Your career with a top ranked University at MSU

There is no doubt that 21st-century economic dynamics have changed the landscape of businesses of home and abroad. Global organizations and establishments at all levels of management, in corporate and industrial sectors seek cost-effective ways to stay afloat like in the red ocean. One vital question remains: are the current human capital or talent resources able to adapt to the megatrends of disruptive changes?

The combined approaches of Management & Science University (MSU), Malaysia to 21st-century learning and industry-driven education have built strong traditions that enhance current and future pools of human capital assets to address the challenges of 21st-century Knowledge Economy.

The MSU Master of Business Administration (MBA), centered under Graduate School of Management (GSM) is geared towards producing highly competent professionals who are globally competitive in the relevant fields and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

The school provides opportunity for executive careers to be boosted with expanded global perspectives. Focused on real-world practices, students can go up the corporate ladder as competitive individuals.

MSU offers an affordable MBA, meeting world-class standards in teaching and learning, with industrial collaborations that create a sustaining network of graduates and managers who are well prepared to face the demands of 21st business borders.

This programme aims to enhance students' credentials and knowledge to perform effectively in a cutting-edge business environment.

The curriculum provides a comprehensive grounding in general management theory with a focus on strategy, decision-making, entrepreneurship and leadership.

MSU's MBA remains high in the priority list of 21st century education for professionals and leaders in generating business-centric skills to meet human capital demands of new business perspectives around the globe.



Features of the MSU's MBA programme;

- Industry-based Dissertations: The research work is an integral part of the Masters programmes and is closely supervised by faculty members from MSU - Malaysia and MSI - Sri Lanka. Students are encouraged to complete an industry - based dissertation that is directly relevant to their work. In addition, personal supervisors are also assigned in relation to their dissertations.
- MBA Modules: Adopting global standards of industry best practices,

MSU's MBA modules pioneer new direction in building capacity and enhancing key abilities for all levels of management spectrum in business innovation, strategy, and decision - making skills across Entrepreneurial, Management, Finance, ICT technology, Governance, and Human Resources spectrum. MSU MBA seeks to transform the real-world practices into classrooms for an immersive 360-degree experiential learning excitement.

- Awards and Accreditation: MSU has achieved Excellent Status University thrice on the national



University - rating system SETARA by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE). It has achieved highest global standards by attaining 5 STARS in QS Stars University Rating for Teaching, Employability, Facilities, Social Responsibility, and Inclusiveness. It is the Winner of The Most Entrepreneurial Private University by MOHE, Malaysia. MSU has also been awarded Platinum 5 Crowns by the UK's Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges and Universities (ASIC). MSU is Asia's first to be recognized by Netherlands - based

ACEEU as an Entrepreneurial and Engaged University and is the Asia Pacific Best Brand in Education for Leadership and Human Capital Development.

- International recognitions: MSU is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), UK and recognized by University Grant Commission (UGC) Sri Lanka. MSU accreditors include the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), the United Kingdom's Accreditation Services for International Schools, Colleges & Universities (ASIC), the Japan's Alliance on Business Education and Scholarship for Tomorrow (ABEST21) and the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial & Engaged Universities (ACEEU).
- Academic Faculty: MSU Graduate School of Management has an excellent panel of lecturers both part time and full time who offer a stimulating and challenging learning experience. Our full-time faculty is supplemented by visiting lecturers, experienced industry leaders and experts.

- Excellent Student Support Services: The MSU Graduate School of Management provides a supportive environment in which individuals can flourish and grow in their pursuit of knowledge. Students are provided with individual assistance on academic matters through our mentoring system

- Flexible Programme Delivery: The program is designed to help students with work life balance.



MSU currently ranks in the Top 100 among the world's top young Universities, Top 200 among Asia's best Universities, Top 301+ for Graduate Employability Ranking and Top 401+ for University Impact. Ranked by both Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and Times Higher Education (THE), MSU's world rankings place it in the Top 47% of the world's best Universities in QS World University Ranking 2021 and Top 200 for impact on quality education, gender equality, and decent work and economic growth in The University Impact Rankings 2020).

Besides MBA and PhD programmes, MSU's offers key degree programmes that students can complete in Sri Lanka, MSU Malaysia or partner Universities worldwide including, Australia, UK, Japan and Germany.

MSU is having their local learning center, Management & Science Institute (MSI) offers students with a wide range of Diploma programmes with aims to develop knowledge and skills of students while preparing them to obtain employment or continue their higher studies. MSI currently offers diploma programmes in a wide range of interests including Hospitality and Tourism Management, Biomedical Science, Event Management, Business Management, Accounting and Dialysis Technology.

Further information on the programmes can be obtained from Management & Science Institute (MSI) at No 300 Galle Road, Colombo 3 or contacting us on 0112576644, 0112576700, Hot Line 0770777880, email enquiry@msi.edu.lk website www.msu.edu.my

SLIM Startup Incubator 2020 launched

The Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing recently launched the SLIM Startup Incubator 2020 to empower aspiring local entrepreneurs to get their business ideas off the ground. The Startup Incubator will provide valuable support and resources to make their startup story a success. Rather than trying to implement a business idea on their own, without proper focus and guidance, an incubator can provide a concrete framework for startups to overcome pitfalls and accelerate growth. The programme has been exclusively designed targeting students of the Institute who wish to establish their own ventures. Accordingly, both past and present students of the Institute can submit their business ideas to the Incubator. The SLIM Startup Incubator addresses the intangibles that lead to the success of startups - Technical Assistance, Consultation and Strategic Guidance. The Institute believes that the Startup Incubator has the potential to spawn success stories in the future.

Startup incubators play a pivotal role in the startup ecosystem and have the ability to improve



outcomes of startups. For budding entrepreneurs, startup incubators are a golden ticket with a promise to help their businesses hit the big time. As well as helping new businesses survive, incubators add value to the entire business ecosystem. If a country wants to see more innovative ventures down the road, there is a need to create a nourishing culture and a supportive ecosystem where entrepreneurship is pervasive.

With a supportive programme of this nature, SLIM aims to ensure that the most promising entrepreneurs in the country receive the support they need to take up challenges in



establishing their ventures. Through the Startup Incubator, resources such as experienced mentors, engagement with local entrepreneurs and legal, financial, product development facilities and marketing services will be made available for the selected entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship is a definite catalyst to stimulate growth in the backdrop of economic downfall, falling growth rates, unemployment and environmental changes and now is the time to lift up the best aspiring entrepreneurs.

The 10 most innovative business ideas will be shortlisted and selected



for the programme. The selection process will be carried out under the guidance of an eminent advisory committee. The selection criteria include several aspects: Level of Innovativeness, Level of Creativity, Commercial viability, Potential of the idea to solve a social or an environmental issue and Potential of creating employment opportunities.

Commenting on the SLIM Startup Incubator, Roshan Fernando, President, SLIM said "SLIM, the National Body for Marketing is committed to empower local entrepreneurs to propel the national economy. Most importantly, we strive to strengthen

local entrepreneurs and give them wings to reach the pinnacle of success so that they can become an invaluable asset to the national economy. The whole idea behind this concept is to encourage the establishment of innovative startups, inspire entrepreneurs to expand their ventures and help create new employment opportunities in the country".

Asanka Perera, Chairman, Corporate Communications and Sustainability, SLIM, said "The SLIM Start-Up Incubator is the ultimate incubation programme to breathe life into your dream start-up. SLIM students - both past and present - can apply for this programme if they have a viable business idea in mind. The SLIM Start-Up Incubator addresses the intangibles that lead to the success of your start-up - Technical Assistance, Consultation and Strategic Guidance. The 10 most innovative business ideas will be shortlisted and selected by an eminent panel of business experts. This is a golden opportunity to unleash the entrepreneurial zest ignited within you".

"I'm pleased to contribute to the SLIM Startup Incubator as a key stakeholder. A host of training programs will be conducted, covering numerous topics essential for start-up businesses to explore new boundaries. With the knowledge gained through the trainings, we expect students to convert their ideas into successful businesses. The SLIM Startup Incubator is sure to nurture many future businesses", added Sanath Senanayake, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, SLIM.

SLIM is the National body for Marketing in Sri Lanka and has been promoting marketing excellence and elevating the status of marketing since 1970. The Institute is a member of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL), Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA) and Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL). SLIM also has received ISO 9001:2015 certification in recognition of its superior quality management system and ISO 2990:2010 for Learning Service Provider (LSP), providing non-formal education and training services.

SLTC - Deakin Intake Now On:

Four New Degrees offered by Prestigious Deakin University, Australia

Sri Lanka's foremost provider of quality foreign education in technology and related disciplines, Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC), has opened its 2021 intake coinciding with the institution's partnership with Prestigious Deakin University, Australia.

Through this partnership, SLTC will provide onsite 'study support' for four highly sought after Deakin University degrees, namely, Bachelor of Artificial Intelligence (3 years), Bachelor of Computer Science (3 years), Bachelor of Information Technology (3 years) & Bachelor of Software Engineering (4 years).

All of the teaching will entirely be via Deakin's Cloud Campus. The SLTC - Deakin collaboration was initiated by Prof Bas Baskaran, a distinguished academic of Sri Lankan heritage, serving as the Associate Dean - International & Partnerships, Faculty of Science, En-

gineering & Built Environment at Deakin University.

SLTC will help to facilitate an authentic 'Deakin Experience' via the Deakin Cloud Campus which has a student population exceeding 60,000 at present. Deakin Cloud Students receive the same recognition and access to resources as on-campus students from day one.

Eligible students who wish to join this unique pathway to transfer to Deakin in Australia will be guaranteed a 50% tuition fee bursary for the first year of the above mentioned degrees (and the first two years of the Software Engineering degree) for the upcoming 2021 March and July intakes.

The Founder President/ CEO Eng. Ranjith Rubasinghe: "Deakin University has decided to offer these discounts as a way to incentivise school-leavers to pursue higher education notwithstanding the challenges posed by the



Engineer Ranjith Rubasinghe President/ Chief Executive of Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC)

pandemic. We are excited to make education affordable as well as accessible while also making sure the quality is not compromised; in fact we hope to pursue more meaningful collaboration



within the year to expand our offering to cater to diverse interests."

Meanwhile SLTC also launched their Center for Global Education (CGE) early this year to serve as an education center for faculty & students. The unit is responsible for globalizing research, teaching & outreach mis-

sions, facilitating direct transfers and assisting students upon request to leverage competencies to meet the global expectation.

Deakin University is highly competent with more than 40 years of distance & online teaching excellence. It is ranked in the top 1% universities

worldwide (Shanghai Rankings World University Rankings). SLTC is the first research-based, residential, private university with strong industry links locally & internationally offering a wide array of Ministry of Education & University Grants Commission-approved degrees and diplomas.

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Applications are invited from 15th February 2021 upto 15th March 2021 from qualified candidates for registration for the following external degree programmes of the University of Kelaniya for the Academic Year 2018/19 through online methodology

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Advertorial

ACCA and SLTC sign MoU

Accredited as the largest and fastest growing global professional accountancy body, The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Sri Lanka, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC), the only corporate powered, research-based, degree awarding, Higher Education Institute in Sri Lanka.

With the demand for those with financial and technological acumen outstripping supply, ACCA and SLTC expressed their confidence in the association, with both parties strongly believing that new beginnings such as this MoU will be one of the key steps undertaken in contributing towards the progress of both professions that will help produce a highly skilled and productive workforce for the country.



The teams at ACCA and SLTC at the MoU signing

The MoU covers a number of initiatives that range from academic activities and placing emphasis on the two educational entities partnering in knowledge sharing and in giving

opportunities to both students of ACCA and SLTC to benefit from training programmes and workshops that will be organized on areas of common interest, as well as both entities

engaging in capacity building initiatives that will be of mutual benefit to students of both ACCA and SLTC.

"In the era of big data, artificial intelligence and predictive analytics,

the finance function can increasingly add business value through greater accuracy, efficiency and strategic insight by using these technologies for their finance predictions. As such, I believe this MoU will pave the way for ACCA students who will be future finance leaders, to gain the right mix of digital skill sets and business intelligence that complement their ACCA qualification" said Ranjith Rubasinghe, Founder President and CEO of SLTC "adding that the students of SLTC will in turn greatly benefit from gaining the globally renowned ACCA qualification as good financial literacy can help them succeed in any area of business.

He further emphasized that with SLTC being one of the leading research intensive Institutes in the country, the MoU can give an opportunity for both organizations to

collaborate and conduct research initiatives in areas that will relate to enhancing and uplifting the status and quality of both professions.

Ms. Nilusha Ranasinghe Head of ACCA Sri Lanka endorsed "SLTC and ACCA share similarities in our mission, that of working to ensuring our students deliver the highest professional standards to their employers.

The tangible value of both ACCA and SLTC students lies in their integrity, professionalism and the expertise they will cultivate through our rigorous qualifications and the ongoing commitment to Continuous Professional Development. Therefore it makes perfect sense that we should formally mark our future cooperation, and we look forward to partnering with SLTC as we jointly work to enhance our respective professions".

Horizon Campus tie with OREL Corporation



The signing of the partnership between OREL Corporation and Horizon Campus

Leading higher education institute Horizon Campus recently partnered with the company behind some of the country's most recognized lighting brands, OREL Corporation, to initiate an Industry - Academic collaboration with the aim of fostering and nurturing students in the areas of entrepreneurship and innovation. This partnership was established through Electronic and Robotic division of OREL Corporation which provides Engineering equipment software and solutions being the sole authorized distributor of NI, Quanser and Academic partner in Sri Lanka for Lucas Nulle.

The MoU was signed between the CEO of Horizon Campus, Ajitha Wanasinghe, and Chaminda de Silva, General Manager, Business Development, OREL Corporation, in the presence of the Chairman of Horizon Campus, Upul Daranagama.

The partnership will entail in OREL Corporation offering internship and training opportunities for undergraduates of Horizon Campus as well as offering career scopes within the organization. Additionally OREL will also provide industry inputs for Course and Curriculum Development, support students on field visits and assignment work and engage with the Academic panel of Horizon Campus to collaborate and foster a constructive knowledge exchanging approach to conduct research initiatives that combine the best of Academic thinking with the expertise of industry.

The MoU benefits the institute through the support and provision of valuable experience for students in working in real business situations and in being trained on gaining an entrepreneurial mindset, whilst OREL Corporation will gain valued insights from

academics through their research collaborations. In this context, the partnership will provide both parties networking opportunities, pathways to learn and the ability to work together in producing an innovative and talented workforce for the industry.

Ajitha Wanasinghe, CEO of Horizon Campus said "It is vitally important that our students are given an insight into life after graduating and programs such as this are a perfect way of training, guiding and developing them to gain some valuable skills that they can use in the 'world of work'. We are extremely grateful to OREL for putting together this exciting programme that will no doubt be invaluable to the students as they look towards the future".

Inspired by a purpose to harnessing youth in innovation and entrepreneurship Chaminda De Silva, General Manager, Business Development, OREL Corporation stated "The role of young people in shaping the economy is clear and given this, and the increasingly young labor force of Millennials, there is a growing need to investing in youth to give them the skills needed to prepare them for the jobs of the future. In addition, entrepreneurship and innovation are becoming defining features for the success of many businesses and industries where research has shown that developing students with creativity and innovation skills contributes towards the development and commercialization of new products and services in businesses. We at OREL are keen to nurture and harness the talents of young people in this sphere, and programs such as this initiative entered into with Horizon Campus will pave the way towards making that mission a reality".

CSSL New President calls for professional recognition for ICT workforce

Upon election as the 15th President of Sri Lanka's Apex ICT professional body The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), Damith Hettihewa called for due recognition for local ICT practitioners in the country as Chartered ICT Professionals at the 32nd Annual General Meeting of CSSL which was held on 26th January 2020. At this meeting Damith Hettihewa, Managing Director of Nimbus Cloud Lanka Limited was elected as the President.

"Sri Lanka has a direct ICT workforce exceeding 120,000 according to ICT industry workforce survey published in 2019 by Information and Communication Technology Agency

(ICTA) and Industry earns foreign exchange earnings to the tune of US dollars 1.2 Billion. However our ICT practitioners do not have means of achieving Chartered ICT Professional status locally as the Act to incorporate Sri Lanka's ICT professional body has been delayed by successive governments" Hettihewa said in his inaugural speech upon his election.

CSSL has been voicing that this industry needed the ICT status for more than a decade but it is unfortunate to note that it could not proceed to 2nd reading stage in the Parliament due to eternal delays and subsequent parliament dissolutions.

In the UK, British Computer Society (BCS) has been mandated through Royal Charter issued in 1984 by Privy Council to grant Chartered Professional status within the ICT industry. Sri Lanka ICT professionals have to pay foreign professional bodies such as British Computer Society (BCS) or Australian Computer Society (ACS) to maintain Chartered Professional status. ICT professionals serving in armed forces are entitled for a professional allowance and these professionals do not have a means to receive professional allowance due to the absence of Chartered Professional status through a local professional body.

Lack of professional recognition is a major drawback to attract best



CSSL President Damith Hettihewa

talents to the local ICT industry. A/L students are reluctant to pursue the IT route at GCE Advanced Level as ICT qualifications in Sri Lanka does not offer prestigious professional status similar to Medical, Engineering or Accountancy professions.

"Act to incorporate the Computer Society of Sri Lanka enabling it to grant Chartered IT Professional status to local ICT practitioners has already been vetted by the legal draftsman and ready for Cabinet and Parliamentary approvals. Successive CSSL councils have been pursuing this dire industry need but unfortunately successive governments have given less priority for recognizing ICT profession in Sri Lanka. Government and ICT Industry are aggressively chasing US dollars 3 Billion export target. This needs an estimated direct workforce of 300,000 ICT professionals. Hence enacting of the professional body mandated to offer Chartered status for ICT professionals is imperative", Hettihewa emphasized.

However, Hettihewa was optimistic in this regard and said that he sees a great opportunity for the ICT industry to realize its objectives as the Head of the state has decided to handle the subject of technology in order to fast track national development in the eve of 4th industrial

"THE 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION TOO WILL CREATE NEW WEALTHY NATIONS SIMILAR TO EUROPE, AMERICAS AND JAPAN WHICH BECAME RICH NATIONS AS A RESULT OF 3 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTIONS RESPECTIVELY

revolution. He believed that industry needs will get the necessary attention and solutions directly from the highest office of the Government.

CSSL is a provisional signatory to the Seoul Accord, the international accreditation agreement for professional computing and Information Technology Academic degrees, between the professional bodies in its signatory countries such as the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and Japan through which CSSL brings international standards and recognition on ICT related degrees to Sri Lanka.

"CSSL accredited local degree holders are recognized by professional bodies of the respective signatory countries of Seoul accord mentioned above. CSSL has fulfilled its obligations by meeting the necessary criteria to become a signatory of the Seoul Accord and made necessary investments to get international recognition for ICT degrees of local Universities. Enacting CSSL will also expedite the process of achieving full signatory status of the Seoul Accord. It is unfortunate that CSSL has yet to fulfill its local obligation to the industry, but it has to depend on the government for the same", Hettihewa concluded on the subject of professional recognition.

Hettihewa also spoke about the CSSL's intention to initiate the policy advocacy role during his tenure in order to country to leapfrog and adopt frontier technologies such as AI, Data Science, Drones and Autonomous transportation etc. fast under 'Contribute' pillar of the CSSL 2021 Program.

"THE 4th Industrial Revolution too will create new wealthy nations similar to Europe, Americas and Japan which became rich nations as a result of 3 industrial revolutions respectively. If Sri Lanka to leverage this new opportunity to become wealthy, it needs to fast track policy formation to be ahead of its competitive countries to adopt and leverage frontier technologies very fast. CSSL having the cream of ICT professionals as its members can assist government to fast track this process" said Hettihewa

"As a result of far sighted policy formation in education and public health a long time ago, Sri Lanka fares well now in human development indexes such as Life Expectancy and Literacy and are on par with developed nations. However we are lagging far behind in digital indexes. CSSL is in a position to extend expertise through its eminent members to help the Government to improve Sri Lanka's ranking in ICT Development Index, UN eGov Index, Doing Business Index etc. and we intended to deliver such offerings under CSSL 'Contribute' pillar" Hettihewa further said.

CSSL, established in 1976, is the Apex body of ICT professionals in the country. It has been playing a pioneering role in promoting Information Technology, Standards, Ethics and professionalism among those engaged in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and is the longest serving ICT body in the country. CSSL is a member of the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC) and the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) which is the umbrella body of Computer Societies and ICT professional's bodies of all countries.

APIIT Sri Lanka holds Annual Convocation 2020

338 OBTAIN UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE DEGREES

Colombo: The Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT) Sri Lanka held its annual Convocation at the Main Hall of the BMICH on February, 10, 2021. Chairman, University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka, Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge graced the occasion as Chief Guest while Managing Director, Nestlé Lanka PLC, Fabrice Cavallin joined as Guest of Honour.

The Convocation saw 338 graduands of APIIT obtain globally recognized undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Business, Computing and Law awarded by Staffordshire University, UK. There were 38 First Class Honours passes, 117 Second Class (First Division) passes and 10 Postgraduate distinctions.

Chairman of APIIT Sri Lanka, Bandula Egodage addressing the gathering said, "The annual Convocation is the most remarkable event in our academic calendar. APIIT's purpose is to nurture leaders who uplift lives; you are the leaders of the future. You will have the unique opportunity and profound responsibility to contribute to the economic and social advancement of our country - your hopes, your dreams, your energy and your efforts will shape and create the future for all of us".

The colourful ceremony was a joyous occasion where students who entered APIIT as young undergraduates



Chairman, University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka, Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Guest of Honour, Managing Director, Nestlé Lanka PLC, Fabrice Cavallin and other dignitaries at the Convocation

finally reaped the fruits of their hard work and formally bid goodbye to student life. Reflecting the high standards of education at APIIT leading to a rich learning experience and overall personality development, the graduands walked on to the stage to receive their Awards exuding confidence and were poised to take on the challenges of their career and life ahead.

Chief Guest, Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka in his Convocation address said "Today APIIT is awarding 338 students a degree that will take them far in their lives. I would first like to convey my best wishes to those who are graduating from this esteemed institution. This is indeed a great milestone in your lives. You have faced many challenges and have come

on top gracefully. I request you to take a moment to appreciate the significance of this achievement and appreciate the circumstances in which you are receiving this Award".

"The country and the world are facing a pandemic; the most severe in recent history. During a time when the freedom to breathe has been restricted, you have completed a great academic feat. You have successfully laid the foundation stone to your journey ahead. This is indeed a moment of celebration. Therefore, take a minute to appreciate yourself, your family, friends, loved-ones, your Alma Mater and most importantly your motherland on this achievement. You have received a qualification that will take you far and will be the cornerstone of your success story and I for one am very proud of

you", he added.

Professor Liz Barnes, Vice-Chancellor of Staffordshire University, UK who shared her message via video said "Every one of you graduating today has achieved something significant and special. Being awarded a degree is a life changing achievement and a culmination of considerable effort, hard work, commitment and determination. It comes at the end of a period of sustained learning through acquiring new knowledge, researching ideas, critically appreciating them, challenging accepted views, sharing understanding and debating views with others. All these skills will help you with your future and enable you to make a difference for yourself, those around you and the Organisations you create, work for or support".

"The last year of your degree has coincided with a global pandemic that has disrupted our normal ways of studying, working and living. This has required you to adapt to new and different ways of learning and working. In overcoming these additional barriers, you have demonstrated your ability to adapt and change - skills that will be essential for your future career success", she added.

In his speech, Guest of Honour, Fabrice Cavallin, Managing Director, Nestlé Lanka PLC said, "Today, the world is in a state of constant fast-paced change, with thousands of trends and an overflow of information. I'd like to pass on some of my own learnings over the years that will help you to succeed in this new reality. Be a critical thinker, keeping an open mind and separating facts from opinions. You have learnt it at your University, please continue to cultivate it. Lifelong learning is essential otherwise you will become outdated very quickly. It will always help you discover new opportunities. Thirdly, the fear of failing is what keeps us from stepping out of our comfort zone and doing things differently. Failing is not bad, you have to take it positively and learn from it. It will make you stronger on your road to success".

He went on to say, "Finally, find your purpose. This last learning has been crucial for me, and I would have

been happy to discover it earlier in my life. Purpose is why we exist it's what motivates us and what makes us wake up in the morning. It gives meaning to what we do. Once you find your purpose, approach everything with that in mind - it will fulfill you and make you happy. You are the generation that can drive positive change. Live your purpose with passion. I wish you a great start to this new exciting stage of your life".

A highlight of the graduation ceremony was the awarding of Gold Medals to students who performed best in their respective streams. The gold medalists were Hanau Fathimath (Software Engineering), Chanaka Shehan Marasinghe, (Computer Networks and Security), Yeheni Ama Weerakkody (International Business Management), Athika Naahid Mohamed Mackie (Law), Rukshi de Silva (MBA), Deshan Kuruvita-Aratchy (MSc - Technology Management) and Arith Seneviratne (LLM).

APIIT Sri Lanka is a leading higher education institution with a reputation for quality and standards and has a longstanding partnership with Staffordshire University, UK. To date, the Staffordshire University - APIIT Sri Lanka collaboration has produced nearly 4000 alumni who hold key positions in various industries spanning the world.



SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY (SLRCS)

If you are proactive, highly motivated, results-oriented and ready to embark on a challenging career - Come join us

POST	QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE	COMPETENCIES REQUIRED
Assistant Manager – Health 01 Position Based in National Headquarters in Colombo HRM 774 Attractive Remuneration, depending on the Qualifications, Experience & Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Degree in either Public Health, Health Promotion, Health & Care or related discipline from a recognized institution. 03 years' post-qualification experience in project implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated experience in project administration, human resources, logistics and assets management. Sound planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting skills. Excellent in external and internal coordination relevant to project implementation. Excellent public relations, leadership and interpersonal skills. Well-developed language skills in oral and written Sinhala / Tamil and English. Proficiency in MS Office Applications.

General Requirements

- Sound understanding of humanitarian, community and volunteer-based service interventions.
- Should be a quick learner with the ability of following SLRCS management guidelines and procedures.
- Should be a team player who is self-motivated with the ability of working in challenging circumstances.
- Abide by and work according to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Fundamental Principles.

The SLRCS conducts its general administrative and operational affairs in English Language and the appointment will be on fixed term contract basis. Only short-listed applicants will be called for interviews.

Please email your application to: jobs@redcross.lk OR post to Director General, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, No. 106, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07 on or before 25.02.2021 (HRM 774)

VACANCIES
 SENIOR LECTURER | LECTURER



BE A PART OF A WORLD-CLASS TEAM

National School of Business Management (NSBM Green University), the Premier Degree School in Sri Lanka, with an excellent academic environment and outstanding facilities, is in search of outstanding personalities as **fulltime academics** with relevant qualifications to join the NSBM Team.

SUBJECT AREAS

FACULTY OF COMPUTING

1. Computer Networking: Network Virtualization, Network Management and Automation, Routing and Switching, Infrastructure Governance and Management, User experience monitoring and Management.
2. Computer Security: Information Security & Assurance, Penetration Testing, Digital Forensic, Cyber Defense Management, Cryptography & Steganography, Digital Certification, Firewall & Perimeter Defense.
3. Data Science: Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, Natural Language Processing, Neural Networks, Data Mining.
4. Computer Science & Software Engineering: Web & Mobile Application Development, IoT & Embedded Systems, Computer & Software Architecture, Cloud Application Development, Parallel & Distributed Computing.
5. Information Systems: Enterprise Architecture, Software Process Management, IT Audit and Control.

FACULTY OF BUSINESS

1. Logistics Management (Aviation Operations & Management, Port Operations & Management, Transport Planning & Modelling)
2. English Language and Communication
3. Human Resource Management
4. Business Psychology
5. International Management
6. Business Economics and statistics

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

1. Mechanical / Mechatronics Engineering
2. Electrical and Power Engineering
3. Electrical and Electronics Engineering
4. Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering
5. Computer Systems Engineering

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN STUDIES

1. Building Science
2. Building Technology (Acoustic & Lighting)
3. Quantity Surveying
4. Design visualization – Excellent skills on free hand drawings, perspectives and manual rendering
5. Digital Design and Communication (3D Max, Photoshop, Illustrator, Digital Rendering Technologies)

QUALIFICATIONS

SENIOR LECTURER

- A Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree in an appropriate field of specialization from a recognized university. An earned Doctorate will be an added advantage.
- At least 5 years of teaching experience at the undergraduate/graduate level in a recognized university.

LECTURER

- A Bachelors Degree in an appropriate field of specialization with a first class from a recognized university.
- A Masters Degree and lecturing experience will be an added advantage.

TEMPORARY LECTURER

- We are also looking for fresh graduates who have a Bachelors Degree in an appropriate field of specialization with a first class from a recognized university to join our NSBM team as academics.

Candidates should also possess strong interpersonal skills, ability to work independently and unsupervised, be resourceful, be committed and aspire to succeed, be self-motivated, be able to thrive in a fast and high pressure work environment and be prepared to work long and irregular hours.

Attractive remuneration packages beyond industry standards are on offer for the ideal candidate. Please apply via registered post with a cover letter which

indicates your fields of expertise and a detailed curriculum vitae with the position marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope or email your CV to careers@nsbm.ac.lk with the position applied on the subject line to reach us on or before **25th February 2021**.

VICE CHANCELLOR
 National School of Business Management,
 NSBM Green University,
 Pitipana, Homagama.



NSBM Green University | Mahewwatla, Pitipana, Homagama. | E-mail: careers@nsbm.ac.lk



JOIN OUR TEAM
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT - COMPUTING

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Responsible for the overall operation of the Department of Computing.
- Deliver lectures on IT related subjects.
- Coordinate and prepare the curricular and syllabus of the Department of Computing.
- Monitor and recommend revisions to the syllabus and delivery methods.
- Develop and execute the department corporate plan and action plan.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Master's degree from a recognized university in the field of Computer Science / Software Engineering.
- PhD will be an added advantage.
- Minimum 3 years of experience in academic administration and four years of experience in a similar capacity.
- Senior staff members on sabbatical leave shall be considered on contract basis.
- Ability to work on weekends.

SENIOR LECTURERS & LECTURERS
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING AND LANGUAGES

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Delivering lectures.
- Planning & designing curriculum/ learning aids.
- Setting exam papers/assessments & evaluations.
- Supporting/training students in extracurricular activities.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Preferably a PhD or a Master's Degree from a recognized University.
- Basic Degree in the relevant field with First or Second Class (Upper Division) Honours.
- A minimum of three years' experience following the First Degree is required that may include the time spent for obtaining a Postgraduate qualification.
- Prior substantial lecturing experience at an University or a similar Institution will be a definite advantage.
- Preference will be given to candidates who could teach a range of subjects in the relevant field.

We will be following the University Grants Commission circulars & guidelines for the above recruitments.

The successful candidates will receive an attractive remuneration package and career advancement opportunities. We invite you to forward your resume, with the contact details of two non-related referees to careers@saegis.edu.lk within 7 days of this advertisement, or post to the following address. Please indicate the position that you are applying in the subject line of the email or on the left-hand corner of the envelope.

Chief Operating Officer, Saegis Campus, No. 135, S. De S. Jayasinghe Mv., Kohuwala, Nugegoda. Email: careers@saegis.edu.lk | Telephone: 117430000 | Web: www.saegis.edu.lk | www.saegis.ac.lk

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COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND
COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS**



CONDOMINIUM MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Applications are invited from eligible and qualified applicants for the following vacancies at the Condominium Management Authority.

1. DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (REGULATION) - H.M. 1-1 "SENIOR MANAGER" - 01 POST

Qualifications relevant to the Post

External Applicants

Should have obtained a Civil Engineering Degree recognized by the University Grants Commission
With
A postgraduate degree in the relevant field or being a Chartered Engineer of the Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka (IESL)

And

Should have obtained at least fifteen (15) years experience in the civil engineering field in a Management Level post in Government or Government Corporation or reputed private institution

Internal Applicants

- Should have fulfilled the qualifications for the external applicants mentioned above
- Should have completed satisfactory service period of at least five (05) years in a Grade 1 post of Assistant General Manager (Regulatory / Operation Maintenance / Legal / Architecture) at the Condominium Management Authority.

Age: Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years of age. Maximum age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.

Salary Scale: HM 1-1 Rs. 80,295 - 15 x 2,270 - 114,345

- Is entitled to use an official vehicle with fuel allowance
- All allowances approved by the government and the Cost of Living Allowance will be paid
- Telephone bills will be reimbursed subject to a limit

2. ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER (HUMAN RESOURCES / ADMINISTRATION) - M.M. 1-1 - "MANAGER" - 01 POST

Qualifications relevant to the Post

External Applicants

Should have obtained a degree in Human Resources Management / Management / Business Administration / Public Management recognized by the University Grants Commission

And

Should have obtained at least one (01) year's experience in the same field in a Government Institution, Government Corporation, Statutory Board or reputed private sector institution after obtaining the degree.

Internal Applicants

- Should have fulfilled the qualifications for the external applicants mentioned above.
- Should have completed a satisfactory service period of five (05) years in a post in the relevant field in Junior Manager Service Category (JM) of the Condominium Management Authority

Age: Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years of age. Maximum age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.

Salary: - MM-1-1 - Rs. 53,175 - 10 x 1,375 - 15 x 1,910 - 95,575

- All allowances approved by the government and the Cost of Living allowance will be paid
- Telephone bills will be reimbursed subject to a limit

3. SECRETARY - J.M. 1-1 "JUNIOR MANAGER" SERVICE CATEGORY - 01 POST

Qualifications relevant to the Post

External Applicants

Should have obtained a certificate in the "Chartered Secretarial" practices from the Institute of Chartered Secretaries relevant to the Secretaries' field

And

Should have obtained five (05) years experience in secretarial practices in a Government Corporation, Statutory Board or reputed private sector institution

Or

Should have completed the final examination of the Institute of Chartered Corporate Secretaries

And

Should have obtained five (05) years experience in secretarial practices in a Government Corporation, Statutory Board or reputed private sector institution

Note: Knowledge in Stenography and Computer Technology will be considered as additional qualifications.

Internal Applicants

- Should have fulfilled the qualifications for the External Applicants mentioned above
- Should have completed a satisfactory service period of five (05) years in Grade II of the Management Assistants (Non Technical) Service Category (MA 1-1) of the Condominium Management Authority

4. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER - 01 POST - J.M. 1-1 - "JUNIOR MANAGER" SERVICE CATEGORY

Qualifications relevant to the Post

External Applicants

Should have obtained a degree recognized by the University Grants Commission in Public Management, Public Administration, Human Resources Management, Business Administration.

Internal Applicants

- Should have fulfilled the qualifications for the External Applicants mentioned above
- Should have completed a satisfactory service period of five (05) years in the relevant field in Grade II of the Management Assistants (Non Technical) Service Category of the Condominium Management Authority

Age: Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years of age. Maximum age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.

Salary for the Posts mentioned in No. 3 and 4: - JM-1-1 - Rs. 42,600 - 10 x 7555 - 18 x 1,135 - 70,580

- Cost of Living allowance will be paid

5. ENGINEERING ASSISTANT (CIVIL / DRAFTSMAN / QUANTITY SURVEYING) "MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (TECHNICAL)" SERVICE CATEGORY - 01 POST

Qualifications relevant to the Post

External Applicants

Should have completed the Proficiency Certificate in the Engineering field of not less than National Vocational Qualification Level Five (NVQ Level 05) issued by a technical /vocational training institute recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission.

Internal Applicants

Should have fulfilled the qualifications for the External Applicants mentioned above.

Age: Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age. Maximum age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.

Salary: MA 2-2 Rs. 30,310 - 10 x 300 - 7 x 350 - 4 x 600 - 20 x 710 - 52,360

- Cost of Living Allowance will be paid

General Conditions for all Posts

Every applicant

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties entrusted to the post and to serve in any part of the country.
- Should have an excellent moral character
- This post is permanent and not entitled to pension. Employee should contribute 10% to the Employees Provident Fund and the Employer will contribute 12% to the Employees Provident Fund and 3% to the Employees Trust Fund.
- Applicants from Government Corporations / Statutory Boards should direct their applications through the Heads of the respective institutions.
- Names and addresses of two no related referees should be furnished along with the application.
- Copies of certificates of educational and other qualifications and experience certificates should be attached to the application.
- Applicants should have fulfilled all a required qualifications as at the closing date of applications.

How to Apply:

Applicants with necessary qualifications should send their applications with complete Bio-Data (CV) along with all the information including Educational, Professional Qualifications, Experience and Personal details & Information, etc. to the following address by the Registered Post, to reach before 01.03.2021. The post applied for should be mentioned at the left-side top corner of the envelope. Late applications and unclear and incomplete applications will be rejected without intimation.

Canvassing will be a disqualification.

Chairman
Condominium Management Authority
1st Floor, National Housing Department Building
Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha
Colombo 02

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital
Seeduwa**

Vacancy

Applications are invited for the following post.

1. DIRECTOR - HOSPITAL

Qualification : Applications are invited from Senior Medical Administrative Grade Medical Officers with Postgraduate qualification as in Extraordinary Gazette No.1883/17 dated 2014.10.11 chapter 11.1.2.2.

Experience : Minimum 10 years working experience in an institution under the Ministry of Health as a Hospital Medical Administrator.

Salary Scale : Rs.95,218.75 - 16 X 2,712.50 - 138,618.00 (Monthly)

Applicants from the Government sector should forward their applications through the heads of respective Institutions.

Above salaries include 25% increase in the current salary scale of the government service.

Applications from retired Medical Officers will also be considered.

Your applications should have the post applied for written on the top left hand corner of the envelope, and send to reach us not later than **7th March 2021.**

The Advertiser
PO Box 10007
Colombo

**STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND
COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS**

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

VACANCIES

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified Citizens of Sri Lanka, for vacancies existing in the below-mentioned posts. The applicants should possess the following qualifications and experience.

A. Deputy Director (Human Resource Management)

- A Bachelor (Special) Degree in Human Resource Management, Business Administration, or Public Administration from a University, recognized by the University Grant Commission Sri Lanka.

AND

Having obtained the Corporate Membership of Institute of Personal Management.

AND

Minimum of Ten (10) years experience in relevant field out of which five (05) years should be in Managerial Category.

OR

- A Bachelor (Special) Degree in Human Resource Management, Business Administration, or Public Administration from a University, recognized by the University Grant Commission Sri Lanka.

AND

Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management or Business Administration.

AND

Minimum of Ten (10) years post qualifying experience in Human Resource Management field, out of which five (5) years should be in Managerial Category.

Salary Scale - Middle Manager Level -MM 1-1 -2016 Grade I
Rs. 53,175/- 1375x10, 1910x15, - 95,575/=
Grade I - First Salary Step- Rs. 68,835/=

B. Assistant Director (Training)

- A Bachelor (Special) Degree in Human Resource Management, Business Administration, or Public Administration from a University, recognized by the University Grant Commission Sri Lanka.

AND

Diploma in Training and Development from a recognized University or Professional institute.

AND

A Minimum of Seven (07) years post qualifying experience in the relevant field, out of which four (04) years experience as Manager Training and Development in a reputed Government or Private sector organization.

Salary Scale - Middle Manager Level -MM 1-1 -2016 Grade II
Rs. 53,175/- 1375x10, 1910x15, - 95,575/=
Grade II - First Salary Step- Rs. 53,175/=

C. Assistant Director - Human Resource (Investigations)

- A Bachelor (Special) Degree in Human Resource Management, Business Administration, or Public Administration from a University, recognized by the University Grant Commission Sri Lanka.

AND

One (01) year Diploma in Personnel Management/ Human Resource Management/ Industrial Relations from recognized University or Professional Institute.

AND

Minimum of seven (07) years post qualifying experience in relevant field, out of which four (4) years should be in Managerial Category.

Preference will be given to the Applicants those who have qualification in Disciplinary Management / Experience.

Salary Scale - Middle Manager Level -MM 1-1 -2016 Grade II
Rs. 53,175/- 1375x10, 1910x15, - 95,575/=
Grade II - First Salary Step- Rs. 53,175/=

D. Confidential Secretary

- A Bachelor Degree from a University, recognized by the University Grant Commission Sri Lanka.

AND

Minimum 05 years experience as Confidential Secretarial Practice in a reputed public/ private sector organization.

OR

- One year Diploma in Secretarial Practices from a recognized Institution approved by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or University Grant Commission Sri Lanka.

AND

Minimum 08 years experiences Confidential Secretarial Practice in a reputed public/ private sector organization.

A Membership of the Chartered Secretaries of Sri Lanka would be an added qualification.

Salary Scale - Junior Manager Level -JM 1-1 -2016
Rs. 42,600/- 10x755, 18x1135 - 70,580/=

02. General Conditions:

- Applicants must be below 45 years in age. Age limit will not apply for the candidates in Public/ Corporation Service.
- Appointments will be on permanent Basis.
- Employees' provident fund (15% contribution by the Authority)
- Employees Trust fund (3% contribution by the Authority)

03. Fringe Benefits

- UDA Housing Loan & Distress Loan Scheme
- Annual Bonus
- Encashment of unutilized medical Leave
- Medical Insurance

04. The selected candidates will be considered for placement on a salary point above the initial of the scale depending on their qualifications and experience.

05. Applicants who are in state / state corporations service should send in their applications through the heads of their departments/ Corporations with an advance copy being sent direct.

06. Applications giving full details of educational/ professional Qualifications, experience etc. with copies of relevant certificates should be forwarded to:

Chairman,
Urban Development Authority
09th Floor, "Sethsiripaya"
Battaramulla.

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CHOOSE A JOB THAT COULD TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND

A nationally renowned corporate giant among Sri Lanka's foremost diversified conglomerates, Melstacorp PLC has business endeavors spanning a wide spectrum of industries. The Group which has a multitude of subsidiaries in sectors including Beverages, Telecommunications, Hospitality, Plantations, Insurance, Energy, Textiles, Logistics, Media, Healthcare, IT and BPO, seeks to fill applications for the following positions.

MANAGER - PLANTATION AUDITS

Job profile

The Selected candidates will be stationed outstation and will prepare risk-based annual audit plans for estates coming under their purview, assessing the operations, processes, controls, practices, and procedures. They will carry out plantation audits in line with the approved audit plan in compliance with the relevant rules, regulations, circulars, and standards, evaluating cost/benefits analysis of the operations of the estates, and carry out investigations whenever required. They should submit regular reports of their findings to the management in Head Office.

Candidate profile

- Full qualification in CA/CIMA/ACCA or equivalent, with good IT knowledge and good report writing skills.
- Should have over five years of experience in plantation audits, preferably at Manager / Senior executive level.
- Should be able to work independently.
- Willing to travel and be based outstation.
- Preferably below the age of 50.
- High level of integrity.

Remuneration

- Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please send your detailed resumes with salary expected and names of two non-related referees to reach us on or before 21 st February 2021, stating the position applied for on the top left corner of the envelope when posting, or as the subject heading of e-mail and mail to careers.corp@melsta.com

HR – Manager, Melstacorp PLC, No. 110, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.

Our Client is a reputed Finance Company with a longstanding history in Sri Lanka providing a diverse range of financial solutions with continued growth and ambitious plans for further expansion seeking to recruit dynamic, pro-active, suitably qualified and experienced personnel to fill in the under-mentioned position.

CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO CEO

Reporting directly to the CEO, the incumbent will provides executive, administrative, and development support to the CEO and Board of Directors, as well as to the Senior Leadership Team. Being the primary point of contact for internal and external constituencies on all matters pertaining to the CEO, you will also serve as a liaison to the Board of Directors and senior management teams; organize and coordinate executive outreach and external relations efforts.

Job Responsibilities:

- Maintaining strict confidentiality in all matters is your utmost responsibility.
- Review, prioritize, direct and delegate a wide variety of complex and confidential documentation.
- Respond instantly & give priority to inquiries of urgent importance from external or internal sources with respective correspondence.
- Maintain CEO's agenda and assist in planning appointments, maintain calendars for meetings, facilitating board meetings, conferences, tele-conferences etc.
- Post meeting - writing and distributing comprehensive minutes and action points to all members.
- Manage all correspondence and routine operations in the Corporate office.
- Drafting and writing high quality reports and presentations, as required by the CEO.
- Coordinating Directors' Board meetings, IT Steering Committee, Credit, IRM Committee meetings on monthly basis.
- Any other duties other than the above if assigned by CEO or Chairman as and when required.

Skills and Experience:

- A degree / diploma / professional qualification in Secretarial Practices from a recognized institute.
- Minimum of 10 years' experience in similar capacity to a Senior Management position.
- An unblemished record of diligence and integrity.
- Computer literacy.
- Excellent communication skills in both English & Sinhala and a pleasant personality.
- Good PR and interpersonal skills.

A remuneration package on par with industry standards will be offered to the right candidate.

Please forward your complete resume with contact details of two non-related referees to mslr@sitnet.lk within 10 days of this advertisement quoting MSL Ref. No. 7580 in the subject column.



No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08.
mslr@sitnet.lk
www.bposrilanka.com

Build your career with HOME LANDS SKYLINE

Standing on a cornerstone of trust as the Market Leader in the real estate industry we have won the hearts of customers & employees with our integrity & professionalism. To cater to innovative market expansion, we are in search of result oriented dynamic individuals with a keen eye for career development to join our team. Following our recent expansion of business activities in the **Negombo region**, we are looking for high caliber individuals that are motivated to take on the following demanding roles.

Sales Manager / Assistant Sales Manager (Negombo)

- ♦ Should possess Professional Qualification in Marketing / Sales
- ♦ At least 05 years experience in the same position
- ♦ Real Estate / Condominium industry experience is an added advantage

Assistant Manager / Executive – After Sales Operation (Negombo)

- ♦ Should be well built academic background (Degree / Diploma in Marketing / Sales or Management)
- ♦ At least 05 years experience in the same position
- ♦ Real Estate / Condominium industry experience is an added advantage

Sales Executive / Marketing Executive (Negombo)

- ♦ Should pass in GCE A/L and at least 5 credit passes including English and Mathematics in GCE O/L
- ♦ Professional Qualification in Marketing / Sales with minimum 2 years experience in the same position
- ♦ Age – Preferred below 35 years

Legal Officer (Negombo)

- ♦ Attorney at Law
- ♦ Possess a Notarial License to practice within the jurisdiction of Negombo (English & Sinhala)
- ♦ Minimum of 10 years experience in conveyancing and Notarial work
- ♦ Hands on experience in litigation would be considered as an added qualification
- ♦ Age preferred below 40 years

Notary Clerk (Negombo)

- ♦ Passed GCE A/L with minimum 5years experience as a notary clerk
- ♦ Having an experience in conveyancing and Notarial work
- ♦ Having an experience in conducting Land registry searchers would be considered as an added qualification
- ♦ Age preferred below 35 years

Accounts Executive (Negombo)

- ♦ Degree or part qualification in CA or CIMA
- ♦ Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Sinhala
- ♦ Minimum 02 years' experience in the same position

Receptionist – Female (Negombo)

- ♦ Should pass in GCE A/L examination
- ♦ Have minimum C passes for English and Mathematics in GCE O/L examination
- ♦ Minimum 02 years' experience in the same position
- ♦ Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Sinhala

An attractive remuneration package along with fringe benefits and career development prospects await the right candidate. Send your CV along with a recently taken photograph stating the position applied in the subject line of the e-mail to vacancies@homelandskyline.lk



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General Manager - Operations & Admin, No 1060, Pannipitiya Rd, Battaramulla.

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Lanka Hospitals, Colombo is the foremost and the most preferred healthcare provider serving the nation and her people. Our vision is to become the best in Asia. Lanka hospitals is in search of passionate and committed team players to fill the following vacancy:

Nursing Tutors
Lanka Hospitals School of Nursing (NTS)

The mission of Lanka Hospitals School of Nursing is to provide superior nursing education, distinguished by academic excellence, innovation and integrity and has a history of preparing extraordinary nursing graduates since 2002.

With the increasing demand for the Nursing profession globally, we are looking for engaged and committed Tutors to work in the NTS at Lanka Hospitals which conducts a 3 year Higher National Diploma in Nursing (NVQ L 6) education course in English medium.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE SHOULD:

- Possess a Diploma in Nursing from a recognized School of Nursing or B.Sc. Nursing from a University in Sri Lanka.
- Diploma in Teaching and Supervision from the Post Basic School of Nursing, Sri Lanka will be an added advantage.
- Should be a Registered Nurse in the Sri Lanka Medical Council or in the Sri Lanka Nursing Council.
- Below 65 years of age, have an academic background with minimum of 3 years' experience as a Tutor worked in a government NTS or any other recognized training school in English medium.

The selected candidates will be entitled to an industry attractive remuneration package and other perks.

Please forward your resume along with address and contact numbers of 2 non – related referees within 7 days of this advertisement. Write the position for which you are applying on the top left-hand corner of the envelope or in the subject line of the e-mail

HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC (PQ 180),
578, Elvitigala Mawatha,
Narahrenpita, Colombo - 05.
Email : careers@lankahospitals.com





SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL VACANCY

POST OF ASSISTANT REGISTRAR ON CONTRACT

The Sri Lanka Medical Council will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of **Assistant Registrar** of the Sri Lanka Medical Council up to **05.03.2021**. **The selected candidate would be a full time officer of the Sri Lanka Medical Council.**

Qualifications:

Should possess a Degree with First or Second Class and a Postgraduate Degree at least at Masters level in Administration or Management from a recognized University/Higher Education Institute with not less than fifteen (15) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. Preference would be given to those who have had experience as registrars in the University System.

"Administrative Experience" means, experience gained in a full time post in at administrative level in a State or in a Private Sector Organization in Human Resource Management or General Administration or Overall Management after obtaining the first Degree from a recognized University/HEI. Experience gained in specialized fields such as Finance/Engineering or other Technical fields are not considered for this purpose.

Age: Not more than 63 years.

Salary: Negotiable based on education and experience. The minimum salary would be negotiable with the minimum salary being that of the starting salary of an Assistant Registrar of the University System.

Other Benefits:

- Provident Fund contribution of 10% by employee and 15% by the employer to the Provident Fund.
- Employees Trust Fund benefits 3% by the employer.

Terms of Employment:

The appointment shall be on full time contract basis for a period of two years, with the possibility of re-appointment for a final second term.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist the Registrar of the Medical Council,
- Assist in managing affairs of the Medical Council and issue notices and to carry out all correspondence work on behalf of the Medical Council,
- Assist in keeping the Registers of the Medical Council,
- Record and maintain minutes of the proceedings thereof,
- Assist in executing all administrative decisions of the Medical Council and
- To perform all such other duties as may be assigned by the Registrar/Medical Council.

Application Process:

Applicants should forward their application by registered post with their Curriculum Vitae with a covering letter detailing their motivation to apply for the post to the President, Sri Lanka Medical Council, 31, Norris canal Road, Colombo 10.

Selection Process:

The selection shall be made through a structured interview conducted by an interview board.

**Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council
31, Norris Canal Road,
Colombo 10.**

CONSULTANT

A person with specialized knowledge is needed for an Elders Care Home Project.

Contact : 077729654 / 0112516290

TECHNICAL OFFICER VACANCY

Construction Company based in Homagama looking for Technical Officer with NCT/NDT 10 years experience in Road Construction.

- Salary Negotiable
- Age - 45-60
- CV-sewminidithi01@gmail.com
- 0769720404/ 011-2857693

Newly opened our **C-RON SRI AUTO MART - KEGALLE**, seek fill the vacancy mentioned below.

Work Shop Manager

Candidates should can handle estimate, accident. Running repair sections and admin, HR Several capacity.

Please apply experience Retired Forces Officers which has well knowledge of auto mobile.

**Email: sanjeasp@gmail.com
Tel: 075-4484848/ 0759088888**

REPUTED UPB BONDED WAREHOUSE HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES

- > Telephone Operator / Computer Operator
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. Minimum 2 Years Experience
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- > Security Officer
- > Heavy Vehicle Drivers.

Forward Application to : imports@transcocargo.com
tariq@transcocargo.com
For More info please contact : Thariq - 0725408163

Transco International Cargo Service (Pvt) Ltd.
No.60, 3rd Floor, Lucky Plaza Building,
St.Anthony's Mawatha, Colombo -03.

VACANCY

We are a leading Electrical Engineering Company engaged in Trading & Installations. We represent world renowned manufacturer of Circuit Breakers, Power Contactors, Power Capacitors, Lightning/Surge Protection Equipment and wide range of other industrial electrical equipment.

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

The Candidate should have Diploma in Accounting / AAT/ Chartered part qualified, with minimum 2 years experience. Experience in QuickBooks accounting package will be an advantage.

For immediate employment.
Forward CV by post or E-mail within 7 days indicating post applied & contact number.

**General Manager
EMPIRE TRADING AGENCY (PVT) LTD,
No.110, Layards Broadway, Colombo 14.
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E-mail: vacancies@empiretradingagency.lk
Web: www.empiretradingagency.lk**



**UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering**

Vacancies for Professional Translators (Sinhala-to-Tamil)

The Department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE), University of Moratuwa invites applications for the Professional Translators positions in Sinhala to Tamil for an ongoing research project. We could consider either full-time or part-time work arrangements.

Requirements:

- Ability to translate formal documents from Sinhala to Tamil or vice versa
- Ability to write correctly in at least one of the aforementioned language pairs, with no grammatical or spelling errors
- Professional experience as a translator from Sinhala to Tamil, preferably in government sector
- Ability to read and type English and Sinhala/Tamil in computers
- Ability to use the Internet and email to exchange information and for coordination
- Ability to work independently, communicate effectively, meet deadlines
- Willingness to work hard, be responsible, and use new technologies

Interested individuals should email applications with a CV attached to sitaceuom@gmail.com with "Application for Professional Translator" as the subject line by **17th February 2021**. Include contact information of 2 referees in the CV.

Registrar, University of Moratuwa



We are a Group of companies engaged in manufacturing of Floor Carpets, Vehicle Carpets etc and we are the market leaders for the said products in Sri Lanka.

We are looking for an energetic go getters to appoint as our **Sales Executives** of the Part of **COLOMBO & GALLE** districts.

Qualifications & Experience

- Not less than G.C.E / (O/L)
- Sales & Marketing Experience
- Exposure to Hardware & FMCG Trade (Not essential)

Benefits

- Attractive Salary & Target based incentives
- Company maintained Moto Bike or Allowance with fuel
- Daily expense Allowance (BATAA)
- Company Phone or Phone Allowance
- Base Allowance
- Annual Bonus etc.

As these are very potential areas the Candidates can earn much more commissions / income based on their target achievements.

Please apply within 10 days to the following address.

**Head of Sales
Global Vinyl (Pvt) Limited
208, Sea Street, Colombo 11
Email: careers@globalvinyl.lk**

**Contact:
077 21 33 495
077 36 59 002**

IMMEDIATE VACANCY

Reception cum Multi-Duty Clerk

We are looking for a dynamic young female for the above post with minimum 2-3 years experience. Age 20-30 years. Computer literacy is must.

Please call for interviews on 0777-347474

**Omega Engineering (Pvt) Ltd.,
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Katuwawala, Boralesgamuwa.
Email : careers.omegaengineering@gmail.com**

TEACHERS WANTED

- History (GR 6 - 11) • Elocution (GR 1-5)
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**Wisdom International College,
115, Wattalpola RD,
Keselwatta, Panadura.**

**T:P: 038-22 99 032, Hot Line : 077 21 23 400
E-mail : wizzpan0382hotmail.com**

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Deutschmark Logistics

We take pride in our people a dynamic and culturally diverse work force is essential to why we are one of the finest and fastest growing logistics company in Sri Lanka.

Deutschmark Logistics we are hiring now for the following positions,

- Finance Manager (Local & Dubai Branch)
- Account Assistant
- Procurement Executive
- Transport Manager
- Logistics Manager (Local & Dubai Branch)
- Warehouse Executive

The applicants should possess the following minimum requirement for the above job position.

- Minimum academic qualification would be 02 passes in GCE A/L and 6 Credits passes in GCE O/L in one sitting with Credits of English and Mathematics.

OR

- Minimum of three years in-line working experience.
- Educational background one Logistics Management would be an added advantage.
- Excellent command of English in both written and verbal communication.
- A team player with high interpersonal skills.
- Upper age limit: 45 years.

Please note that the above mention job roles require the candidates to work rotating shifts, including weekends and Public Holidays.

EMPLOYMENT WILL BE OFFERED FULL TIME BASIS

Send your CV to: doutchmarklogistics@gmail.com
077771074

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
KANWEL CONSTRUCTIONS & CIVIL ENGINEERING (PVT) LTD**

We are well established Constructions and Civil engineering firm which has CIDA Grading of C1. We are looking for young hard working, talented self-motivated individuals who could join our team.

PROJECT MANAGERS

- B.Sc with minimum 10 years experience in Road Projects
- Computer Literacy & fluency in English with Sinhala

SITE ENGINEERS / SITE MANAGERS

- B.Sc / NDT/ HNDE/ TTI with minimum 5 years experience in Road
- Computer Literacy & fluency in English with Sinhala / Tamil

SENIOR QUANTITY SURVEYORS / QUANTITY SURVEYORS

- B.Sc / NDT/ HNDE/ TTI with minimum 5 years or similar qualification with experience in Road
- Computer Literacy & fluency in English

TECHNICAL OFFICERS

- NDT / NCT or equal with minimum of 5 years experience in similar capacity

SUPERVISORS

- NCT Certificate or equivalent qualifications with 3 years Past Qualified experience in Road Projects

DRIVERS

Please forward your CV mentioning the post on the top of the envelope or E-mail within 14 days to

**The HR Manager
Kanwel Constructions & Civil Engineering (pvt) Ltd
No: 41/A, Purana Road,
Wattegedara, Maharagama
Tel: 0112 089 777
kanwelconstruction@gmail.com**

VACANCY OFFICE FOR REPARATIONS

Applications are invited for the post of Deputy Director (Finance) at Office for Reparations

01. Designation: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (FINANCE)

No. of posts - 01

Educational qualifications:

- i. Should have passed the Intermediate Examination at Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka
OR
- ii. Intermediate examination at Institute of Chartered Accountants in a Common wealth Country
OR
- iii. Intermediate Examination at Institute of Chartered Management Accountants in a Common Wealth Country
OR
- iv. Intermediate Examination at Institute of Certified Chartered Accountants
OR
- v. Intermediate Examination of Association of Certified Chartered Accountants in the United Kingdom
OR
- vi. A Bachelor's Degree in the Fields of Commerce/ Management / Accountancy/ Economics obtained from a university recognized by the University Grants Commission
AND
- vii. Ten (10) years experience in the fields of accountancy or financial management at a Government/ Semi-Government institute
OR
- viii. Obtained Higher National Diploma in Accountancy (HINDA) or Higher National Certificate in Accountancy (HNCA) at Sri Lanka Technical College/ Advanced Institute of Technology with ten (10) years experience in the field of accountancy or financial management at a Government/ Semi-Government Institute

Age limit:

Not less than 22 years of age and not more than 45 years of age to the date of 01.03.2021. Upper age limit is not applicable to those who are already in public service.

Salary scale:

As per the Public Administration Circular No. 2/2016, salary step would be Rs. 68,835/ = (MM1-1-2016-Rs. 68,835 - 1910x15 - 95,575) as at 01.01.2020, and is entitled for approved government allowances. This post is permanent and has contribution to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employment Trust Fund (E.T.F).

Applicants working in Government/ Semi-Government Institutes shall submit their applications through the Head of Department

Applications should be sent under registered cover to reach "Chairperson, Office for Reparations, No. 408, Galle Road, Colombo 03" on or before 01.03.2021. Incomplete applications or applications received after the closing date will be rejected without notice. Only short listed candidates will be called for the interview. The post for which the application is submitted, should be clearly mentioned on the top left hand corner of the envelope containing the application.

**Chairperson,
Office for Reparations,
No. 408, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.**

For classified advertisements and for replies

received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact →

MANAGER FRONT OFFICE →

Hotline: 1949



WANTED RESTAURANT MANAGER

We are looking for a Restaurant Manager to lead all aspects of our business and deliver high quality menus and motivate our staff to provide excellent customer service.

Qualifications: Five years of experience is a must, preferably in Indian and Arabic Food.

Salary: Negotiable based on experience.

Please send in your CVs to the below email addresses within 10 days of this advertisement.

Hijra Darbar Family Restaurant
1B3, New Kankanangoda Road,
China Fort, Beruwala.
E-mail: hijradarbar@gmail.com

VACANCIES

Ayu Pharma & Neutra (Pvt) Ltd - the renowned Importer and Distributor of the highest quality Cosmetic products, requires the services of an efficient individual for the post of

BOOK KEEPER
(Preferably from Panadura area) G.C.E. A/L Qualified

Please send your application to reach us within 10 days of this advertisement to under mention address / Email address:

Ayu Pharama & Neutra (Pvt) Ltd,
No.45, Sri Maha Vihara Road, Panadura.
E mail: ayupharma.neutra@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE VACANCIES

Site Engineers required for Galle Site. Experience - NDT/HNDE/TTI/NCT or equivalent. **More than 03 years experience**

Site Supervisor required for Piliyandala Site. NCT, more than 01 year experience.

swamaconstructions.sl@gmail.com
0718709961/62

WANTED LIVE IN CARETAKER - HOUSEMAID

A house in **Kandana** is looking for a female housemaid to take care of their children in **Grade 1 & 4.**

Desirable for those who can speak & write in English.

Will be treated as part of the family

Email : startthr@outlook.com | **0740 241 717**

VACANCY

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ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE

Qualification

- Relevant Degree Holder / CIMA party qualified
- Advance Computer Literacy (Excel)
- Good command of English

Job Requirements

As a successful candidate you will ideally have minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role and ideally part of it in the construction industry will be an added advantage (preferable but not essential)

Candidates who do not possess above experience may apply for trainee category.

What's in for you

- Competitive Salary and other fringe benefits in par with industry standards.
- Planned career progression.
- Opportunity to perform in a dynamic and challenging working environment.

BUILD MART LANKA (PVT) LTD
25 & 26B, JESMIN GARDEN, NAWALA, RAJAGIRIYA.
Email : info@buildmartlanka.lk | www.buildmartlanka.lk

VACANCY

The Autodrome PLC was established in 1953, and is quoted on the Colombo Stock Exchange. We are Sole Distributors in Sri Lanka (and third oldest in the world) for Bridgestone brand tyres, tubes and flaps. Our travel subsidiary Tourama (Pvt) Ltd specializes in European tours.

Marketing Executives Tyre Division

BRIDGESTONE

The ideal candidates should have successfully completed G.C.E. A/L

- Be below 30 years of age
- Be able to communicate in Sinhala and English
- Be self-motivated and willing to work in the field
- Driving or Riding license mandatory

Previous work experience in automotive industry would be an added advantage

G.C.E. A/L qualified school leavers will also be considered.

Candidates who meet the above requirements should send their comprehensive resume with the contact details of 02 non-related referees.

Please indicate the post applied at the top left hand corner of the envelope

Autodrome
Autodrome Building,
304, Union Place, Colombo 02.
www.autodrome.lk
jobs@autodrome.lk

SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA GENERAL HOSPITAL

VACANCIES

POST OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- ◆ Applications are invited for the above post.
- ◆ Retired Administrative Officers of Supra Class of Government Hospitals, Departments and Ministries are welcome.
- ◆ This appointment will be on Assignment basis for one year. An extension of the assignment period will be decided by the Management of Sri Jayawardenepura General Hospital.
- ◆ The Salary will be negotiable.
- ◆ The Sri Jayawardenepura General Hospital Board reserves to itself the right to make/ not to make an appointment.
- ◆ The post applied for should be marked on the left hand top corner of the envelope.
- ◆ Applicants should send their applications with full curriculum vitae and names of two (02) non-related referees to reach the undersigned on or before 01st March 2021.

Chairman,
Sri Jayawardenepura General Hospital,
Thalapatthitiya,
Nugegoda.



SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA - BELIHULOYA

VACANCY

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka will entertain applications for the undermentioned post from suitably qualified persons up to 05.03.2021.

Technical Officer (ICT) Grade III

Qualifications :

- (i). Should have passed in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination in one sitting in any Stream.
- AND**
- (ii). Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q. Level 5 issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or recognized Institution in the field of Information Communication and Multimedia Technology / Information and Communication Technology / Information Technology or Equivalent.

- Preference will be given for who have work experience in ICT.

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By written and / or practical test and an Interview.

Salary Scale : UMT 1 (IIIA)
Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275/= (p.m.)

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE :

01. This post is permanent. The appointments will be on probation for a period of three (03) years.
02. Selected candidates if presently serving in a Government Department will have to obtain his/her release through their respective appointing authority.
03. Government employees will not be entitled to maintain their pension rights whilst in the University Service.

BENEFITS :

01. Selected candidates will begin to contribute to the Universities Provident Fund by means of monthly deductions from his/her salary and amount equal to ten (10%) percent his/her basic salary. The University will, in addition out of its funds contribute at the same time a sum equal to seven (07%) percent of his/her earnings to the Universities Provident Fund and eight (08%) percent of his/her earnings to the Pension Fund.
02. Three (03%) per centum of his/her basic salary will be contributed by the University to the Employees' Trust Fund in terms of Provision of the Employees Trust Fund.
03. In addition to the above salary, Government approved allowances and Cost of Living Allowance approved by the University Grants Commission will also be paid in the staff where relevant.

HOW TO APPLY :

Application Forms and relevant information could be either downloaded from the University Web Site : www.sab.ac.lk or could be obtained from the office of the Assistant Registrar / Non-Academic Establishments of this University up to **25.02.2021** by personally calling over or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope 9"x4" in size to reach the Assistant Registrar / Non-Academic Establishments of this University.

Duly completed applications on prescribed forms together with certified copies of relevant certificates, etc. should be sent under Registered Cover, indicating the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope, to reach the **Assistant Registrar / Non-Academic Establishments, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O. Box 02, Belihuloya** on or before **05.03.2021**.

Applicants from the University System / Government Departments / Corporations / Statutory Boards, should channel their applications through their respective Heads of Institutions.

The University reserve the right to shortlist the candidates. Applications which do not conform to these requirements, incomplete applications and applications received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.

Acting Registrar
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Sanken CONSTRUCTION sky's the limit **ELS** **HSL**

SANKEN-ELS-HSLC JOINT VENTURE

DESIGN AND RE-CONSTRUCTION OF QUAY AT NAVAL DOCKYARD - TRINCOMALEE

VACANCIES

Quality Control Engineers

- Graduate Civil Engineers. (B.Sc. or equivalent)
- 10 years post qualifying experience with 03 years experience as a Quality Control Engineer in Jetty or Coastal related structures.

Site Engineers

- Graduate Civil Engineers. (B.Sc. or equivalent)
- 05 years post qualifying experience with 02 years IT related Construction experience and 01 year experience in Jetty or Coastal related structures.

Mechanical Engineers

- Graduate Mechanical Engineers. (B.Sc. or equivalent)
- 05 years post qualifying experience with 02 years similar Construction experience in water supply network and mechanical services in Ports Construction.

Electrical Engineers

- Graduate Electrical Engineers. (B.Sc. or equivalent)
- 05 years post qualifying experience with 02 years Electrical installation construction experience in Jetty or Coastal related structures.

Safety Officers

- Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety at NIOSH or equivalent.
- 10 years experience as a Safety Officer in Construction Sites with 05 years experience in Construction of Jetty or Coastal related structures.

Technical Assistants - Mechanical

- NCT (Mechanical) or equivalent.
- 08 years construction industrial experience.

Technical Assistants - Electrical

- NCT (Electrical) or equivalent.
- 08 years construction industrial experience.

An attractive remuneration package with other fringe benefits awaiting for the successful candidates.

Please apply with your completed CV with contact details of two non related referees within 07 days.

E-mail: vonlan@vonlan.lk

Project Coordinator
SANKEN-ELS-HSLC JOINT VENTURE
No: 295, Madampitiya Road, Colombo 14.
TP: + 94 112414142/ + 94 112418018 Fax: +94 112414198

Sanken CONSTRUCTION sky's the limit **ELS** **HSL**

SANKEN-ELS-HSLC JOINT VENTURE

DESIGN AND RE-CONSTRUCTION OF QUAY AT NAVAL DOCKYARD - TRINCOMALEE

PROJECT MANAGER AND TEAM LEADER

Civil Engineer with Full membership from the recognized Professional Institute and Masters degree in relevant field, having 20 years experience after graduation, with 10 years design and construction experience in similar nature of Jetty and Coastal related structures.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Civil Engineer with Full membership from the recognized Professional Institute and Masters degree from relevant field, having 15 years experience after graduation, with 7 years design experience in similar nature of Jetty and coastal related structures.

PLANNING ENGINEER

Civil Engineer with Full membership from recognized Professional Institute and Masters degree from relevant field, having 10 years experience after graduation, with 5 years construction experience in similar nature of Jetty and coastal related structures.

SITE ENGINEER - CIVIL / IT

Graduate B.Sc. or equivalent qualification with 5 years experience after graduation with 2 years IT related or Civil Construction experience.

LABORATORY ENGINEER

Graduate B.Sc. or equivalent qualification with 5 years experience after graduation with 2 years as a Laboratory Engineer

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Graduate B.Sc. or equivalent qualification with 8 years Construction experience after graduation.

LAB TECHNICIAN

NDT (Civil) or equivalent qualification with 5 years experience

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NCT (Civil) or equivalent qualification with 5 years Construction Experience.

If your profile matches our requirements, please send your updated CV to elstrinco@elslanka.com within 07 days.

Project Coordinator
SANKEN-ELS-HSLC JOINT VENTURE
No: 295, Madampitiya Road, Colombo 14.
TP: + 94 114309494 Fax: +94 112509806

New Villages Development Authority for Plantation Region

VACANCIES

Applications will be received from Sri Lankan citizens with required qualifications for the recruitment to the undermentioned posts existing vacant at the new village Development Authority for Plantation Region, established under the State Ministry of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure.

S/No.	Posts	Salary Code Number	Salary Scale	No. of Vacancies
1.	Director	HM 1-1	80,295 - 15x2,270 - 114,345/-	02
2.	Regional Director	MM 1-3	55,295 - 10x1,375 - 15x1910 - 98,325/-	01
3.	Deputy Director	MM 1-1	53,175 - 10x1,375 - 15,1910 - 95,575/-	01
4.	Accountant	MM 1-1	53,175 - 10x1,375 - 15x1,910 - 95,575/-	01
5.	Administrative Officer	JM 1-1	42,600 - 10x755 - 18x1,135 - 70,580/-	01
6.	Technical Officer	JM 1-1	42,600 - 10x755 - 18x1,135 - 70,580/-	02
7.	Translator	MA 4	37,970 - 10x755 - 15x930 - 5x1,135 - 65,145/-	02
8.	Accounts Assistant	MA 2-1	30,310 - 10x300 - 7x350 - 4x495 - 20x660 - 50,940/-	01
9.	Development Officer	MA 3	32,200 - 10x445 - 11x660 - 10x730 - 5x750 - 54,960/-	02
10.	Management Assistant	MA 1-2	27,910 - 10x300 - 7x350 - 12x600 - 12x710 - 49,080/-	03
11.	Driver	PL 3	26,290 - 10x270 - 10x300 - 10x330 - 12x350 - 39,490/-	04
12.	Office Aide (Peon)	PL 1	24,750 - 10x250 - 10x270 - 7x300 - 15x330 - 37,000/-	04

Further details are stated in the website - www.smehci.gov.lk of the state ministry of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure and it is kindly notified that applications should be sent to be received on or before 28.02.2021. The relevant application can be downloaded from this website.

Gandhi Soundarajan,
Chairman,
New Villages Development Authority,
State Ministry of Estate Housing &
Community Infrastructure.

Sales Representatives/ Trainee Sales Representatives

(Mahiyanganaya, Badulla, Polonnaruwa, Chilaw, Hettipola, Wariyapola, Colombo, Kadawatha, Kaduwela, Kaluthara, Aluthgama, Galle, Kandy, Gampola)

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- 3-4 years' experience in field sales
- Must have own motor bike

TRAINEE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- G.C.E A/L
- Age limit 20 to 30
- Must have own motor bike

Monthly income Rs. 55,000/- to 65,000/-

Please apply to:

Somapala & Company (Pvt) Ltd.,
No. 45, Welikadawatte Road, Rajagiriya.
E-mail: careers@somapalaco.com
Mobile: 070-6523416 / 071-6948432

VACANCY

Shipping and Forwarding Organization located in Colombo wishes to fill below vacancy immediately.

IMPORT DOCUMENTATION EXECUTIVE

Applicant should have pass (G.C.E) A/L Computer Literacy (MS Office & E-mail)

Having experience of 02 years

Please call - 0718693368

Send your complete resume before
19th February to: maritimefi@gmail.com,
akramimi@gmail.com

SCHAUPUB TECHNIK (PVT) LTD

Workshop Engineer/ Trainee Engineer/
Mechanical Draughtsman (AutoCAD)/
QS BSc/ NDT/ NCT

with minimum of one year post qualification

Age: below 40 years

123, Main Road, Attidiya, Dehiwala.

Email CV to: rhgunasiri@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 0771555996 / 0715770597

0759225405 / 0115736627-28

**Repeat
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Better
Offers**

ASSISTANCE SALES EXECUTIVES (SURGICAL CONSUMABLE & MEDICAL DEVICE) Male & Female

Leading Medical Equipment
Company @ Nugegoda/Nawala
Invited from suitable qualified persons
for the above post

Required Qualifications

- Good command of written and spoken English and Sinhala
- 2 yrs Experience in the similar field would be added advantage
- Should have a valid driving licence
- Age between 24 - 30 years
- Should be position to travel island wide at any time
- Should have a marketing qualification with Science background
- Candidate Living in Colombo and suburb only consider

If you wish to express your interest in the above, please send a detailed CV with expecting salary & names of two non-related referees by below e-mail id

lifescientificmd@yahoo.com

**The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News**

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF THALPITIGALA RESERVOIR PROJECT MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION

Applications are hereby invited from suitable qualified citizens of Sri Lanka for the following positions of Thalpitigala reservoir Project, on contract basis and the applicants are requested to forward their applications along with their Curriculum Vitae giving educational, professional qualifications and experience with two contacts of Non-relative referees in registered post on or before 01 March 2021 to reach address mentioned below while indicating the post applied for on top left hand corner of the envelope.

Sr No.	Post	Level	Qualification	No of post	Duty place
1	Senior Social Officer	PS 5	1) A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission. Or A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field	01	Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Kandaketiya
2	Senior Environmental Officer	PS 5	An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field Or Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 7. Issued by a Technical Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field And At least 05 years of experience in the required area of specialization 2) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 6. Issued by a Technical Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field. And At least 10 years of experience in the required area of specialization 3) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 05. Issued by a Technical Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field. And At least 15 years of experience in the required area of specialization.	01	
3	Draftsperson	PS 6	1) A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission. Or A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field	01	
4	Procurement Officer	PS 6	A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field Or An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field	01	
5.	Engineering Material Survey	PS 6	Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 7. Issued by a Technical Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field And At least 03 years of experience in the required area of specialization 2) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 6. Issued by a Technical Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field. And At least 08 years of experience in the required area of specialization. 3) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 05. Issued by a Technical Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field. And At least 13 years of experience in the required area of specialization.	01	
6	Quantity Survey		(1 or 2 or 3 below) 1) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 7 issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field. And At least 2 years of experience in the required area of specialization. 2) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 06. Issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field. And At least 06 years of experience in the required area of specialization. 3) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 5. Issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field. And At least 11 years of experience in the required area of specialization.	01	Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Kandaketiya

Condition of Job

These appointments are initially for a period of 01 year on contract basis and may extend the service subjected to satisfactory performance of officer and requirement of the project.

General Condition

1. Applicant should be below 64 years of age
2. Work experience in foreign Funded Projects/Development Projects in Sri Lanka, will be an added advantage
3. Proficiency in English, Familiarity with Government regulations and Computer literacy are essential for these posts
4. Government approved salary scales with allowances as per the Management Service Circular No 01/2019 and any revisions thereafter are applicable. (visit: <http://www.treasury.gov.lk>)

Shortlisted applicants on highest qualification and experience will be called for an interview and selection will be based on merit. Therefore any influence or making representation for the recruitment process could result in rejection of the application copies of the certificate to prove basic Qualifications should be attached with the application and all the incomplete application will be rejected. The applications of candidates from Government services/ Statutory Boards / Corporation and other Government Institutions should be forwarded through their respective Heads of institution, who should state whether the applicants could be released on full time basis, if selected.

Eng. B.G.T. Lasantha Guruge,
Project Director,
Thalpitigala Reservoir Project.

WANTED - SALES STAFF

FOR A LEADING JEWELLERY ESTABLISHMENT IN COLOMBO 3.

EXPERIENCE IN THE INDUSTRY IS A PLUS

MALE, AGE 20-35 YEARS

SHOULD BE CONVERSENT IN ALL THREE LANGUAGES

PLEASE SEND C.V. WITH RECENT PHOTOGRAPH BY EMAIL TO

humanresourcesbej@gmail.com

VACANCIES

We are a leading Electrical Engineering Company engaged in Trading & Installations. We represent world renowned manufacturers of Circuit Breakers, Power Contactors, Power Capacitors, Lightning/Surge Protection Equipment and wide range of other industrial electrical equipment.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER ASSISTANT ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

The applicant should possess NDT/HNDE/INDES/IBT/C & G in electrical or equivalent. Experience in Designing/Assembly & Installation of Power Panels, Capacitor Banks, Motor Control Centers. Preparing BOQ's, Quotations/Tenders & Autocad drawings.

TECHNICAL OFFICER SITE SUPERVISOR WORKSHOP SUPERVISOR

The applicant should possess a Certificate in Electrical from a Technical Institution. Experience in Assembly & Installation of Power Panels, Capacitor Banks, Motor Control Centers. Preparing BOQ's, Quotations/Tenders & Autocad drawings.

AUTOCAD DRAUGHTSMAN

Experience in Autocad Drawings of Telco Tower Earthing, Power Panels, Motor Control Centers, Commercial & Industrial electrical systems.

For immediate employment.

Forward CV by post or E-mail within 7 days indicating post applied for & contact number.

General Manager
EMPIRE TRADING AGENCY (PVT) LTD
No.110, Layards Broadway, Colombo 14.
Tel:0702-823174/2433047
E-mail: vacancies@empiretradingagency.lk
Web: www.empiretradingagency.lk

Career Opportunity

Mike Flora, being a GLOBALGAP certified Floriculture Export Company, seeks a result oriented and proactive individual for its Nursery at Rambukkana.

Post of Production Manager

Requirements

- BSc degree in Agriculture / Horticulture or equivalent
- Experience in a similar industry with a minimum of 5 years in a managerial role
- Excellent interpersonal skills & should have a positive & confident personality.
- Good command of communication skills, oral and written English.

The successful candidate would be offered with a competitive remuneration package based on qualification and experience. Application with detail curriculum vitae and contact details with two non-related referees should reach the following email. hr@mikeflora.com

MIKE FLORA (PVT) LTD.,
65/11,Orchid Place, Swarnadisi Place,
Koswatte, Nawala, Rajagiriya.
Tel: 011-7711722 Web: www.mikeflora.com

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AT LEADING FIVE STAR HOTELS IN COLOMBO FOR SRI LANKA'S LEADING LUXURY TRANSPORT SOLUTION PROVIDER

Vacancy for Drivers/ Chauffeurs

Executive is the leading luxury transport solution provider operating in Sri Lanka for high-end hotels. Our proficiency in the field of Limousine Transportation is a product of our extensive expertise. We are looking for Drivers/ Chauffeurs with hands-on experience with the right attitude and commitment to join and grow with us.

The Position

- Liaising with the company or client to determine when and where you will collect the individual.
- Abiding by road regulations at all times.
- Ensuring that the vehicle remains pristine and in excellent working order.
- Demonstrate commitment to customers, provide unsurpassed service by understanding, anticipating and exceeding their expectations.
- Act with integrity and confidentiality and protect sensitive information.

The Person

- Valid driver's license.
- A sound knowledge in transportation, high-end vehicle models and road conditions
- Having good customer-service skills.
- Being able to work with clients from different backgrounds.
- Being able to drive safely.
- Excellent communication skills - Fluent in English speaking & writing
- Willingness to work flexible hours

Prior experience as a Professional Chauffeur is not essential.

An attractive remuneration, meals, accommodation, a pleasant working environment plus many fringe benefits are on offer to the selected candidates. Please send in your complete CV and contact details of two non-related referees to careers@spit.lk or by post to:

Human Resources Department,
Executive Transports & Travels (Private) Limited,
No. 35/5, Rosmead Place, Colombo 07.
stating the position applied for in the subject line.



VACANCIES

Sri Lanka Skills for Inclusive Growth Program (S4IG) - Phase 2

Scope Global is a specialist project management company delivering international development and education projects and programs throughout Asia and the Pacific.

About the opportunities

Scope Global is seeking applications (positions below) for the Australian Aid funded-program Sri Lanka Skills for Inclusive Growth (S4IG). This Program is supported by the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research & Innovations, Government of Sri Lanka.

The goal of S4IG Phase 2 is "economic growth particularly in the tourism value chain that benefits all Sri Lankans and contributes to a prosperous and stable Sri Lanka".

Phase 2 of the Program will support poor women and men who, as producers, workers, and entrepreneurs, participate in and benefit from the expanding tourism industry in Sri Lanka, implemented through our National Office in Colombo and Eastern and Northern Central Regional Offices in Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa districts.

Positions available in National Office - Colombo

1. Manager- Inclusion & Governance
2. Manager - Advocacy & Government Engagement

To Apply:

Visit <https://scopeglobal.com/about/careers/> to find out more about the role and to submit your online application (upload cover letter and CV and address the selection criteria listed on the system). **Applications will close Sunday 28th February 2021.** Please note that only applications submitted via our online system will be considered. Please note you must be a Sri Lankan national to be considered for this role.

Scope Global is an inclusive and child safe organisation and will ask all applicants to undergo our recruitment compliance procedures.



MUSAEUS COLLEGE COLOMBO 07

VACANCIES

Musaeus College is the leading government approved private school for girls in Colombo.

We are looking for experienced and dedicated females with a passion for teaching, who possess relevant academic or professional qualifications from a recognized institution for the following vacancies.

- ❖ **Teacher - Primary Section**
 - Diploma in Primary Education
 - Primary Trained
 - B.Ed. Degree
- ❖ **Teacher - IT - Primary Section**
 - Diploma/Degree in Computing
- ❖ **Mathematics Teacher** - O/L & A/L - (British Curriculum)
- ❖ **Physics Teacher** - O/L & A/L - (British Curriculum)
- ❖ **Combined Mathematics Teacher** - A/L (National Curriculum) (Sinhala & English Medium)
- ❖ **Library Assistant** (Basic Library Science Knowledge & Computer Literacy with experience.)

Attractive remuneration packages await the right candidates.

Please send your CV within 10 days of this advertisement to "The Principal, Musaeus College, No 58, Rosemead Place, Colombo 07" or by email to vacancies@musaeus.lk (Please state the position applied for, on the top left corner of the envelope / subject line on e-mail.)

PEOPLE'S BANK

The People's Bank, a premier bank in Sri Lanka with the largest customer base providing innovative financial solutions to its diversified clientele for over five decades and as a conducive environment for those who strive to achieve excellence and believe in professionalism. The bank is looking for a talented & dynamic individual to fill the following vacancy.

CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Chief Internal Auditor is responsible for the execution of the overall internal audit plan for the bank covering all aspects of its business that include:

- ❖ Reviewing the internal controls adopted by the management and review of the systems established to ensure compliance with those policies, plans, procedures, laws and regulations which could have a significant impact on operations.
- ❖ Carry out internal audit on bank's subsidiaries and associates as and when required.
- ❖ Interact with external auditor/s and government agencies including Central Bank of Sri Lanka with respect to the audit matters.
- ❖ Reviewing and appraising the economy and efficiency with which resources are employed.
- ❖ Support the business in achieving its corporate objectives. Identify activities that need improvement in procedures and/or policies so that business can be improved without increasing risks.
- ❖ Foresee potential areas of concern/risk and advise the top management on appropriate corrective action to be initiated.
- ❖ Create a culture within the bank whereby all personnel actively adopt best practices for reducing the risks to the bank.
- ❖ Develop, train and motivate the staff of Internal Audit Department through personal example & guidance & ensuring that they are continuously updated with the latest developments in banking/auditing techniques.

Key Requirements

- ❖ Possess a minimum of 10 years' Managerial experience in a reputed Bank or financial institution out of which 05 years should be at Senior Managerial Level preferably in audit environment.
- ❖ Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka or any other Recognized Professional Accountancy Institute.
- ❖ A degree from a recognized University or a Professional Qualification in Banking and/or Finance.
- ❖ A postgraduate qualification in a related field would be considered an added advantage.
- ❖ Familiarity with corporate governance practices in the banking or financial sector.
- ❖ Thorough knowledge of Business requirements and Risk Profiles.
- ❖ Experience in reviewing/auditing operations of core banking business areas as well as IT based audits will be a definite advantage.
- ❖ Should be a Citizen of Sri Lanka

The job is also guided by the accepted banking and industry practices in Sri Lanka and the legal framework under the Banking Act, Company Law, Stock Exchange Regulations, Inland Revenue Act, any other applicable act in force or introduced in future and Accounting and Audit Standards and Code of Best Practices for Corporate Governance as set out by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Age

Age should be above 40 years and below 55 years as at closing date of applications.

Method of Selection

Shortlisted applicants based on the stipulated qualifications and experience will be called for an interview.

Conditions of Employment

This will be a Corporate Management position (equivalent to the grade of Deputy General Manager) on contract basis and performance will be evaluated annually.

Remuneration

An attractive and negotiable remuneration package commensurate with qualifications and experience will be offered to the selected candidate.

Applications

Please send details of achievements and experience relevant to the job applied for together with your curriculum vitae along with copies of certificates and contact numbers of two non-related referees. The post applied for should be stated in the subject line of the Email and should reach the Email Address: recruitment@peoplesbank.lk on or before 23.02.2021.

An Email confirmation of receipt will be sent upon the receipt of the curriculum vitae. In the event a confirmation has not been received within a reasonable period of time, you may inquire regarding the application on telephone numbers 0112481542/0112481416.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence and any form of canvassing will be regarded as a disqualification.

All incomplete and Non-complying applications will be rejected.

The Bank reserves the right to decide the number of vacancies, postponement or cancellation of recruitment or on any other information not included in the advertisement.

Deputy General Manager (Human Resources)
People's Bank - Head Office
NO. 75, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha,
Colombo - 02.



PEOPLE'S BANK



Peoples Bank is a licensed member bank supervised by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

www.peoplesbank.lk

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AA Brand Finance Rating, AA+ High Rating



*The British School
in Colombo*

We are looking for energetic, self-motivated and hardworking individuals to join our team for the following position in our school with immediate effect.

TEACHER OF ENGLISH & LITERATURE

- Responsible for delivering outstanding lessons to students from Year 7 to Year 13.
- The appointed teacher will work closely with the Head of Department and other members of the department to ensure that the Department is a beacon of excellence in the school.
- The successful candidate will have outstanding professional skills and personal qualities, with a positive attitude to the development of themselves and others.
- Experience of successfully teaching Cambridge International IGCSE and A Level specifications is desirable.
- Candidates should be enthusiastic about professional development and the advancement of new skills.

Please complete BSC application form together with a personal statement and email to

humanresources@britishschool.lk
on or before 19 February 2021.

A completed BSC Application Form - Can be found under the vacancies in the school website (www.britishschool.lk)

TECHNICAL OFFICER

Suitably qualified Technical Officers with minimum 2 years experience for a housing project in Gampaha District.

info@knm-engineering.lk
0719922408

VACANCY

- T/O cum QS
- Aluminium Sub Contractor
- Carpentry Sub Contractor

D.M.T. Construction (Pvt) Ltd.,
No. 36B, S.De. S. Jayasinghe Mw., Kalubowila.
0777190907
Email: deepikadesilva76@gmail.com

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ACCOUNTANT FEMALE - (BELOW 45)

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SHOWROOM EXECUTIVES - (BELOW 35)

SALES EXECUTIVES - (BELOW 45)

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVES

INSTALLATION SUPERVISORS - MALE (BELOW 45)

ADMINISTRATIVE EXECUTIVES - FEMALE (BELOW 35)

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR CV TO yhfcareers@gmail.com

NO. 389A, HAWALA ROAD, RAJAGIRIYA, 5RI LANKA
+94 (0) 759 345 003 / +94 (0) 114 375 070
WWW.YOURHOMEFURNITURE.LK

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Food & Bakery Industry

Reputed bakery establishment in **Boralessgamuwa** area comprising **29 food outlets** food exports and catering has above immediate vacancy.

The ideal person should be well experienced in above Food production areas and age below **45 years**. **Applicants from Colombo District only.**

Apply within 7 days with names of 2 non-related referees and approximate salary expecting.

sevwandini@gmail.com
Tel : 077 719 1237

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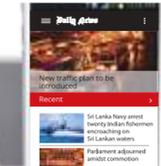


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Academic Vacancies – Uva Wellassa University**FACULTY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE & EXPORT
AGRICULTURE****01. DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE**

Post: Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Senior Lecturer Gr. II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Area: 01. Poultry Management

Special Note: Bachelor of Animal Science special degree/ B.Sc. special degree in Agricultural Technology and Management/ Agriculture/ Agricultural Sciences (specialized in Animal Science) from a recognized university, preferably having proficiency in Poultry Management and related areas.

Subject Area: 02. Swine Management

Special Note: Bachelor of Animal Science special degree/ B.Sc. special degree in Agricultural Technology and Management/ Agriculture/ Agricultural Sciences (specialized in Animal Science) from a recognized university, preferably having proficiency in Swine Management and Animal Welfare & Behavior.

Subject Area: 03. Farm Management

Special Note: B.Sc. special degree in Agricultural Technology and Management/ Agriculture/ Agricultural Sciences (specialized in Agricultural Economics) from a recognized university, preferably having proficiency in Agricultural Economics, Farm Management & Budgeting.

Subject Area: 04. Food Engineering

Special Note: B.Sc. special degree in Food Science and Technology/ Food Production & Technology Management/ Food Science & Nutrition/ Agricultural Technology & Management/ Agriculture/ Agricultural Sciences (specialized in Food Science and Technology) from a recognized university, preferably having proficiency in Food Engineering.

Subject Area: 05. Aquatic Environmental Science

Special Note: B.Sc. special degree in Aquatic Resources Technology or any other related degree programme from a recognized university, preferably having proficiency in Aquatic Environmental Sciences, Ecological Modeling and Environmental Microbiology.

Subject Area: 06. Fish Biology

Special Note: B.Sc. special degree in Aquatic Resources Technology/ Fisheries and Aquaculture/ Science (specialized in the field of Fish Biology) or any other related degree programme from a recognized university, preferably having proficiency in Fish Biology.

02. DEPARTMENT OF EXPORT AGRICULTURE

Post: Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Senior Lecturer Gr. II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Area: 01. Agricultural Microbiology

Special Note: Preference will be given to the candidates with Postgraduate Qualifications in the field of Agricultural Microbiology with a B.Sc. in Microbiology or any other related degree with majoring/specialized in Microbiology

Subject Area: 02. Agricultural Engineering

Special Note: Preference will be given to the candidates with Postgraduate Qualifications in Agricultural Engineering with a B.Sc. in Agriculture with majoring/specialized in Agricultural Engineering.

Subject Area: 03. Genetic and Plant Breeding

Special Note: Preference will be given to the candidates with Postgraduate Qualifications with a B.Sc. in Agriculture, Specialized in Agriculture Biology/Biotechnology or B.Sc. Honors in Biotechnology. Experience in research and development in Plant Genetic Improvements will be important.

Subject Area: 04. Palm Process Technology

Special Note: Preference will be given to the candidates with Postgraduate Qualifications with a B.Sc. in Palm & Latex Technology and Value Addition or B.Sc. in Agriculture with majoring/specialized in Plantation Management. Experience in research and development related to Palm Technology/Processing will be important.

Subject Area: 05. Palm Cultivation and Management

Special Note: Preference will be given to the candidates with Postgraduate Qualifications with a B.Sc. in Palm & Latex Technology and Value Addition or B.Sc. in Agriculture with majoring/specialized in Plantation Management. Experience in research and development related to Palm Cultivation and Management will be important

Subject Area: 06. Manufacturing and Process Technology in Plantation Industries

Special Note: Preference will be given to the candidates with Postgraduate Qualifications with a B.Sc. in Palm & Latex Technology or Bachelor of Science degree preferably specialized in Chemical or Polymer or Material Science. Experience in Research and Development in Polymer or rubber will be an added advantage.

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES**01. DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Post: Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Senior Lecturer Gr. II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Area: 01. Physics

Preferred Specialization Areas are Solid State Physics/ Materials Science

Subject Area: 02. Electrical & Electronic Engineering

02. DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED EARTH SCIENCES

Post: Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Senior Lecturer Gr. II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Area: 01. Mineral Processing Technology

Special Note: Special Degree of Bachelor of Science in Mineral Resources and Technology (B.Sc.)

Preferred Specialization Areas in Postgraduate Studies are Mineral Processing and Technology, Mineral Processing Technology, Mineral Value Addition Process

Subject Areas: 02. Mining and Mineral Processing Engineering

Special Note: Special Degree of Bachelor of Science of Engineering – Earth Resources Engineering

Preferred Specialization Areas in postgraduate Studies are Industrial Mineral Processing Technologies, Mining Methods, Mine Planning Strategies and Plant Performance

Subject Area: 03. Water and Wastewater Technology

Special Note: Special Degree of Bachelor of Science in Mineral Resources and Technology (B.Sc.)

Preferred Specialization Areas in Postgraduate Studies are Water Science and Technology, Water and Wastewater Treatment, Water Technology, Water Supply Engineering, Membrane Technology

**03. DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE &
INFORMATICS**

Post: Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Senior Lecturer Gr. II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Area: 01. Computer Science

Subject Area: 02. Information Technology

Special Note: Preferred Specialization Areas are: Web Engineering, Data Science, Image Processing, Bio-computation, UI/UX Engineering, Software Engineering/ Requirement Engineering

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT**01. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM STUDIES**

Post: Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Senior Lecturer Gr. II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Area: 01. Travel & Tourism Management

02. Cultural & Heritage Tourism

03. Events Management Banquet & Catering

04. Sustainable & Ecotourism Management

Special Note: Applicants should possess a B.Sc. or BBM Degree in Tourism & Hospitality Management

02. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Post: Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Senior Lecturer Gr. II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Area: 01. Human Resource Development

Special Note: Applicants should possess a B.Sc. or BBM or BA degree or Postgraduate degree in Human Resource Development.

Qualifications

Note: Candidates, whose specializations are compatible with the requirements, are requested to refer the relevant UGC Circular Nos. 721, 996, 08/2016 and 07/2018 or visit www.ugc.ac.lk

Application form, preferred qualifications and other relevant details can be obtained by visiting the University Website www.uwu.ac.lk.

Remuneration and benefits

Salary Scale

> Lecturer (Probationary)- [U-AC 3(IV)]

Rs.54, 600-10 X 1, 335 – 67,950 p.m.

> Lecturer (Unconfirmed) [U-AC 3(III)]

Rs.69, 580-5 X 1, 630 – 77,730 p.m.

> Senior Lecturer (Grade II) [U-AC 3(II)]

Rs.79, 360-11 X1 ,630 – 97,290 p.m.

> Senior Lecturer (Grade I) [U-AC 3(I)]

Rs.91, 310-7 X 2, 170 – 106,500 p.m.

In addition, the Government approved allowances applicable to the University system will be paid.

The duly completed applications should be forwarded with copies of relevant certificates (with transcripts) under registered cover to reach the **Senior Assistant Registrar, Human Resources Division, Uva Wellassa University, Passara Road, Badulla** on or before **17.03.2021**.

The candidates who apply for more than one post should submit separate applications in separate covers for each post. **The preferred subject area should be clearly indicated in the form of application.**

Applicants from the University System/ Government Departments/ Corporations and Statutory Boards should apply through the Heads of their respective Institutions. Applications which are not received through proper channels will not be considered.

Incomplete applications, applications without supporting documents and applications received after the closing date will not be considered. University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates and call only such candidates for the interview.

Registrar
Uva Wellassa University
14.02.2021


SLIIT
Discover Your Future

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
SENIOR LECTURER / LECTURER VACANCIES

The Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) is a pioneer in the higher education sector of Sri Lanka and offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines (www.sliit.lk). It is committed to providing the best student experience through a dedicated group of academic and non-academic staff. The main campus located in Malabe has excellent academic and recreational facilities.

The Faculty of Engineering at SLIIT is the academic home of more than 90 staff and a growing cohort of undergraduate and postgraduate students. The faculty offers cutting-edge degree programs and encourages a strong research culture. The Department of Civil Engineering has over 30 academic staff, a large cohort of undergraduate students and modern laboratories in all major areas of civil engineering.

We are inviting applications for positions at the grades of Senior Lecturer (Higher Grade), Senior Lecturer and Lecturer (tenure-track). A recognized undergraduate honours degree in civil engineering is required for all ranks. Candidates for senior lecturer positions must have relevant research-based post-graduate degrees (a doctoral degree for Senior Lecturer (Higher Grade) and a 2-year research-based master's for Senior Lecturer) recognized by SLIIT. The appointees will contribute to research and teaching in the broad areas of civil engineering and engage in administrative duties and professional service. We are particularly seeking applicants with strong track-records in the following areas:

- Construction Engineering and Management
- Structural Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering

SLIIT offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

To apply, please send a detailed CV, a cover letter and contact details of 3 referees by email to careers@sliit.lk clearly indicating the area of expertise and the position rank. The deadline for applications is 22nd February 2021.


University of the Visual and Performing Arts
VACANCIES

Applications are called from suitably qualified candidates for the undermentioned posts of this University until 25.02.2021.

1. Technical Officer (Audio Visual) Grade III

Qualifications

(i) Should have passed in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination in any Stream.
AND

(ii) (a) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q. Level 5 in the field of Electronics and Telecommunication / Electronics / Multimedia or Audio Visual Techniques from an Institution recognized by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or a Statutory Institution which has been established by an Act passed by the Parliament
OR

(b) Having obtained technical qualifications in the field of Electronics and Telecommunication / Electronics / Multimedia or Audio Visual Techniques accepted as equivalent to the above qualification of (ii) (a) by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission with one year experience in Audio Visual work in reputed Organization.

Recruitments :
Selection by written and/or practical test and an interview.

Age : Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years.

Salary Scale : Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275 p.m. U-MT 1 (III A)
(Basic salary Rs. 31,625 in addition to this Salary Government approved other allowances will be paid).

2. Management Assistant (Book-Keeping) Grade III

Qualifications

(1) Should have passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six (06) subjects at one sitting with credit passes in :-

- i. Sinhala Language / Tamil Language
- ii. English Language / English Literature
- iii. Mathematics

&

(2) Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Papers) at one sitting.

Preference will be given to those who possess the following :

(a) An acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized Institute
&

(b) Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.

Post Specific Qualifications

In addition to the qualifications mentioned above, the candidates under the limited and open categories should have possessed post specific qualifications mentioned below.

(a) The National Certificate for Accounting Technicians of the Sri Lanka Technical College / College of Technology under the Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training or any other equivalent qualification obtained from the recognized Institute.
OR

(b) G.C.E. (A/L) qualification should be in the Commerce Stream.

Recruitments :
Selection by written examination and interview.

NOTE : Eligibility

(a) Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka
(b) Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age on the closing date of applications.
(c) Should be of good character

Salary Scale :
Rs. 30,725 - 17x300 - 35,825 p.m. U-MN 1 (III A)
(Basic salary Rs. - 30,725 in addition to this Salary Government approved other allowances will be paid).

Application Procedure :

01. The Application Form and all the other relevant details could be obtained from "Assistant Registrar / Non-Academic Establishment, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, 21, Albert Crescent, Colombo 07" by sending a self-addressed stamped (Rs. 15.00) envelope 9"x4" in size up to reach on or before **22nd February 2021** or can be downloaded from the University Website www.vpa.ac.lk
02. The duly perfected application should be sent by registered post addressed to "Assistant Registrar / Non-Academic Establishment, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, 21, Albert Crescent, Colombo 07" on or before **25th February 2021**, 4.00 p.m. The post applied for should be mentioned on the top left corner of the envelope containing the application.
03. Only the photocopies of all relevant certificates should be attached to the application.
04. Applicants who are employed in Public or Corporation Service should direct their applications through Heads of Departments.
05. Applications that do not fulfill the required qualifications, incomplete applications, the late applications, Applications not to the format and those who have not attached documents to prove the experience will be rejected.

Registrar,
University of the Visual and Performing Arts,
21, Albert Crescent,
Colombo 07.
08.02.2021

LANKA ELECTRICITY COMPANY (PRIVATE) LIMITED
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited, a distribution utility in Sri Lanka which has seven Branches covering operational areas of the coastal belt of the island from Negombo to Galle serving over 500,000 consumers and has a workforce of 1500 employees is seeking qualified personnel for the following posts.

1. MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

Educational Qualifications	• B.Sc. Eng. Degree in Civil Engineering .
Other Qualifications	• Associate Member of IESL.
Experience	• 05 years of experience. • Registered as a Building Services Engineer (MEP) in IESL will be an added qualification.

The age limit for the above posts should be below 40 years as at **24th February 2021**.

An attractive salary will be offered to the selected candidate with a wide range of fringe benefits.

Please forward your detailed Curriculum Vitae with copies of certificates together with names, addresses and contact telephone numbers of two non-related referees to reach the undersigned on or before **24th February 2021**.

The post applied for should be clearly stated on the application and on the top left-hand corner of the Envelope.



Head of Human Resources & Administration
Lanka Electricity Company (private) Limited
1st Floor, E.H. Cooray Building,
411, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.



SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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இலங்கை ஏற்றுமதி அபிவிருத்திச் சபை



MINISTRY OF TRADE

- VACANCIES -

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB), the apex government trade organization plays a key role in the promotion of exports of the country. Strategies and programmes are already in place to facilitate and guide the private sector to increase their export portfolios thus bringing more exchange earnings to the country. In order to achieve such growth in exports EDB invites dynamic, highly competent, self-motivated professionals with excellent leadership skills to join the Management Team.

(1) DIRECTOR - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HM 1-1)

It is necessary to lead the team of IT staff in the new digital marketing, determine business requirements for IT systems, design and implement IT infrastructure & systems, disaster recovery plans and necessary security measures to ensure smooth delivery and operation of IT services both to the organization and external stakeholders.

The Director is responsible for providing IT Services to the organization, maintaining a trade portal, updating EDB Website, provisions of e-communication, e-promotion etc., strategic planning and decision making for the development and implementation of information technology infrastructure. Providing solutions required to meet current and future business goals of the organization. Maintain a conducive IT policy with align to e-government policy in respect of computer hardware software, usage, access and procurements. IT resource planning, budgeting, operational initiative and monitor performance and results and overall administration of the Division.

Qualifications:

A Degree preferably in IT, Computer Science or related field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission and a postgraduate qualification (Masters') in the relevant field with minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualifying experience (after the 1st Degree) in Managerial Level in a Government Department/Corporation/Board or a reputed private sector Institution.

(2) DIRECTOR-EXPORT SERVICES (HM 1-1)

Export of Services is a highly potential and challenging area to boost the country's exports and foreign exchange earnings. New sectors such as Marine & Offshore Engineering, Education, Wellness Tourism and converging of Electronic with ICT / BPM are emerging in this sector generating many opportunities to the country.

The Director is responsible for improvement of the export performance of a selected group of professional services including ICT/BPO related services, through integrated programmes, which include supply development, technological development, quality improvement, packaging development and training, initiate product development and adaptation of such products to said export market requirements. This will include any relevant human resources development and R & D work as well as overall administration of the Division.

(3) DIRECTOR-INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS (HM 1-1)

Industrial products export is the major foreign exchange earner of the country which has a potential for further expansion. These sectors include traditional sectors such as Apparel, Rubber, Gems and Jewellery etc. and the emerging sectors such as Boat and Ship building, pharmaceuticals, automobile component etc. The Director is responsible for improvement of the export performance of a selected group of industrial products, through integrated programmes which include supply development, technological development, quality improvement, packaging development and training, initiate product development and adaptation of such products to said export market requirements. This will include any relevant human resources development and R & D work as well as overall administration of the Division.

Qualifications (2) & (3) :

A Degree preferably in Marketing / International Relations / Economics / Commerce / Science / Agriculture / Business Administration or related field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission and a postgraduate qualification (Masters) in a related field with a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualifying experience (after the 1st Degree) at Managerial Level in a Government Department/ Corporation /Board or a reputed private sector Institution.

Salary Scale - HM 1-1 (1), (2) & (3) : Rs. 80,295/- 15 x 2,270 - Rs.114, 345/- per month and Government approved allowances.

Method of Selection : by a structured interview.

We are looking for highly competent individuals **under 55 years** of age for all the above-mentioned posts. The upper age limit would not apply to the candidates in the Government Departments, Corporations & Statutory Institutions.

Other benefits :

- An assigned vehicle as per PE Circular No. PED 1/2015(i) dated 27.10.2016
- EDB Medical Assistance Scheme
- Encashment of unutilized Medical Leave /Annual Bonus as per circulars
- Housing Loan Scheme and Distress Loan at concessionary rates of interest
- EPF - Employee - 10%; Board - 15% & ETF - Board 3%

If you consider yourself suitable, you are invited to apply on or before the **01.03.2021**.

The applications should be made on the prescribed form which could be accessed by visiting www.srilankabusiness.com [under the section of "Announcements"] or the application forms could be collected from the HRM Division, Level 5, EDB. The duly completed applications along with the relevant copies of certificates should be sent under Registered Cover addressed to the Director General EDB, mentioning the title of the post on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. **Any application that is not submitted in the prescribed form (EDB application) and not supported with the relevant copies of certificates will be rejected.**

Applications from State Sector employees should be forwarded through their Heads of Institutions. We advise you to send a copy of such state sector employee's applications in advance to reach the EDB before the closing date.

Director General
SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
NDB-EDB Tower, 42, Nawamawatha, Colombo 02
Tel: 011-2300700 / Fax: 011-2300715
Web: www.srilankabusiness.com



CEYLON SHIPPING CORPORATION LTD

(Ministry of Ports & Shipping)



VACANCY

Applications are invited to recruit a suitable candidate holding citizenship of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and possessing the relevant qualifications and experience for the following post.

1) POST OF TECHNICAL SUPERINTENDENT – CONTRACT BASIS (01 VACACY)

- Qualifications** : Having obtained the Chief Engineer Proficiency Certificate issued by a State Shipping Administration Agency of Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, China, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa or Ireland or of any other country which has entered into bilateral agreements with Sri Lanka regarding the acceptance of the relevant certificates.

And

Minimum of 02 years experience as a Chief Engineer in seafaring merchant ship which has main engine with a capacity of more than 3,000 kilowatts.

And

Minimum one year post qualification experience in a Shipyard or in the repair management of a shipping company.
- Salary** : Monthly Allowance of Rs. 437,500/-

In addition, a monthly vehicle allowance approved by the Government and the fuel allowance
- Age Limit** : 60 years
- Method of Recruitment** : A Structured interview by a panel appointed by the Appointing Authority.

Job description

- Implement procedures laid out in the Company Safety and Quality manuals and other instructions as issued by management
- Closely monitor and ensure compliance with statutory and class requirements for assigned vessels.
- Manage the performance and condition of assigned vessels in conjunction with the onboard management team to ensure that quality requirements are being fully met.
- Conduct bi-annual vessel inspections and follow up as necessary inspection report deficiencies, observations from internal reports and relevant department reports.
- Monitor vessels' routine maintenance through Planned Maintenance system and ensure work and records are up to date.
- Identify areas for improvements and modifications and make recommendations for efficient operation of the vessels.
- Arrange for all spares, repairs modifications and services to comply with statutory requirements and company standards.
- Plan and attend dry-docking and supervise repairs and modifications to assigned vessels.
- Work with ship board management team to ensure all third parties engaged in repair / modification activities onboard assigned vessels comply with company policy with regard to health, safety and the protection of the environment.
- Closely monitor Guarantee Defects and ensure repairs are closed out.
- Develop, monitor and control running cost budgets.
- Actively participate in the development of the quality management system and engage in the process for the continuous improvement of departmental procedures.
- Assist with investigations as part of the incident investigation team

Fringe Benefits

1. Contribution to EPF / E.T.F. – by the Corporation
2. Surgical & Hospitalization Insurance Cover for indoor and outdoor treatments
3. Comprehensive Personal Accident Insurance Cover

General Instructions

- All Applications together with Copies of Educational / Professional certificates certified by the applicant as true copy together with Birth certificate, other relevant certificates and addresses of two non-related referees should be forwarded by registered post to reach the Chairman – CSCL or email to hr@cscl.lk before **23rd February 2021**.
- Please indicate the post applied on the top left hand corner of the envelope.
- Applications from employees of Public Sector Organizations should be forwarded through the respective Heads of Institutions.
- Late and incomplete applications will not be considered
- Please note that applicants will be evaluated at a Structured interview by a Panel appointed by the appointing authority.

Non-conformity with the above requirements will result in the application being rejected. Carvassing of any form will be a disqualification.

Chairman
Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd.
 No: 27, MICH Building,
 Sir Razik Fareed Mawatha (Bristol Street), Colombo 01.
 For further details please contact 071 4452898



VACANCIES

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa will entertain applications for the under mentioned posts from suitably qualified Sri Lankan Citizens up to **08.03.2021**.

POSTS:

Post	Basic Qualifications	Preferable Fields	Division
Lecturer (Prob.)/Lecturer /Senior Lecturer Grade I/II	Bachelor Degree in Engineering (4 years) Specialized in Textile Technology	Fiber Science, Colouration & Finishing, Weaving Technology, Woven Fabric Structure, Apparel related subjects (Work-study, Ergonomics, Lean Management and Merchandising)	Division of Textile & Clothing Technology
Temporary Instructor	Bachelor Degree in Engineering (4 years) Specialized in Textile Technology OR Bachelor of Industrial Studies in specializing Textile Technology (Experience in a textile mill or a laboratory will be an added qualification)	Textile Technology Specialized in Textile Technology	
Lecturer (Probationary), Lecturer (Unconfirmed) Senior Lecturer Gr. II & Gr. I	B. Sc. Special Degree in IT/Computer Science/Software Engineering/Computer Engineering/MIS/Computer Systems OR B. Sc. Special Degree with Computer Science or IT subjects		Division of Information Technology

SALARY SCALES

Senior Lecturer Gr. I	- Rs. 91,330 - 7x2170- 106,500 p.m.	U-AC 3 (I)
Senior Lecturer Gr. II	- Rs. 75,360 - 11x1630- 97,290 p.m.	U-AC 3 (II)
Lecturer (Probationary)	- Rs. 54,600 - 10x1335- 67,950 p.m.	U-AC 3 (IV)
Temporary Instructor	- Rs. 40,920 (fixed)	U-AC 1

In addition to the above salary,

1. Following allowances will be paid in the percentage of the basic salary for those who carrying the salary scale of U-AC 3
 - i. Academic Allowance

Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Gr. II Lecturer/Lecturer (Probationary)	- 151%
Lecturer/Lecturer (Probationary)	- 115%
 - ii. Additional monthly allowance - 20%
 - iii. Research allowance - 35% (based on the research activity)
2. Cost of living allowance of Rs.7800

BENEFITS:
 Appointees will become contributors to the Universities Provident Fund and the Universities Pension Scheme (only for Permanent Staff) and will also be entitled to 3% of the Employees Trust Fund.

SABBATICAL LEAVE:
 The holders of Post of Senior Lecturer Gr. II and above are eligible for one year of Sabbatical leave with full pay or two years without pay on completion of seven years of service. Those proceeding abroad on Sabbatical leave are eligible to receive full passage for self and spouse.

HOW TO APPLY:
 Application forms and other particulars could be downloaded from ITUM website <https://www.itum.mrt.ac.lk>. Duly completed applications should be forwarded to the Deputy Registrar, Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa, Diyagama, Homagama under registered cover indicating the Post applied for on the top left - hand corner of the envelope, to reach on or before **08.03.2021**.

IMPORTANT:
 Applicants from the University System/Government Departments/Corporations and Statutory Boards should channel their applications through the Heads of their respective institutions.
 Applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will be rejected without intimation.

Competent Authority
 Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa
 Diyagama, Homagama.
 14.03.2021

OBSERVER JOBS

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Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

Port City Development Project

VACANCIES

Project Description:-

01. A tripartite agreement has been signed between the three parties, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka), Urban Development Authority (UDA) and CHEC Port City Colombo Pvt. Ltd. (Project Company) for implementation of the Colombo International Financial City Project (Port City Project). Under this tripartite agreement, a great deal of responsibilities falls on the Government of Sri Lanka. The Ministry has set up a Project Management Unit for coordination, management, observation, and supervision of the responsibilities assigned to the Government of Sri Lanka.
02. Vacant positions to be filled:-

Position	No. of positions vacant	Salary group as per Circular 01/2019
1. Project Accountant	01	PS-4
2. Management Assistant	01	-
3. Account Assistant	01	-

03. As per the Public Management Service Circular No.: 01/2019, one of the following qualifications is required to have been fulfilled to be eligible for applying for the above positions.

No.	Post	Salary Group	Qualifications
01	Project Accountant	PS -04	(1 or 2 below) 1) A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant Field, recognized by the University Grants Commission Or A Qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an Equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant Field Or An Associate membership/ A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field with at least 09 years post qualifying experience in the relevant field 2) An officer of the Government All Island Service Class III/II or above or similar status in the relevant field with at least 09 years of experience in class III/II post
02	Management Assistant Account Assistant		(a) Having passed GCE (O/L) examination in six(06) subjects in one sitting with credit passes for four subjects including Sinhala or Tamil or English language and Maths. and (b) Having passed all subjects (other than the Common General Paper) at the G.C.E. (A/L) examination in one sitting. Priority will be given for the applicants who have a good knowledge in English Language.

04. **General Conditions:-**
 The applicants shall be the citizens of Sri Lanka and not be over 65 years of age.
05. **Salary:-**
 Salary will be paid as specified in the Management Service Circular No.: 01/2019 dated 15.03.2019 and other relevant Management Service Circulars, and in addition, the entitlements include the allowances and the privileges specified in the said Circular.
06. **Conditions for Applying:-**
 Those who are in the public service can apply for in accordance with para.(b) of Section 2:3:3 of the Management Service Circular No.: 01/2019 and the applicants who are not in the public service will be recruited on contract basis. Those who are in the public service should submit their applications through the respective departmental heads.
07. **Applications:-**
 Applications prepared using A4 size papers, giving the details such as qualifications, experience and other relevant information including telephone number and e-mail address (if there is), should be sent by Registered Post to reach the following address on or before 01.03.2021 Applicants of governmental/non-governmental institutions should submit applications through relevant departmental heads, and direct submissions should be sent to the following address.

Executive Project Management Director
 Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
 8th Floor, "Suhurupaya",
 Battaramulla.

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VACANCIES

RATMALANA

ACADEMIC AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT STAFF

FACULTY OF LAW

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Law
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- Subject Area: - Law

FACULTY OF DEFENCE & STRATEGIC STUDIES

Department of Strategic Studies

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in;
- Subject Areas : - Strategic Studies & International Relations
2. Post of Instructor Gr. II
- Subject Areas : - Strategic Studies, International Relations

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Department of Social Sciences

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Social Sciences
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/Grade II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)
- Subject Areas : - Economics, Geography, Management

Department of Management and Finance

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Management
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/Grade II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)
- Subject Area : - Maritime Logistics
3. Post of Temporary Tutor
- Subject Area : - Supply Chain Management

Department of Languages

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in English Language - Teaching
 2. Post of Instructor Gr. III
- Subject Area : - English Language - Teaching

FACULTY OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Department of Radiography and Radiotherapy

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Radiography/ Radiotherapy
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed)
- Subject Areas: - Radiography, Radiotherapy
3. Post of Temporary Demonstrator
- Subject Areas: - Radiography, Radiotherapy

Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Medical Laboratory Sciences
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- Subject Area : - Medical Laboratory Sciences
3. Post of Temporary Demonstrator
- Subject Area : - Medical Laboratory Sciences

Department of Nursing & Midwifery

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Nursing & Midwifery
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- Subject Area : - Nursing & Midwifery
3. Post of Temporary Demonstrator
- Subject Area : - Nursing & Midwifery

Department of Pharmacy

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Pharmacy
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- Subject Areas : - Pharmacotherapeutics and Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Pharmaceutical Analysis, Practice of Pharmacy
3. Post of Temporary Demonstrator
- Subject Area : - Pharmacy

Department of Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- Subject Area : Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy
3. Post of Temporary Demonstrator
- Subject Area : - Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy

Department of Basic Sciences

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Basic Sciences
 2. Post of Temporary Demonstrator
- Subject Areas : - Biochemistry, Pathology, Physiology, Anatomy

** Special Note

Preference will be given to candidates who have experience and knowledge in online teaching platforms and curriculum revision activities.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Department of Pre Clinical Sciences

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in;
- Subject Areas : - Anatomy, Physiology
2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- Subject Areas : - Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry
3. Post of Temporary Demonstrator
- Subject Areas: - Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry

Department of Para Clinical Sciences

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in;
- Subject Areas : - Microbiology, Pharmacology, Parasitology, Forensic Medicine
2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- Subject Areas: - Pharmacology, Parasitology, Forensic Medicine, Pathology, Family Medicine
3. Post of Temporary Demonstrator
- Subject Areas: - Microbiology, Pharmacology, Parasitology, Forensic Medicine, Pathology, Public Health & Family Medicine

Department of Clinical Sciences

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in;
- Subject Areas : - Surgery, Psychiatry
2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- Subject Areas : - Gynaecology & Obstetrics, Psychiatry
3. Temporary Demonstrator
- Subject Areas: - Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Gynaecology & Obstetrics, Psychiatry

KDU-CARE

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Neuro Science

FACULTY OF COMPUTING

Department of Computer Sciences

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Computer Science
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/ Grade II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed)
- Subject Areas : - Cyber Security, Robotics, Human Computer Interaction, Distributed System

Department of Computer Engineering

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Computer Engineering
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/ Grade II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed)
- Subject Areas : - VLSI Design, Solid State Devices

Department of Computational Mathematics

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in;
- Subject Areas : - Modeling and Simulation, Operational Research, Statistical Distribution and Inference, Discrete Mathematics, Advanced Topics in Statistics, Engineering Mathematics

Department of Information Technology Southern Campus Suriyawewa

1. Post of Senior Professor/ Professor in Computer Science
 2. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/ Grade II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed)
- Subject Areas : - Mobile Computing, Semantic Web & Ontological Modeling, Machine Learning, Cyber Security, Cloud Computing and Virtualization, E-commerce, Industrial Engineering, IT Business Management

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

Department of Engineering Technology

1. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/ Grade II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed)
- Subject Areas : - Construction Technology, Lightning and Visual Comfort, HVAC/ Heat transfer and Applications, Ancillary Services of Modern Building, Building Acoustics, Air-conditioning and Ventilation, Building Services and Management Facilities, Electrical Components and Integration, Piped services, Energy and Controls, Sustainable Built Environment, Contracts and Procurements, Project Management, Quantity Surveying, Surveying, Materials Engineering, Structural Analysis, Geo Mechanics, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, Construction Planning and Management

Department of Bio-systems Technology

1. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I/ Grade II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed)
- Subject Areas : - Medical Physics, Operations Theatre Technology, Renal Dialysis Technology, Clinical Biochemistry, Nanotechnology, Omics, Lab Safety Standards & Waste Management, Chemistry, Cell & Developmental Biology, Nuclear Medicine, Medical Image Analysis, Hospital Information Management Systems

Center for IT Support & Development Services

1. Post of Instructor Gr. II
2. Post of System Analyst Grade II

Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) & Office of the Director International Relations

1. Post of Temporary Demonstrator

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

1. Post of Assistant Registrar (Legal & Documentation)

SALARY SCALES

ACADEMIC & ACADEMIC SUPPORT STAFF

01. Post of Senior Professor :-
U-AC 5 (I) Rs. 139,175-11x2,925-171,350 p.m.
02. Post of Professor :-
U-AC 5 (II) Rs. 117,350 - 13x2,700 - 152,450 p.m.
03. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade I :-
U-AC 3 (I) Rs. 91,310 - 7x2,170 - 106,500 p.m.
04. Post of Senior Lecturer Grade II :-
U-AC 3 (II) Rs. 79,360 - 11x1,630 - 97,290 p.m.
05. Post of Lecturer (Unconfirmed) :-
U-AC 3 (III) Rs. 69,580 - 5x1,630 - 77,730 p.m.
06. Post of Lecturer (Probationary) :-
U-AC 3 (IV) Rs. 54,600 - 10x1,335 - 67,950 p.m.
07. Post of Instructor Grade II :-
U-AS 1 (I) Rs. 48,385 - 19x690 - 61,495 p.m.
08. Post of Instructor Gr. III :-
U-AS 1 (II) Rs. 41,095 - 18x660 - 52,975 p.m.
09. Post of Temporary Demonstrator/ Temporary Tutor :-
U-AC 1 Rs. 40,920 (Fixed)
10. Post of System Analyst :-
U-AS 2 (II) Rs. 50,625 - 3x1,335 - 54,630 (EB) 55,965-14x1,335 - 74,955 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

01. Post of Assistant Registrar (Legal & Documentation) :-
U-EX 1 (II) Rs. 50,625-3x1,125 - 54,000 (EB) 55,335; 12x1,335 - 71,355 p.m.

OTHER BENEFITS

Sabbatical Leave and Research Allowance for eligible posts, Free Health Insurance, Annual Incentives, Scholarships for children of employees, priority basis treatments at University Hospital - KDU and other privileges.

General Conditions

01. Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
02. Selections will be done in accordance with the recruitment and promotion procedures approved in relation to each post by the University Grants Commission and based on the results of interviews.
03. Selections will be done by the Board of Management of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University only within the approved number of vacancies for each post/grade.
04. Only the applicants who meet the required qualifications will be summoned for the interviews.
05. The University reserves the right to shortlist candidates for interviews.
06. Applicants are strictly advised to apply in the application forms which can be downloaded from the KDU website (www.kdu.ac.lk). Late or incomplete application or applications which do not comply with the prescribed format will be rejected.
07. Applicants should send the dully completed applications with copies of relevant certificates by registered post to reach The Registrar, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana on or before **01/03/ 2021**.
08. Salaries are according to the latest UGC circulars. In addition to salary other allowances approved by UGC will be paid.
09. Candidates applying for academic positions are required to make a presentation (in English) before the Selection Committee in order to prove their teaching ability.
10. Applied post should be written on the top left hand corner of the envelope.
11. Candidates are instructed to refer to KDU website and UGC Circular No. 05/2015, 916, 04/2010, 721, 935, 08/2016, 08/2016 (ii), 07/2018, 948 and relevant amendments for special notes regarding Qualifications.
12. Selected candidates should be able to serve and perform duties of the post in any premises of KDU.
13. Applicants from Universities/Institutes/ Govt. Depts./ Corporations or Statutory Boards should forward their applications through the Head of the respective Institution/Institute.
14. Applicants who wish to apply for more than 01 post should submit separate application for each post.

Applications should be addressed to

The Registrar,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
Ratmalana

Visit our
website for further details -

www.kdu.ac.lk

Closing Date
01.03. 2021



PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka will receive sealed bids for supply of following items to the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Health.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of issue of Bidding Documents	Non-refundable Bid Fee LKR
DHS/SWW/1/22	30.03.2021 at 9.00 a.m.	Disposable metal bone marrow biopsy needle sets, various sizes, Scale for measurement of Central Venous Pressure & Biopsy Needle sets, various sizes	17.02.2021	20,000/- + taxes

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours & 1500 hours at the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Head Office, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatilake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bidding document Fee per set as mentioned above. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in Mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatilake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bids will be closed at the Head office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter.

Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding Documents are being sent to Sri Lanka missions abroad and foreign missions in Sri Lanka.

**CHAIRMAN – DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA,
75, SIR BARON JAYATILAKE MAWATHA
COLOMBO 1
SRI LANKA.**

TEL/FAX : 00 94-11- 2335008
E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk

INVITATION FOR BIDS



PROCUREMENT OF GOODS FOR THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Air Force invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the under mentioned goods.

S No	Procurement Identification Number	Description	Date and time of Bid closing / opening	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)
01	AHQ/21/PUB/CLO/1002	Purchase of Jogging Shoes for Airmen and Airwomen	8 th March 2021 at 1030 Hrs	24,000.00

2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.

3. Complete set of bidding document in English language could be inspected by interested bidders from the Sri Lanka Air Force website www.airforce.lk and may purchase from the Procurement Division (Tender Section) from **15th February 2021** between 1000 hrs and 1400 hrs on every working day before **05th March 2021** upon payment of a non-refundable fee to the Shroff at Sri Lanka Air Force Station Colombo. The offers without the receipt of payment will not be accepted.

4. The sealed bids in duplicate, shall be addressed to "The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee and may be either dispatched by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box at the Main Guard Room well before the closing time. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened soon after closing the bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the opening of the bids, upon presentation of their National Identity Card and letters of authorization from their employers. No bidder or his representative will be permitted to attend the bid opening after the bid closing time.

5. The items are listed in the "Schedule of Prices" of the bidding document and the applicable rates shall be indicated for each item listed therein. The offered rates shall not be subjected to variation on any account.

6. The supplies shall be made to Sri Lanka Air Force Base Katunayake and the prospective bidders shall bear all taxes, duties and levies applicable for the goods and the transport cost. The applicable VAT shall be indicated separately in the Schedule of Prices.

7. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Procurement Officer (Tel. 011-2325468 Extension 23550) or Procurement Officer Tenders (Tel. 011-2441553 or 011-2441044 Extension 23569 Fax: 011-2441553 and 011-2347694).

8. The address referred to above is:

Sri Lanka Air Force
Air Force Headquarters
P.O. Box 1592
Colombo 02

COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE



TENDER NOTICE

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites quotations from registered and previous sources for following items for open market sales and tenders will be closed at 1.15 p.m. on the dates given below. (E-mail /Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable)

Item	Quantity	Tender No.	Closing on
Item Code No: 050101C34 Sodium Valproate & Valproic Acid Controlled Release 500mg Tablets In 10x 10 Tablets (Blister)	4,000 Packs	RES/04/03/A/2011	04.03.2021
Item Code No : 170102C19 Pantoprazole Tablets 40mg In 10x10 Tablets (Blister)	120,000 Packs	RES/04/03/B/2021	04 .03 .2021
Item Code No : 120301C17 Captopril Tablets BP/USP 25mg In 10x10 Tablets (Blister)	30,000 Packs	RES/04/03/C/2021	04.03.2021
Item Code No: 240101C17 Clonipamine Hydrochloride Tablets 25mg In 5 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	18,000 Packs	RES/04/03/D/2021	04.03 .2021
Item Code No : 240106C20 Chlorpromazine Tablets BP 50mg OR Chlorpromazine Hydrochloride Tablets USP 50mg in 1000 Tablets	2,500 Packs	RES/04/03/E/2021	04.03.2021
Item Code No: 310114V99 Absorbent Cotton BP OR Purified Cotton USP OR Absorbent Cotton SLS 285: 1998 (1st Revision) in 50g pack in brown paper and wrapped again in blue colour paper	24,000 Packs	RES/04/03/F/2021	04.03.2021
Item Code No : 310117V99 Absorbent Cotton BP OR Purified Cotton USP OR Absorbent Cotton Wool SLS 285: 1998(1st Revision) in 200g pack in brown paper and wrapped again in blue colour paper	4,000 Packs	RES/04/03/G/2021	04.03.2021
Item Code No: 310123V99 Absorbent Cotton Gauze Type 13 BP 88 OR Absorbent Cotton Gauze SLS 395: 1985 (Add 87 (1987) Finished width 36 inches or 91cm unstretched length 100 yards or 92.3m. Each roll Packed in moisture proof and dust proof pack	3,600 Rolls	RES/04/03/H/2021	04.03.2021
Item Code No : 060509K78 Cloxacillin Oral Solution BP 125mg/5ml OR Cloxacillin Sodium for Oral Solution USP 125mg/5ml in 100ml bottle packed in a carton	3,000 Bottles	RES/04/03/I/2021	04.03.2021
Item Code No : 120701C17 Cinnarizine Tablets 25mg In 200 Tablets (Blister)	30,000 Packs	RES/04/03/J/2021	04.03.2021

These tenders are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987" and therefore, in the event bidder is to retain an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of tenderer shall register himself and such Public Contract in accordance with the section 10 of the Public Contract Act and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the tender or Act any stage in the duration of the tender.

Tenders will be closed at the office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at 1.15 p.m. on the dates indicated against each tender and will be opened immediately thereafter. Tenderers or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Tender.

The Chairman - Procurement Committee
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka
75, Sir Baron Jayatilake Mawatha,
Colombo 01.

Phone : 0094 11 2320356 - 9

STATE MINISTRY OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



Project on Prototype Manufacturing of Solar Panels

Project Management Office
C/O Research and Services Centre, Faculty of Science
University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya 11600, Sri Lanka



Invitation for Bids

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of Project on Prototype Manufacturing of Solar Panels of the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Training, Research and Innovation invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the purchase of the following items.

Item	Description	Quantity	Bid Security (from a Central Bank approved commercial bank in Sri Lanka)
1.	Electro-deposition equipment	1	LKR 35,000.00
2.	Plasma Cleaner	2	LKR 60,000.00
3.	Tube Furnace	2	LKR 40,000.00
4.	Stirring hot plate	2	LKR 5,000.00
5.	Thermal Evaporator	1	LKR 50,000.00
6.	List of Chemicals and Consumables for University of Jaffna		LKR 15,000.00
7.	List of Chemicals and Consumables for University of Kelaniya		LKR 10,000.00
8.	List of Chemicals and Consumables for University of Peradeniya		LKR 25,000.00

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Shopping procedure.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and/or Specifications in English language by in-person at the address given below from 0900-1500h on working days during the period from **15 February 2021 to 1 March 2021**, or by sending an email to protosolar@kln.ac.lk within the same period.

4. Qualification requirements include:

- Bids may be supplied by manufacturers or dealers who have previous experience of at least 3 years in manufacturing and/or supplying of similar offers.
- If the bidders are local suppliers, they should possess the Certificate of Business Registration issued by the Governmental authority in the relevant field.
- Bidders should submit manufacturer's authorization form in the prescribed form.
- The availability of the local agents in Sri Lanka for the supply of spare parts and after sales services for the maintenance of offers in the bid will receive priority consideration.
- If an Agent submits bids on behalf of more than one Manufacturer, unless each such bid is accompanied by a separate bid security, for each bid, and authorization from the respective Manufacturer, all such bids will be rejected.

5. Bids must be delivered to the address given below on or before **1430 hrs on 2 March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who opt to attend in person. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Security as specified above valid for the period of 6 months from 2 March 2021.

6. The address referred to above is :

**Chairman
Major Procurement Committee
Management Office of the Project on Prototype Manufacturing of Solar Panels
C/O Research, and Services Centre, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya,
Kelaniya 11600, Sri Lanka.**

Tel: +94 71 2008778 Fax: +94 11 2911485 e-mail: protosolar@kln.ac.lk

REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS OF SRI LANKA INSURANCE FOR YEAR 2021

Applications are invited from Suppliers, Contractors, Local and Foreign Manufacturers, Authorised Agents of Foreign Manufacturers and Service Providers who wish to register with Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd. for the supply of goods and services to SLIC Head Office and Island-wide Branches for the year 2021.

Established in 1962, Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation is the largest government-owned insurance company in Sri Lanka, with a managed asset base of over Rs.212 billion and a Life fund in excess of Rs.117 billion, the largest in the local insurance industry. Sri Lanka Insurance ranked as the 'Most Loved Insurance Brand' and the 3rd Most Loved Consumer Brand in the country by Brand Finance. The company is on a mission of being a customer focused company which constantly innovates in providing insurance services to customers and is now serves customers through an extensive network of 158 branches located island wide.

Category 01 : Marketing

- 1.1 **Marketing and Productions**
 - 1.1.1 Outdoor Advertising (billboards, hoardings, banners etc.)
 - 1.1.2 Event Management and Coordination
 - 1.1.3 Creative & Advertising
 - 1.1.4 Promotional Items (Ex :Umbrellas, Wall Clocks, T-Shirts, Mugs etc.)
 - 1.1.5 Souvenir Items (Ex: Shield, Gifts, Medals etc.)
 - 1.1.6 Screen and Digital Printing PVC Card Printing
 - 1.1.7 Branding Materials (Banners , cutouts,Light boxes, digital displays, brochure & poster displays and other branding and POS material Printing of Diaries and Calendars
 - 1.1.8

Category 02 : Information Technology

- 2.1 **Information Technology and Communication**
 - 2.1.1 IT Hardware and Software
 - 2.1.2 Communication Systems
 - 2.1.3 Telephone equipments, telephone components and mobile phones
 - 2.1.4 Supply and Installation of copper, fiber cabling, and equipments Supply of Network cabling, CCTV accessories and testing equipments Supply of network cabling tools Supply of fiber cabling maintains services Supply of electronic accessories
 - 2.1.5 Services of IT Hardware and Software (Computer,Printers,Card printers,Finger print Machine software,photocopy machine,cash counting machine)
 - 2.1.6 Powder Factor Correction Capacitor Bank
 - 2.1.7 CCTV Systems, Door Access Control Systems, Alert Systems, etc
- 2.2 **Consumable Items**
 - 2.2.1 IT Consumables (Printers, Cartridges/Toners, Ribbon etc)
 - 2.2.2 Office equipments/ IT equipments (Photocopiers, Fax machines, PCs, PVC Card machines)

Category 03 : Premises

- 3.1 **Civil**
 - 3.1.1 Construction and /or maintenance of
 - Building and fixtures
 - Roads
 - Roofs
 - Drains, Gutters and Down pipes
 - Plumbing Works (Water Supply, Drainage and Sewage System)
 - Supply and installation of sanitary fittings and supplying services
 - Tube Wells, Overhead Tanks, Sumps
 - Security fence
 - 3.1.2 Painting of Buildings
 - 3.1.3 Supplying/ fabricating and fixing of Cladding (Aluminium/ Sandwiched Aluminium Board /Zinc Aluminium Colour Bond Sheets)
 - 3.1.4 Steel fabrication and welding work
 - 3.1.5 Interior Decorations
 - Supply and install ceiling
 - Supply and install blinds
 - Supply and lay Carpets/Vinyl Tiles/Ceramic Tiles/Marble/ Granite
 - Supply and install tinted Papers / Sand Blast Stickers / Solar Control Film
 - Supply and install furniture (Racks, Shelves, Cupboards/Office requisites & Tables)
 - Supply and install wall papers
 - Supply and install Gypsum Board Partitions with Aluminium Frames and Glass
 - Doors and Windows / Prefabricated partitions
 - 3.1.6 Office furniture and fittings
 - 3.1.7 Upholstery Work
 - 3.1.8 Architectural Services
 - 3.1.9 Surveyor Services / Valuation
- 3.2 **Electrical**
 - 3.2.1 Supply, installation or maintenance of
 - Uninterruptable Power supply (UPS) Systems (1KVA to 120KVA)
 - Providing Stand-by Generating Systems (>50KVA) and Services
 - 3.2.2 Internet installation of all types of electrical work (small power and lighting)
 - 3.2.3 Repair of Electrical/ Electronic Equipment (Kitchen, Canteen equipments, fans, Motors, Typewriters, Polythene Sealers, Strapping machines, PCB's etc.,)
- 3.3 **Mechanical**
 - 3.3.1 Fire Extinguisher and other related equipments
 - 3.3.2 Repairs and services of ABC Dry Powder, CO2, Water and Foam Fire
 - Extinguishers
 - 3.3.3 Supply, installation and maintenance of Sprinkler Systems
 - 3.3.4 Supply, installation and maintenance of Fire Detection Systems
 - 3.3.5 Installation and maintenance of Fire Hydrant Systems, Fire Pump Engineers and Pumps
 - 3.3.6 Supply, installation and maintenance of Gaseous Fire Extinguishing Systems
 - 3.3.7 Supply and filling AFFF 3% Foam
 - 3.3.8 Hiring of
 - Steel / Concrete Blocks (10T and 2.5T)
 - Aerial Maintenance Platforms, Mobile Cranes Boom Trucks and Fork Lifts

- 3.3.9 LP Gas Systems
- 3.3.10 Supply, installation and maintenance of LP Gas Systems for the Cafeteria
- 3.3.11 Supply, installation and servicing of Kitchen Exhaust and Fresh Air Supply Systems,Repairing equipment & maintenance.
- 3.3.12 Air-Conditioners
- 3.3.13 Supply, Installation and Maintenance of
 - Water-Cooled Package Plant
 - Cooling Towers
 - Pumps
 - Chilled Water Fan Coil Units
 - Air Cooled Split Type Air Conditioners
 - Diffuser, Return Air Grills and Canvas Joints
- 3.3.14 Supply and Laying of
 - BI Pipes, GI Pipes and PVC Pipes Insulated and Non Insulated
 - Insulated and non Insulated Ducts
 - Insulated and non Insulated Copper Tubes
- 3.3.15 Servicing of
 - Split Type AC Units
 - Cooling Towers
 - Package Plants / Fan Coil Units
 - Chillers
- 3.3.16 Electrical and Mechanical Repair Work of
 - Vertical Multi Stage Condenser Water Pumps
 - Cooling Tower Pumps
 - Compressors which can be open
- 3.3.17 Chemical Cleaning of Tubes and Shell and Tube Condensers
- 3.3.18 Repair / Replacement of
 - Cooling Tower Plants and valves
 - Air-Condition Control Circuits
 - Compressors, Blower Wheels, Blower Motors, Bearings, Shafts, Condensers and any other parts in Air-Condition Plants

Category 04 : Administration

- 4.1 **Printing Work**
 - 4.1.1 Offset Printing
 - 4.1.2 Continue Sheets Required for Computer Printing
 - 4.1.3 Stationary/Rubber Stamp Suppliers
- 4.2 **Fixtures and Fittings**
 - 4.2.1 Vehicles and Vehicle Spare parts(Tyre,Batteries)
 - 4.2.2 Tinkering and painting vehicles
 - 4.2.3 Alignment checking and Wheels balancing
 - 4.2.4 Supply of Audio Video Equipment
- 4.3 **General Services**
 - 4.3.1 Cleaning, Janitorial Services and supplying of cleaning materials and chemicals
 - 4.3.2 Garden Maintenance Services, Landscaping Services
 - 4.3.3 Garbage Transporters
 - 4.3.4 Garbage Incinerating Services
 - 4.3.5 Carpet Shampooing Services
 - 4.3.6 Pest Control Services
 - 4.3.7 Flower Arrangement Services
 - 4.3.8 Potted Plants Supply and Maintenance Services
 - 4.3.9 Sanitary Bin Replacement Service
 - 4.3.10 Courier Services
 - 4.3.11 Mover / Transporters
 - 4.3.12 Functional Decorating Services
 - 4.3.13 Hiring and installation services of Tents, Sheds, Stages, Furniture Decorative Bulbs, Fans and Speakers with Amplifier
 - 4.3.14 Security Service
 - 4.3.15 Canteen service
- 4.4 **Other Suppliers / Services**
 - 4.4.1 Staff and goods transportation services (on rent basis)
 - 4.4.2 Bar-Coding solutions for inventory management
 - 4.4.3 Business Solution Systems (architect, outsourcing etc.,)
 - 4.4.4 Water bottles and other sanitary ware/LP Gas
 - 4.4.5 Disposers of scrap and non-moving inventory items & Recycling
 - 4.4.6 Uniforms, Shoes, Rain Coats and Umbrellas, PVC Security Cards
 - 4.4.7 Drugs and Medical Dressing Items
 - 4.4.8 Sportswear and welfare goods
 - 4.4.9 Library books, Magazines, Periodicals and other publications
 - 4.4.10 Trainers for
 - Soft Skills Developers
 - Insurance related trainers
 - Non insurance related trainers (Finance, Information Technology, Audit, Human resources, Sales and Marketing, Legal, Procurement)
 - 4.4.11 Picture Framing Work
 - 4.4.12 Locks and key cutting services
 - 4.4.13 Hotel Services
 - 4.4.14 Manpower Services
 - 4.4.15 Travel Agents
 - 4.4.16 Consultancy Services
 - 4.4.17 Supply of Linen, Mattresses and Pillows for Circuit Bungalows
 - 4.4.18 Translators

Application forms can be collected at the address given below by making a payment of Rs. 1,000.00 (non refundable) as registration fee for each category of goods, work or services from 15.02.2021 to 05.03.2021 from 9 am to 4 pm. Separate applications should be forwarded for each Category and it is mandatory to attach a copy of the receipt (green color) along with each application. Non refundable fee can be paid to our Head Office or any of our branches Island wide.

Duly completed applications as per the specimen given here should be sent to Assistant General Manager - Procurement & Property Management, Procurement Department, Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd by registered post or hand-delivered to any branch of Sri Lanka Insurance on or before 05.03.2021. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

The top-left-hand corner of the envelope containing the application should be marked with the words 'Registration of Suppliers 2021' and the **Category No.** marked clearly.

All suppliers/contractors should not have been previously blacklisted.

The following documents should be enclosed with each application:

- Application form
- Copy of the Business Registration Certificate
- Copy of the VAT Certificate (if applicable)
- Company Profile
- Details of previous experience with contact details
- Copy of the ICTAD Certificate (for Contractors)
- Mandatory to send Banks statement/ copy of pass book
- A letter indicating the Bank details
 - Bank account number - Full name as per bank account
 - Bank name and code - Branch name and code

Applications received with incomplete documents will be rejected by Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd.

Those who have already registered as suppliers with SLIC, required to pay Rs. 1000/- per each category, when renewing the registration for year 2021.

Suppliers who had failed to quote on two consecutive occasions when requested to do so or who fail to deliver goods, services and constructions on time or those suppliers who do not comply with the specifications or samples, will be liable to be deleted from the register, without notice. Further, all rights will be reserved by SLIC for calling quotations outside the register when the need arises following the acceptance, rejection and registration of applications.

Contact Details - 011 231 9033/ 011 235 7000 Fax 011 235 7913

AGM - Procurement & Property Management
 Procurement Department
 Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd
 08th Floor
 No.21, Vauxhall Street
 Colombo 02.
 Tel : 011 235 7964
 E mail: deshapiyag@srilankainsurance.com
 Web: www.srilankainsurance.com
 Company Registration Number - PB 289



Specimen Application Form Category No. _____

REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS FOR YEAR 2021

1. Name of the Business Organisation:
2. Mailing Address of the Organisation:
3. Telephone No.
4. Fax No.
5. E-mail Address:.....
6. Website :.....
7. Contact Person/s

Name	National ID No.	Title	Tele. No.

8. Nature of Business :.....
9. Business Registration No. :.....
(Please attach a copy of the BRC)
10. Company Profile (Board of Directors, Capacity/ Annual turn-over, Machine capacity, Vehicle fleet, Work force etc.)
Major client details
11. VAT No :.....
(If applicable please attach a copy of the Certificate)
12. Category Number under which registration is sought:.....

I hereby confirm that I agree with the terms and conditions stipulated in the above document.

.....
 Signature of the Proprietor
 Name :.....
 Designation :.....
 Date :.....
 (Please affix the rubber stamp)

TENDER NOTICE

Sale of Timber Logs and Branches

Tender No. MSI/2021/02

Quotations are called for the sale of Timber Logs and Branches

Refundable Deposit Rs.

- **Timber Logs and Branches**
(Kenda, Gaduma, Lunumidella, Kottan)

5,000/=

The items could be inspected from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on 17.02.2021 at 221/1A, Lake House Block, Sarojani Estate, Hokandara South, Hokandara. Tender applications could be obtained from the Purchasing Department of Lake House Colombo on a payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 250/= and a refundable deposit Rs. 5,000/= as mentioned above.

Sealed quotation indicating "Sale of Timber Logs and Branches" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be submitted to the undermentioned address or deposited in the Tender Box before 3.00 p.m. on 24 February 2021. Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter.

The successful Tenderer must arrange the loading and remove the items by making the full payment within 14 days of the awarding of the Tender. Failing to do so will result in the forfeiture of the tender deposit.

Successful Tenderer must pay 8% VAT on the quoted price.

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. reserves the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.



Head of Procurement
The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited
No.35, Lake House, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.
For details: 2429422, 2429429 Ext. 451, 452

Tender Notice

www.sdb.lk
f t i n

Office space wanted on long term lease within
Colombo city limits for SDB bank

A spacious Commercial/ Office Building with following facilities.

- Expected extent should be approx. 40,000 Sq.ft
- Fully Air conditioned
- Should have all modern facilities including Elevator, Generator, Fire/Smoke detectors etc.
- Parking facilities

Interested property owners should forward their offers within 7 days, from the date of advertisement addressed to, Head of Administration, Administration Department, SDB bank, No.18/1, Edmonton Road, Colombo 06, stating "Premises for SDB bank - Head office" on the upper left corner of the envelope or mail to sdbadmin@sdb.lk

SDB bank,
No.12, Edmonton Road, Kirulapone,
Colombo 06.
Tel: 077 209 2191

SDB bank

SDB Bank is a licensed financial institution, supervised by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Financial Services License No. 100/2010.

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in the

Sunday Observer

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

**DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF
PROPRIETARY ALUMINIUM DOOR SYSTEMS AND
FIXED GLAZING IN BLOCK 3 EXCLUDING 6TH FLOOR PERIPHERAL
WALLS OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA**

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIX GLAZ EX 6FL 3/2020

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Proprietary Aluminium Door Systems and Fixed Glazing in Block 3 Excluding 6th Floor Peripheral Walls of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 83 Million** (excluding VAT).

The work consists of Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminium doors with associated accessories and components, granite architrave and threshold and all relevant Hardware and accessories. The Construction period is 180 Days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
 3. To be eligible for the Contract award;
 - The proprietary aluminium system developer shall be an organization possessing ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications and in-house product testing laboratory.
 - The bidder shall be either the;
 - i. The proprietary system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system.
 - ii. Authorized agent of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system, possessing ISO 9001 certification.
 - iii. A licensed installer of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system possessing ISO 9001 certification.
 - Bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Bidders shall establish their business status with the Bid by submitting the supportive documents. The Bidders shall possess Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) grading for aluminium and finishing works – SP2 or above (Mandatory).**
4. Minimum Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:

Qualifications	Minimum Qualification Requirements
(i) Average annual turnover value in last five (5) years.	LKR 121 million.
(ii) Experience in Design, Supply and Installation of Structural Glazing and Glazed proprietary Aluminium Doors within last five (5) years. (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020)	At least three (03) projects related to structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminium doors, successfully completed within last five (05) years out of which at least one project shall be of value not less than LKR 15 million or at least (01) one project of similar capacity scope of work successfully completed within last five (05) years.
(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract.	Not less than LKR 40 million.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs. **from 15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 during working days. (Tel : 0094-011-4209885, Fax : 0094-011-4209885, Email : pmudhqc@gmail.com)**
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900hrs to 1500hrs during working days** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 20,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Twenty Thousand)**. The method of payment will be cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of Director, **Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project**.
7. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid Box placed at the address below on or before **1000 hrs on 10th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
8. Bids shall be valid up to **09th June 2021** (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).
9. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees Eight Hundred and Thirty Thousand Only (LKR 830,000.00)** obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **07th July 2021** (119 days after opening the Bids). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be The Director, Project Management Unit, and Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
10. A pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs. on 25th February 2021** and a site visit will be held on same day after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
11. If any bidder was already being selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification / eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
12. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
13. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Director - Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above item (7) is :

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

Tel : 0094-011-4209885

Fax : 0094-011-4209885

E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

Tender Notice

Government of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Ministry of Youth & Sports

National Youth Services Council

Invitation of Quotations and Sale of three Motor Vehicles

01. The Sealed Tenders are invited to sale the following motor vehicles removed from usage.

Index Number	Registration Number	Vehicle Type
01	50-6575	Toyota Van
02	56-7967	Isuzu Cab
03	56-7972	Isuzu Cab

02. The vehicle inspection can be done on working days **between 09.00 a.m. to 03.00 p.m. from 15.02.2021 to 17.03.2021** in the Heiyanthuduwa Training Center of the National Youth Service Council.
03. Tender applications can be obtained from the Supply Division of the National Youth Services Council **between 09.00 a.m. to 03.00 p.m. from 15.02.2021 to 18.03.2021** by paying a non-refundable deposit of Rs.1500/= (for each vehicle separate non-refundable deposit has to be made)
04. To send Tender Applications, a receipt collected by paying a refundable deposit of Rs.10,000/= to the Shroff Counter of the National Youth Services Council should be sent along with the tender application. For more details refer to the Terms and Conditions appearing in the application.
05. Separate tender applications must submit for each vehicle with quotations and the Item Number and the Name of the Vehicle should clearly mention in the top left corner of the envelope. The tender will be closed on 19.03.2021 at 02.00 p.m. and will be immediately opened thereafter at the Supply Division of the National Youth Services Council.
06. Tender or an authorized representative may be present at the Tender Opening Subject.
07. Within two weeks of Notice, the successful bidders must make the full payment and remove the vehicles from the parked premises.

**Chairman/Director General,
National Youth Services Council,
No 65, Highlevel Road, Maharagama.
Tel. 011-2847563 / 011-2088154**

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www.adz.lk

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES HIGHEST OFFER

Company used below motor vehicles available for sale of highest offer.

- MITSUBISHI - PAJERO - KD XXXX
- MITSUBISHI - PAJERO - KD XXXX
- TOYOTA - AQUA - CAD XXXX
- BAJAJ - PULSAR 135 LS - BAH XXXX

Vehicles could be inspected on 19th & 22nd February 2021 from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. at No. 44/3 - 1-1, Narahenpita Road, Nawala.

Interested Bidders are invited to obtain a Bidding Form from the Administration Unit by payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 2500/= per vehicle in cash at ChildFund Sri Lanka Office during at the same time. Bidding will be closed on February 25th 2021 at 10.00 a.m.



INVITATION FOR BID

RFP NO. : RFP LK21-003

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Migration Agency, is an intergovernmental organization established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.

In the framework of technical assistance to the Office for Reparations, Sri Lanka, the IOM Bids Evaluation and Awards Committee ("BEAC") now invites interested Bidders to submit Technical and Financial Proposal for **Design and Development of the Office of Reparations Information Management System (IMS)**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents can be collected by sending e-mail request to iomkprocurement@iom.int.

An online pre-bidding conference will be held using Microsoft Teams on **24th February 2021**. Meeting invitation will be shared with the bidders, who collected the bidding documents, two days prior to the meeting.

All Bids must be submitted through iomkprocurement@iom.int on or before **16th March 2021**. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission.

Late bids shall be rejected.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to cancel the procurement process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of Contract, without obligation to inform the affected Bidder/s of the ground for IOM action.

Very truly yours,
BEAC Chairperson

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY ALUMINIUM DOOR SYSTEMS AND FIXED GLAZING IN PERIPHERAL WALL AT SIXTH FLOOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIX GLAZ 6FL 03/2020

- This refers to the invitation for Bids, published on 24th January 2021 in Sunday Observer in respect of the abovementioned Contract.
- Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation for Bids.
 - The **Bid opening / closing time** has been extended up to **1000 hrs on 03rd March 2021**
 - Bids shall valid up to 02nd June 2021.**
 - Bid Security shall be valid up to 30th June 2021.**
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs until **02nd March 2021** during working days. (Tel. 0094-011-4209885, Fax : 0094011-4209885, E-Mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com)
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla until **02nd March 2021** from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 10,500.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Ten Thousand Five Hundred)

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

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AVAILABLE AT



HDFC BANK OF SRI LANKA

Wanted buildings for Nugegoda, Homagama & Badulla branches of HDFC Bank. These buildings should fulfill the requirement mentioned below.

- The Building should have the approval from the relevant Local Government Institution.
- Should have pipe-borne water, three phase electricity, fire exist, 2 toilets and minimum 03 parking slots.
- Should be situated within town limits facing to a main road.
- Square Foot 2000-2500

Parties who interested in this matter should sent their quotations along with a copy of the deed, survey plan to the address below by registered post to be received on or before 10-03-2021 or should drop in the Tender Box kept in the Administration Division, at the Head Office. The words **“Quotations for buildings on lease for branch offices”** should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the bid.

Assistant General Manager - Administration
HDFC Bank
P O Box 2085,
Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha,
Colombo 02.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Supply of Commercial Grade Ceramic Ware, Fittings and Accessories for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Contract (Bid) Number: DHQC/CER FITTING 4/2020

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of Commercial Grade Ceramic Ware, Fittings and Accessories for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.**
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the above address from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. on any working day between **15th February 2021 and 10th March 2021** Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure under Standard Bidding Document of NPA/Goods/SBD 01 and Government Procurement Guidelines.
- To be eligible for Contract award;
 - The manufacturer of the offered ceramic fittings shall possess ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certifications and shall have an in house product testing laboratory.
 - A bidder to be eligible for the prospective awarding of this contract shall be either the manufacturer and/or the local agent of the manufacturer for the offered sanitary ware, fittings and accessories.
 - Bidder shall possess business registration in the Sri Lanka for the last ten consecutive years and shall be continuously engaged in the business of either manufacturing and/or trading of Sanitary Ware and Bathroom Fittings, for the same duration.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 15th February 2021 and 10th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred (Rs. 14,200.00)**. The method of payment shall be cash or bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1130 hrs on 22nd February 2021 at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Palawatta, Battaramulla.**
- Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla at or before 1000 hrs on 10th March 2021.** Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Security of **Sri Lankan Rupees Five Hundred Sixty Six Thousand (LKR. 566,000.00)** in the form of an unconditional and on demand Guarantee obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, which shall be valid up to **07th July 2021** (119 Days after the date of closing of the Bid).
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla

Tel: 0094- 011 - 4209885
Fax: 0094 - 011 - 4209885
Email: pmudhqc@gmail.com

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF COLOMBO

Notice in terms of Section 16 of the Civil Procedure code

Anusha Elfi Gunasekera nee Corea,
No. 47, Ananda Coomaraswamy
Mawatha,
Colombo 07.

Case No : DRE/00008/2021

Nature : Eviction

Procedure : Summary

Value : Rs 1,400,000,000/-

PLAINTIFF

Vs

1. Eddie Wijesuriya,
2. Razik Zarook,
3. Hiran Soysa,

Trustees and Members on behalf of the members of Circolo Amichevole Per Residenti Italiani [Capri Club]

All of

No. 62, Dharmapala Mawatha,
Colombo 07

DEFENDANTS

Notice is hereby given to all members of the Circolo Amichevole Per Residenti Italiani [Capri Club], that the Plaintiff above named has instituted action against the Defendants above named and sought the below mentioned reliefs against the 1st to 3rd Defendants in her Plaint.

Reliefs sought against the Defendants in the Plaint

- An order for the ejection of the Defendants, the members of the Capri Club, their servants, agents, employees, representatives and all those holding under them from the premises described in the schedule hereto and that peaceful and vacant possession of the said premises be delivered to the Plaintiff
- Damages in a sum of Rupees One Million (Rs 1,000,000/-) per month from the date hereof until peaceful and vacant possession of the said premises is delivered hereto
- A Permanent Injunction preventing the Defendants, the members of the Capri Club, their servants, agents, employees, representatives and all those holding under them from in any way or manner running a club and/or conducting the business of a club and/or running a restaurant in the premises described in the schedule hereto.
- An Interim Injunction preventing the Defendants, the members of the Capri Club, their servants, agents, employees, representatives and all those holding under them from in any way or running a club and/or conducting the business of a club and/or running a restaurant in the premises described in the schedule hereto, until final the determination of this action.
- An Enjoining Order preventing the Defendants, the members of the Capri Club, their servants, agents, employees, representatives and all those holding under them from in any way or manner running a club end/or conducting the business Club, their running a restaurant in the premises described in the schedule hereto, until the determination of the application for an Interim Injunction.
- Costs
- Such other and further reliefs as to the court will seem meet

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO:

ALL THAT divided and defined Three allotments of land and premised called "Calton Lodge" depicted as Lot A, Lot B & Lot C in Plan No.1751 dated 27th July 2000 made by H.H Subsinghe Licensed Surveyor together with everything standing thereon and bearing Assessment No.62, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 03 situated at Kollupitiya Colombo 3 within the Municipality and District of Colombo Western Province and which said Lots A, B & C taken together are bounded according to the said Plan No.1751 on the **NORTH** by Dharmapala Mawatha on the **EAST** by Lots 2 & 3 in Plan No.1729 of 21/4/2000 made by H.H Subasinghe and premises bearing No 45, Ananda Kumaraswamy Mawatha on **SOUTH** by premises bearing No.43, Ananda Kumaraswamy Mawatha and on the **WEST** by premises bearing No. 60 Dharmapala Mawatha and premises bearing No. 41, Ananda Kumaraswamy Mawatha and the said lots A,B & C containing in aggregate and extent of Two Roods and One Decimal Nine Six Perches (A0-R2-P1.96) according to the said Plan 1751 together with everything standing thereon -

By Order of Court

On this day of February 2021



INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RESOURCE ADVANCEMENT
University of Colombo

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR SECURITY SERVICE

Sealed bids for providing Security Services to the Institute of Human Resource Advancement premises will be entertained up to 2.30 p.m on 01.03.2021 from Security firms bearing valid annual license with the Ministry of Defence.

Bidding documents could be inspected free-of-charge and the same could be obtained from the office of Assistant Registrar producing the receipt for non-refundable payment of Rs.2000/-. This payment could be made to the shroff of the Institute between 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m during working days from 15.02.2021 to 01.03.2021.

A pre - bid meeting will be held on 19.02.2021 at 2.00 p.m at the Auditorium of the Institute of Human Resource Advancement.

A refundable fee of Rs. 15,000/- has to be made in cash to the shroff, IHRA as Bid Security. All bids should be accompanied with the official receipt received for the payment of the Bid Security.

Sealed bid in duplicate addressed to the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee (Minor), Institute of Human Resource Advancement, University of Colombo, No.275, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 should be sent by Registered Post to be received by the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee (Minor) or deposited in the Tender Box provided at the Finance Branch before 2.30 p.m on 01.03.2021. Envelope containing the bid should be marked "Invitations for bids/ Security Services" on the top left-hand corner. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing time in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who will attend. (Contact No.: 011-2503393)

Chairman
Departmental Procurement Committee (Minor)
Institute of Human Resource Advancement
University of Colombo
No.275, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.

HAPUGASTENNE PLANTATIONS PLC
Calling tenders for sale of trees
Details of trees to be sold

Estate & telephone no.	Division	Field No.	Specie	Total Nos. of trees	No. of Blocks	Tender document fee (Rs)
Newburgh Estate, Ella. 055 4925165	Goussa	9, 10	Eucalyptus	204	2	1,000/-
	Lower	2	Eucalyptus	121	1	1,000/-
Nahavilla Estate, Ballaketuwa. 055 4925163	Factory	5	Eucalyptus	65	1	1,000/-
	Lower	1, 2	Eucalyptus	326	2	1,000/-
Odoowere Estate, Demodera. 055 4925164	Napier Lower	23, 26	Eucalyptus	266	2	1,000/-
Rookatenne Estate, Halliela. 055 4925160	Middle	20	Eucalyptus	166	1	1,000/-
	Rossett 2nd	17	Eucalyptus	252	1	1,000/-
	South	17	Eucalyptus	149	1	1,000/-
Demodera Estate, Demodera. 055 4925161	Netherville	4	Eucalyptus	125	1	1,000/-
	Oethumbe	5, 6, 9, 13	Eucalyptus	714	4	1,000/-
	Southam	3, 4, 2B, 3A, 5A	Eucalyptus	485	5	1,000/-
	Weyvelheena	3	Eucalyptus	50	1	1,000/-
Madampe Estate, Rakwana. 045 4924322	1	5, 7, 8	Rubber	3431	1	1,000/-
Hapugastenne (Rubber) Estate, Lellopitiya, Ratnapura. 045 4924706	BOP	R/16	Rubber	1257	1	1,000/-

Issue of tender documents: from 15th February 2021 to 24th February 2021, from above estate office and the Head Office, during the office hours, upon paying the tender document fee in cash.

Refundable Tender Deposit fee: Applicable refundable tender deposit fee for each block to be paid in cash as prescribed in the tender document.

Tender closing date & time: 2.30 p.m. on the 24th February 2021.

Tender submission: Sealed tenders either could be deposited at the tender box placed in our head office or sent under registered cover post, mentioning "Tender for Timber" on top left corner of the envelope to the below Head Office address.

Further details: Contact Forestry Division (Tele: 011 4899251 or 034 4945660)

The Director / Chief Executive Office
Hapugastenne Plantations PLC
No. 95A, Nambapana, Ingiriya. Tel: 034 -4297500

UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROCUREMENT FOR
SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MID-RANGE
LAPTOP COMPUTERS

PROCUREMENT NO. UM/SU/DPC-01/2021

1. The **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee** on behalf of the University of Moratuwa invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following item.

Item No.	Brief Description of the Item	Quantity	Bid Security	
			Amount	Valid Up to
01.	Mid-Range Laptop Computers (Intel Core i5 11th Gen)	130 Nos.	Rs. 300,000.00	29.06.2021

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding.
3. Eligible interested bidders may obtain further information from Senior Assistant Bursar- Supplies, University of Moratuwa and inspect Bidding documents free of charge at the Supplies Division, University of Moratuwa during office hours **from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on working days.**
4. Eligible bidders shall be registered Manufacturers, Sole Agents and Dealers and with valid and appropriate Business Registration. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 3,500.00** to the Shroff of the University from **16.02.2021** up to **15.00 hrs. on 01.03.2021.** The method of payment is by cash only.
6. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security for the amount mentioned above. Any Bid not accompanied by a valid Bid Security will be rejected.
7. Sealed Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 14.00 hrs. on **02.03.2021.**
8. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at the **Board Room adjoining the Supplies Division**, University of Moratuwa in the presence of the bidders' authorized representatives who choose to attend in person. Late bids will be rejected.
9. For further details, please contact **Senior Assistant Bursar, Supplies Division, University of Moratuwa on Tel No: 011-2651587, Fax No: 011-2651186.**
10. Bids shall be valid up to **02.06.2021.**

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
University of Moratuwa,
Katubedda,
Moratuwa.

UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROCUREMENT FOR
SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND
COMMISSIONING OF LAB EQUIPMENT

PROCUREMENT NO. UM/SU/DPC-02/2021

1. The **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee** on behalf of the University of Moratuwa invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following items.

Item No.	Brief Description of the Item	Quantity	Amount of Bid Security	Valid up to
01.	Mounting Press (For Metallurgical Sample Mount)	01 No.	Rs. 24,000.00	02.07.2021
02.	Bench Top Freeze Dryer	01 No.	Rs. 30,000.00	02.07.2021
03.	UV - Visible Spectrometer	01 No.	Rs. 45,000.00	02.07.2021
04.	Rockwell Hardness Tester	01 No.	Rs. 37,000.00	02.07.2021
05.	Melt Flow Indexer	01 No.	Rs. 24,000.00	02.07.2021

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding.
3. Eligible interested bidders may obtain further information from Senior Assistant Bursar- Supplies, University of Moratuwa and inspect Bidding documents free of charge at the Supplies Division, University of Moratuwa during office hours **from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on working days.**
4. Eligible bidders shall be registered Manufacturers, Sole Agents and Dealers and Distributors with valid and appropriate Business Registration. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 3,500.00** to the Shroff of the University from **16.02.2021** up to **15.00 hrs. on 04.03.2021.** The method of payment is by cash only.
6. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security for the amount mentioned above. Any Bid not accompanied by a valid Bid Security will be rejected.
7. Sealed Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 14.00 hrs. on **05.03.2021.**
8. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at the **Board Room adjoining the Supplies Division**, University of Moratuwa in the presence of the bidders' authorized representatives who choose to attend in person. Late bids will be rejected.
9. For further details, please contact **Senior Assistant Bursar, Supplies Division, University of Moratuwa on Tel No: 011-2651587, Fax No: 011-2651186.**
10. Bids shall be valid up to **04.06.2021.**

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
University of Moratuwa,
Katubedda,
Moratuwa.

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UNFPA Request for Quotation

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency addressing that expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy sexual and reproductive lives.

RFQ N° UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/21/01 – Conducting an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls – Re-advertisement to increase the pool of submissions/proposals.

This Request for Quotation is open to all legally-constituted companies/ institutions/ agencies that can provide the requested services and have legal capacity to perform in Sri Lanka, or through an authorized representative.

Extended deadline for submission: 01 March 2021

To view the detailed RFQ please visit the following website:
<https://sri Lanka.unfpa.org/en/>

Kindly note that upon successful selection, you will be required to submit your company profile, a copy of your company registration and a copy of the recently audited accounts for review purposes.

UNFPA Invitation for Proposals

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency addressing that expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy sexual and reproductive lives.

IFP N° UNFPA/LKA/IFP/21/01 – NGO Invitation for Proposals for Youth and Social Cohesion Project.

Organizations that wish to participate in this Invitation for Proposals are requested to send their submission through email or registered post clearly marked "NGO Invitation for Proposals for Youth and Social Cohesion Project" at the following address:

United Nations Population Fund, UN Compound, 202-204, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

Email address: lk-procurement@unfpa.org

Deadline for submission: 01 March 2021, 04 PM Sri Lanka Time.

To view the detailed EoI please visit the following website:
<https://sri Lanka.unfpa.org/en/>

Price Quote for Linehaul Services

Highly prestigious internationally recognized Organization Daraz invites price quotes from recognized transport providers to secure its linehaul requirements.

Conditions for Eligibility :

- Should provide fully Aluminium bodied bed size 7 1/2, 9 1/2, 10 1/2, 12 1/2, 14 1/2 with good condition vehicles to deliver and pickup merchandise and ability to brand the vehicle.
- Requirement per day 18 vehicles per day minimum to cover most part of Sri Lanka including greater and suburb Colombo region.
- Vehicle fleet to rear hydraulic doors
- This service contract which is long term shall be awarded to the most competitive rate bid @ KM/HOURLY package.

Email : shazaan.nagoor@daraz.lk for more information and placement of Bid.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SUPPLY, APPLICATOR TRAINING AND APPLICATION SUPERVISION OF WALL GRANULAR BASED EXTERIOR COATING SYSTEM FOR BLOCKS 01, 02, 03 AND 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/EX GRAN COAT 1234/2020

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply, Applicator Training and Application Supervision of Wall Granular Based Exterior Coating System for Blocks 01, 02, 03 and 04** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 215 Million (excluding VAT).
The Works consist of Supply, Applicator Training and Application Supervision of Wall Granular Based Exterior Coating System for Blocks 01, 02, 03 and 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 168 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and with a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid. In order to qualify for the prospective awarding of this contract the bidder shall be either the manufacturer or local agent of the manufacturer for the offered granular based exterior texture coating system.
The granular coating system manufacturer shall be a reputed organization possessing an up-to-date production facility as per the pertinent industrial standards and shall process the capability to deliver the coatings as in par with the employer's requirement.
The manufacturer of the granular coating system shall process in-house product testing facility, ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications for development and manufacturing of paints, primers, water proofing chemicals and adhesive.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual value of construction work performed in last five years shall be at least LKR 325 million.
 - Experience in at least three projects of supply and application of external wall granular coating systems with an area not less than 1,500m² or with value not less than LKR 4.5 million for each project. These projects shall be completed within last five years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 100 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Director, Project Management Unit (PMU), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Baththaramulla**, and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03**, from **15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees **Thirty Six Thousand (LKR 36,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash to the shroff of **Ministry of Defence**.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address at or before **1400 hrs on 10th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **09th June 2021** (91 Days after the Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Million Two Hundred Thousand (LKR 2,200,000.00)** shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to **07th July 2021** (119 Days after the date of Bid Opening).
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1030 hrs on 23th February 2021** at the Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each Contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Ministry of Defence.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Defence, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above item (7) is:

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.**

Tel : 0094-11-2439381/ 0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-11-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION GRANITE FLOORING, WALL CLADDING AND PANTRY TOPS FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/GRANITE 3/2020

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and Installation Granite Flooring, Wall Cladding and Pantry Tops for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 269 Million (excluding VAT).
The work consists of Supply and installation of granite flooring, wall cladding and pantry tops including decorative items, counter tops, thresholds, paving, steps of staircases and surfaces of ledges for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 140 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years with the experience on supply and installation of granite works in Sri Lanka for (5) consecutive years.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual turnover in last five (5) years shall be at least LKR 300 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply and installation of granite work value not less than LKR 100 million. These projects shall be completed within last five (5) years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 160 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **15th February 2021 until 08th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03**, from **15th February 2021 until 08th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Forty One Thousand (LKR 41,000.00). The method of payment will be in Cash to the Shroff of **Ministry of Defence**.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address on or before **1000 hrs on 09th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **06th July 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand (LKR 2,700,000.00)** shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **03rd August 2021** (147 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1300 hrs on 23rd February 2021** and a site visit will be held at **1330 hrs on same day** at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each Contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 when purchasing the bidding document, and shall submit the same along with the Bidding Document.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, No.15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above item(7) is:

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.**

Tel : 0094-11-2439381/ 0094-11-2390719
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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION GRANITE FLOORING, WALL CLADDING AND PANTRY TOPS FOR BLOCK 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/GRANITE 02/2020

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and Installation of Granite Flooring, Wall Cladding and Pantry Tops for Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 197 Million (excluding VAT).
The work consists of Supply and installation of granite flooring, wall cladding and pantry tops including decorative items, counter tops, thresholds, paving, steps of staircases and surfaces of ledges for Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 126 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years with the experience in supply and installation of granite works in Sri Lanka for five (5) consecutive years.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual turnover in last five (5) years shall be at least LKR 300 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply and installation of granite work value not less than LKR 100 million. These projects shall be completed within last five (5) years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 80 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka** from **15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Thirty Four Thousand Five Hundred (LKR 34,500.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash/Bank draft in favour of The Director- Project Management Unit.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 10th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **09th June 2021** (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Million (LKR 2,000,000.00)** shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **07th July 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1400 hrs on 25th February 2021** and a site visit will be held at **1430 hrs on same day** at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- If any bidder was already being selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document.

The address (es) referred to above item (7) is;

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka.**

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com



TENDER NOTICE

Sale of used Machinery & Spare Parts

The following used Machinery and Spare Parts are sold by a tender which are lying in the below mentioned estates.

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For a list of items, please make a request through info@bpl.lk, Fax: 011-2510178 or call 011-2510100, 011-2510145 for further information.

The items that you wish to buy could be inspected in the relevant estate/s on a prior appointment from 15th February to 31st March 2021.

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|--------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
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| • Bogawantalawa | - 052 2267508 | • Campion | - 052 3522113 |
| • Kotiyagala | - 052 2267517 | • Fetteresso | - 052 3052110 |
| • Wanarajah | - 051 2222206 | • Lethenty | - 051 2222225 |
| • Wanarajah Estate | - 051 2224205 | | |

(Sustainability, Research & Development Division,)

The tender forms could be obtained from the estate concerned. Please forward the tender form by registered post mentioning "BUYING OF USED ITEMS" on the top left corner of the "sealed" envelope to the following address.

(The date of opening the tender will be notified later.)

**Acting Chief Executive Officer, Bogawantalawa Tea Estates PLC,
No.153, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.**

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, CONFIGURATION OF PABX SYSTEM FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA.

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PABX/04/2021

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Design, Supply and Installation PABX for Block 04 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and as described below and estimated to cost LKR 25 Million.
The work consists of supply, installation, configuration and maintenance of all the works in PABX System Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.
- The Construction period is 180 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted. Bidders shall have **Construction Industry Development Authority Grading EM2 or above in the Specialty of Electrical and Mechanical Services (EM2) Under subspecialist area on Telecommunication and Information Technology Systems, Security Systems and Pipe Music Systems (ELV)**.
- Other minimum Qualifications requirements to qualify for contract award shall be,

Qualifications	Minimum Qualifications Requirements
(i) Average annual volume of construction work performed in any 5 years during last in last 10 years (2010 to 2019)	LKR 38 million per year. (Certified audited financial reports of 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, shall be provided with the Bid)
(ii) Experience in Design, Supply and Installation within last ten years). (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019)	At least 3 nr. PABX Systems successfully completed within last 5 years. Minimum value of one (1) Number of such system shall not be less than LKR 10 million. PABX Systems. Evidence should be provided.
(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets and /or credit facilities (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract	Not less than LKR 10 million. (Audit report for year 2019/2020 and Evidence should be provided)

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address from **15/02/2021 until 24/03/2021 From 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Section I and III of Volume 1A) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka** from **15/02/2021 until 24/03/2021 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** during a working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 10,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Ten Thousands)**. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank draft drawn in favor of **Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka**.
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **11.00 hrs. on 25/02/2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below on or before **10.00 hrs. 25/03/2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **23/06/2021** (91 Days from the date of closing of Bids).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (LKR 250,000)** obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid up to **21/07/2021** (119 Days after opening the Bids). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director, Project Management Unit, the Name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the tender opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above 9 is:

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
C/o The Director Project Management Unit
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta,
Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka.**

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
Email : pmudhqc@gmail.com

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SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION (SLSI)
Ministry of Technology

Expression of Interest for Selection of an Advertising and PR Agency 2021/2022

Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) invites credentials for selection and appointment of an Advertising and Public Relations Agency to work for the SLSI under contract basis with the capability of following business related activities.

- Designing, artwork and publication of SLSI's advertisements (ATL, BTL and Digital Media)
- Designing of displays for exhibition stalls etc.
- Brand building and corporate identity creation
- Public relations and media placements
- Digital media expertise is a definite advantage

Credentials shall be submitted separately for:

- 1) Full suite of services listed above
- 2) Digital media
- 3) PR and related media placement

Closed quotations with a profile of the company shall be submitted to Director (Administration) on or before 1500 h on 2021-02-21.

Director General
Sri Lanka Standards Institution
No.17, Victoria Place,
Elvitigala Mawatha,
Colombo 08.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS & MALARIA PROJECT (GFATM)

Technical support Consultancy Vacancies for a Survey

1. The Chairperson, Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of National STD/AIDS Control Programme under GFATM project now invites for the suitable Candidates to apply for the following posts for police survey titled "Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices among police officers regarding legal barriers affecting HIV service provision for key populations in Sri Lanka".

- **Data Analyst – 01 Position**
- **Research Assistant – 02 Positions**
- **Report Writer – 01 Position**

2. The Objectives and Purposes of the assignments are being stated in the Terms of Reference.

3. Terms of References and other relevant details of the assignment could be found on below link:

http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/employee_opportunities.php
<https://www.aidscontrol.gov.lk>

4. Eligible individuals are now invited to indicate their interest in providing the required services.

5. Individuals will be selected in accordance with procedures set out in the Government Procurement Guidelines of Selection & Employment of Consultants, August 2007 (Available in website: <http://www.treasury.gov.lk/procurement-guidelines-and-manuals>).

Invitation to Submit Expression of Interest (EOI)

6. An EOI may be submitted either through email chathurangarathnawardhana@gmail.com or in hard copy address indicated below no later than **10.00 am on 01st March 2021**.

For hard copy Submission: Please submit (i) Signed CV, (ii) Covering stating the interest, and list out the most relevant experience to the proposed assignment to the address indicated below, in an envelope clearly titled "**Applying Post of (Data Analyst / Research Assistant / Report Writer) Technical support Consultancies for Police Survey**".

7. Shortlisting Criteria: Experience relevant to the assignment will be considered for evaluation.

8. Additional Information can be obtained from:

Mailing Address : Chairperson,
Project Procurement Committee,
National STD/AIDS Control Programme,
No.29, De Saram Place,
Colombo -10.

Email Address : chathurangarathnawardhana@gmail.com

Telephone : 011 2112756/077 4540990

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas (Excluding VIP Areas) for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Contract (Bid) Number : DHQC/TILE WET 01/2020

- 1) The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas (Excluding VIP Areas) for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda**.
- 2) Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the above address from **0900hrs to 1500hrs on any working day between 15th February 2021 and 10th March 2021**. Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com
- 3) Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure under Standard Bidding Document of NPA/Goods/SBD 01 and Government Procurement Guidelines.
- 4) To be eligible for Contract award;
 - All porcelain tiles, adhesives and grouts offered shall be locally manufactured and the bidder shall be either the manufacturer, authorized agent or an authorized reseller of the manufacturer/s for the pertinent brand/s.
 - The offered brand/s of tiles, adhesives and grouts shall have been successfully using in projects in Sri Lanka for the last five consecutive years and out of the same there shall be at least one project of supply or supply and installation shall be of value not less than Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) 25 million which shall be demonstrated through documentary evidences.
 - Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.

Bidders who do not comply with these mandatory qualification criteria shall be considered as non-responsive.
- 5) A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 15th February 2021 until 10th March 2021 from 0900hrs to 1500hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty (LKR 7,550.00)**. The method of payment shall be cash or bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project**.
- 6) A pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 22nd February 2021 at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Palawatta, Battaramulla**.
- 7) Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** on or before **1000 hrs on 10th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at **Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla**.
- 8) All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees Two Hundred Eighty Thousand (LKR 280,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee acceptable to the Purchaser, and shall be valid up to **07th July 2021** (119 days after the Bid opening).
- 9) Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document.
- 10) Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above is (are):

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

**Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com**



INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS
SUPPLY OF WHOLE CHICKEN FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2023
SLC/JTB/017/GOODS/2020

Srilankan Catering Limited hereby invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply of Whole Chicken for the year 2021-2023.

Prospective bidders could obtain the bidding document and more details from the web link of <http://www.srilankancatering.com/procurement-notice> on 16th February 2021.

Sealed bids should be delivered to Srilankan Catering Limited on or before 11.00 a.m. on 30th March 2021 as per instructed in the bidding document

**Prospective bidders could obtain further details from, Thilina Siriwardana-
E-mail: thilina.siriwardana@srilankancatering.com or + (94)19 733 4241 with reference to the bidding document.**

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SRILANKAN CATERING LIMITED
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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY ALUMINIUM DOOR SYSTEMS AND FIXED GLAZING IN BLOCK 4 EXCLUDING 6TH FLOOR PERIPHERAL WALLS OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA****CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIX GLAZ EX 6FL 04/2020**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Proprietary Aluminium Door Systems and Fixed Glazing in Block 4 Excluding 6th Floor Peripheral Walls of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 98 Million** (excluding VAT).

The work consists of Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminium doors with associated accessories and components, granite architrave and threshold and all relevant Hardware and accessories. The Construction period is 189 Days.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award;
 - The proprietary aluminium system developer shall be an organization possessing ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications and in-house product testing laboratory.
 - The bidder shall be either the;
 - The proprietary system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system.
 - Authorized agent of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system, possessing ISO 9001 certification.
 - A licensed installer of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system possessing ISO 9001 certification.
 - Bidder shall not have been blacklisted.

Bidders shall establish their business status with the Bid by submitting the supportive documents. The Bidders shall possess Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) grading for aluminium and finishing works – SP2 or above (Mandatory).

- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual turnover in the latest five (05) years including 2019-2020 shall be at least LKR 146 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least three (03) projects related to structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminum doors, successfully completed within last five (05) years out of which at least one project shall be of value not less than LKR 15 million successfully completed within last five (05) years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 45 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address **from 15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from 15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900hrs to 1500hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Twenty Thousand (LKR 20,000.00)**. The method of payment will be cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**
- Pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 25th February 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below on or before **1000 hrs on 10th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **09th June 2021** (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees Nine Hundred Eighty Thousand Only (LKR 980,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **07th July 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid opening).
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification / eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director – Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla the name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above is (are):

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

**Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY ALUMINIUM DOOR SYSTEMS AND FIXED GLAZING IN BLOCK 2 EXCLUDING 6TH FLOOR PERIPHERAL WALLS OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA****CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIX GLAZ EX 6FL 02/2020**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Proprietary Aluminium Door Systems and Fixed Glazing in Block 2 Excluding 6th Floor Peripheral Walls of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 40 Million** (excluding VAT).

The work consists of Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminium doors with associated accessories and components, granite architrave and threshold and all relevant Hardware and accessories. The Construction period is 154 Days.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award;
 - The proprietary aluminium system developer shall be an organization possessing ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications and in-house product testing laboratory.
 - The bidder shall be either the;
 - The proprietary system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system.
 - Authorized agent of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system, possessing ISO 9001 certification.
 - A licensed installer of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system possessing ISO 9001 certification.
 - Bidder shall not have been blacklisted.

Bidders shall establish their business status with the Bid by submitting the supportive documents. The Bidders shall possess Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) grading for aluminium and finishing works – SP2 or above (Mandatory).

- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual turnover in the latest five (05) years including 2019-2020 shall be at least LKR 60 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least At least three (03) projects related to structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminum doors, successfully completed within last five (05) years out of which at least one project shall be of value not less than LKR 8 million successfully completed within last five (05) years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 24 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address **from 15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from 15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900hrs to 1500hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Ten Thousand (LKR 10,000.00)**. The method of payment will be cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**
- Pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 25th February 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below on or before **1000 hrs on 10th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **09th June 2021** (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees Four Hundred Thousand Only (LKR 400,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **07th July 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid opening).
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification / eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director – Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above is (are):

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SUPPLY, COORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUPERVISION OF CEILINGS FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/CEILING 3/2020

1. The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), of the Ministry of Defence on behalf of Secretary Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply, Coordination and Installation Supervision of Ceilings for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 526.4 Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consists of supply of commercial grade proprietary and general ceiling system material for tile Block 03 of the Defence Headquarters Complex and manage and supervise the installation works carried out by the labour provided by the Employer. The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 308 Days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.

3. To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and with a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years and who possess CIDA (Construction Industry Development Authority) Grading SP1 in the field of Floor Wall and Ceiling Finishes. The Bidder shall be either the Manufacturer of the offered proprietary ceiling systems, authorised local agent of the proprietary ceiling system or the licensed installer for the offered proprietary ceiling system.

The material manufacturer/s shall possess ISO 9001 certifications and the bidder shall also be an organisation possessing ISO 9001 accreditation.

4. Qualifications requirements to qualify for contract award include:

- Average annual turnover in last five years shall be at least LKR 860 million.
- Experience in supply and installation of ceilings, out of which at least of one project of value not less than LKR 100 million completed within last five years.
- The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 140 million.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from, The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03 and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from 15th February 2021 until 07th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka from 15th February 2021 until 07th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Sixty -Two Thousand (LKR 62,000.00). The method of payment will be in Cash / Bank draft in favour of Ministry of Defence.

7. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address on or before 1000 hrs on 08th March 2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

8. Bids shall be valid up to 02nd August 2021 (147 Days after the Bid Opening).

9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Seven Million Nine Hundred Thousand (LKR 7,900,000.00) shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to 30th August 2021 (175 Days after the date of Bid Opening).

10. A pre bid meeting will be held at 1030 hrs on 22nd February 2021 at the Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

11. If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification eligibility criteria required under each Contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.

12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.

13. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 (when relevant), along with the submission of the bids to the Ministry of Defence.

14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, the name and the NIC / Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above item (7) is;

The Chairman,
Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC)
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.

Tel : 0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-11-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SUPPLY, COORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUPERVISION OF CEILINGS FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/CEILING 4/2020

1. The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), of the Ministry of Defence on behalf of Secretary Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply, Coordination and Installation Supervision of Ceilings for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 516 Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consists of supply of commercial grade proprietary and general ceiling system material for tile Block 04 of the Defence Headquarters Complex and manage and supervise the installation works carried out by the labour provided by the Employer. The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 308 Days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.

3. To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and with a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years and who possess CIDA (Construction Industry Development Authority) Grading SP1 in the field of Floor Wall and Ceiling Finishes. The Bidder shall be either the Manufacturer of the offered proprietary ceiling systems, authorised local agent of the proprietary ceiling system or the licensed installer for the offered proprietary ceiling system.

The material manufacturer/s shall possess ISO 9001 certifications and the bidder shall also be an organisation possessing ISO 9001 accreditation.

4. Qualifications requirements to qualify for contract award include:

- Average annual turnover in last five years shall be at least LKR 845 million.
- Experience in supply and installation of ceilings, out of which at least of one project of value not less than LKR 100 million completed within last five years.
- The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 140 million.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from, The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03 and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from 15th February 2021 until 07th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka from 15th February 2021 until 07th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Sixty Thousand (LKR 60,000.00). The method of payment will be in Cash / Bank draft in favour of Ministry of Defence.

7. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address on or before 1000 hrs on 08th March 2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

8. Bids shall be valid up to 02nd August 2021 (147 Days after the Bid Opening).

9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Seven Million Eight Hundred Thousand (LKR 7,800,000.00) shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to 30th August 2021 (175 Days after the date of Bid Opening).

10. A pre bid meeting will be held at 1030 hrs on 22nd February 2021 at the Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

11. If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification eligibility criteria required under each Contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.

12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.

13. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 (when relevant), along with the submission of the bids to the Ministry of Defence.

14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, the name and the NIC / Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above item (7) is;

The Chairman,
Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC)
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03.

Tel : 0094-11-2439381 / 0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-11-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND CONFIGURATION OF PABX FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA.

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PABX/03/2021

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Design, Supply, Installation and Configuration PABX for Block 03 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and as described below and estimated to cost LKR 25 Million.

The work consists of supply, installation, configuration, testing and maintenance of all the works in PABX System Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.

2. The Construction period is 180 Days.

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

4. To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted. Bidders shall have Construction Industry Development Authority Grading EM2 or above in the Specialty of Electrical and Mechanical Services (EM2) Under subspecialist area on Telecommunication and Information Technology Systems, Security Systems and Pipe Music Systems (ELV).

5. Other minimum Qualifications requirements to qualify for contract award shall be,

Qualifications	Minimum Qualifications Requirements
(i) Average annual volume of construction work performed in any 5 years during last in last 10 years (2010 to 2019)	LKR 38 million per year. (Certified audited financial reports of 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, shall be provided with the Bid)
(ii) Experience in Design, Supply and Installation within last ten years. (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019)	At least 3 nr. PABX Systems successfully completed within last 5 years. Minimum value of one (1) Number of such system shall not be less than LKR 10 million. PABX Systems. Evidence should be provided.
(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets and /or credit facilities (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract	Not less than LKR 10 million. (Audit report for year 2019/2020 and Evidence should be provided)

6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address from 15/02/2021 until 24/03/2021 From 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. During a working day.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Section I and III of Volume 1A) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to The Director, Project Management Unit , Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka from 15/02/2021 until 24/03/2021 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. during a working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 10,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Ten Thousands). The method of payment will be Cash or Bank draft drawn in favor of Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.

8. A pre bid meeting will be held at 10.00 hrs. on 25/02/2021 and a site visit will be held on same day after there bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

9. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below on or before 10.00 hrs. 25/03/ 2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

10. Bids shall be valid up to 23/06/2021 (91 Days after the date of opening of Bids, including bid open date).

11. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (LKR 250,000) obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid up to 21/07/2021 (119 Days from the date of opening of the Bids, including bid open date). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

12. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.

13. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director, Project Management Unit, the Name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the tender opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above9 is

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
C/o The Director Project Management Unit
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta,
Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka.

Tel: 0094-077-3766601
Fax: 0094-011-2390720

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025 222 2370

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Off Stanley Road
077 616 4901

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No.383, D R Wijewardena
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011 242 9336

Matara Branch
MATARA
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Main Bus Stand
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NUGEGODA
4th Floor Savsiri Complex,
High Level Road
011 282 8114

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KATARAGAMA
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047 223 5291

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011 242 9342
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No.35,
D R Wijewardena Mawatha,
Colombo 10

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY ALUMINIUM DOOR SYSTEMS AND FIXED GLAZING IN BLOCK 1 EXCLUDING 6TH FLOOR PERIPHERAL WALLS OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA**

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIX GLAZ EX 6FL 01/2020

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Proprietary Aluminium Door Systems and Fixed Glazing in Block 1 Excluding 6th Floor Peripheral Walls of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 141 Million** (excluding VAT).

The work consists of Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminium doors with associated accessories and components, granite architrave and threshold and all relevant Hardware and accessories. The Construction period is 196 Days.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award;
 - The proprietary aluminium system developer shall be an organization possessing ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications and in-house product testing laboratory.
 - The bidder shall be either the;
 - The proprietary system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system.
 - Authorized agent of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system, possessing ISO 9001 certification.
 - A licensed installer of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system possessing ISO 9001 certification.
 - Bidder shall not have been blacklisted.

Bidders shall establish their business status with the Bid by submitting the supportive documents. The Bidders shall possess Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) grading for aluminium and finishing works – SP2 or above (Mandatory).

- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual turnover in the latest five (05) years including 2019-2020 shall be at least LKR 210 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least At least three (03) projects related to structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminum doors, successfully completed within last five (05) years out of which at least one project shall be of value not less than LKR 20 million successfully completed within last five (05) years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 70 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address **from 15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900hrs to 1500hrs during working days** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Twenty Five Thousand (LKR 25,000.00)**. The method of payment will be cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**
- Pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 25th February 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below on or before **1000 hrs on 10th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **09th June 2021** (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees One Million Four Hundred and Ten Thousand Only (LKR 1,410,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **07th July 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid opening).
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification / eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director – Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla the name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above is (are):

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****MATERIALS REQUIREMENT FOR, MELAMINE FURNITURE WORKSHOP BLOCK 01, 02, 03 & 04 AT DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AKUREGODA**

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2021/H/30

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified tenderers for **Supply undermentioned Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

Description of Items -

- 25mm Melamine Sheet 4'x 8' (MDF - Alponso Mango Colour)
- 25mm Melamine Sheet 4'x 8' (MDF - Japanese Jacaranda Colour)
- 15mm Melamine Sheet 4'x 8' (MDF - Japanese Jacaranda Colour)
- 15mm Melamine Sheet 4'x 8' (MDF - Alponso Mango Colour)
- 18mm Melamine Sheet 4'x 8' (MDF - Japanese Jacaranda Colour)
- 9mm Melamine Sheet 4'x 8' (MDF - Japanese Jacaranda Colour)

- Estimated cost will be **Rs. 88 Million** (excluding VAT).
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful tenderers shall not have been black listed and shall Possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids.**
- Bidders are strongly advice to present Registration certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th paragraph of Public Contracts Act No 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million, and copy of certificate to be presented when purchasing the bidding document**
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English Language can be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Rupees Fifteen Thousand (LKR.15,000.00)** (The method of payment shall be cash) by the interested bidder on the submission of written application to the address below from **0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during 15th February 2021 to 1000hrs on 08th March 2021.**
- All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security, to the value of **Eight Hundred Eight Thousand Sri Lanka Rupees(LKR. 880,000.00)** obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be **valid from 08th March 2021 to 05th July 2021 (120 days including Both Days).**
- Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bids Opening (From 08th March 2021 to 05th June 2021).**
- Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** at or before **1000 hrs on 08th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at **Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

The address referred in para 6&9 is as follows.

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**
Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885
E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com, dhqcproc2015@gmail.com

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)****MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****PURCHASE OF****Class I Timber & Teak Timber Strips for Block No. 01 DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA**

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2021/TIMBER/04

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Purchase of Class I Timber & Teak Timber Strips For Block No. 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 10,000,000.00** (excluding VAT).

The goods consist Purchase of Class I Timber Teak & Teak Timber Strips For Block No. 01 for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka. Documentary evidence, supporting the Bidder's experience and track record shall be established with the Bid.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **15th February 2021 until 11th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 15th February 2021 until 11th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 3,500.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash/ Bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.**
- Bids shall be valid from **12th March 2021 to 10th June 2021** both days inclusive (90 days).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Security of **One Hundred Thousand Rupees (LKR 100,000.00)** shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to date of Bid Opening from **12th March 2021 to 10th July 2021** with both days inclusive (120 days).
- The **pre bid meeting** will be held at **1030 hrs on 25th February 2021** Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address on or before **1000 hrs on 12th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 when relevant, before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the Bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above item (08) is;

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC)
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

Tel : 0094-011-2787047
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : dhqcproc2015@gmail.com

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****PURCHASE OF****Hardwood Timber Teak Items For Block No. 03 and 04
DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA****CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2021/TIMBER/09**

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Purchase of Hardwood Timber Teak Items for Block 03 and 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 28,800,000.00 (excluding VAT).

The goods consist Purchase of Hardwood Timber Teak Items for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka. Documentary evidence, supporting the Bidder's experience and track record shall be established with the Bid.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Four Thousand Five Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 4,500.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash/ Bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.**
- Bids shall be valid from **10th March 2021 to 08th June 2021** both days inclusive (90 days).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid-Security of Two Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand Rupees (LKR 288,000.00)** shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to date of Bid Opening from **10th March 2021 to 08th July 2021** with both days inclusive (120 days).
- Pre bid meeting** will be held at **1030 hrs on 24th February 2021** Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 10th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 when relevant, before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the Bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above item (08) is;

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC)
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

Tel : 0094-011-2787047
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : dhqcproc2015@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SPECTRALLY
SELECTIVE WINDOW FILM FOR BLOCK 06 & 07 OF
DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA****CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2020/SER/286**

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and installation of Spectrally Selective Window Film for Block 06 & 07 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 12.8 Million (excluding VAT).

The service consists of Supply and installation of Spectrally Selective Window Film for Block 06 & 07 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as per the specifications given in the Bidding Documents.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka. Documentary evidence, supporting the Bidder's experience and track record shall be established with the Bid.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **15th February 2021 until 09th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 3,500.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash/ Bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.**
- Bids shall be valid up to **10th June 2021** (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid-Security of One Hundred and Twenty Eight Thousand Rupees (LKR 128,000.00)** issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to **09th July 2021** (120 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- A Site visit will be held at **1500 hrs on 24th February 2021** and a pre bid meeting will be held at 1400 hrs on the same day at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 10th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 when relevant, before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the Bid opening.

The address referred to above item (8) is;

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

Tel : 0094-011-2787047
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com



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ECP Drier	Circulation type automatic tea drier with firewood heater Model:Y0001 • SS Trays and Temperature Control	1 Lot	Loinorn Estate Tea Factory (MF 206) Bogawantalawa	0523 052 113

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(The date of opening the tender will be notified later.)

**Acting Chief Executive Officer, Bogawantalawa Tea Estates PLC,
No.153, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION GRANITE FLOORING,
WALL CLADDING AND PANTRY TOPS FOR BLOCK 04 OF
DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA****CONTRACT NO : DHQC/GRANITE 4/2020**

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)** on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and Installation of Granite Flooring, Wall Cladding and Pantry Tops for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 268 Million (excluding VAT).

The work consists of Supply and installation of granite flooring, wall cladding and pantry tops including decorative items, counter tops, thresholds, paving, steps of staircases and surfaces of ledges for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 140 Days.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years with the experience supply and installation of granite works in Sri Lanka for five (5) consecutive years.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual turnover in last five(5)years shall be at least LKR 300 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply and installation of granite work value not less than LKR 100 million. These projects shall be completed within last five (5) years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 160 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **15th February 2021 until 08th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03**, from **15th February 2021 until 08th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees **Forty One Thousand (LKR 41,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash to the Shroff of **Ministry of Defence.**
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address at or before **1200 hrs on 09 th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **06th July 2021** (119 days after the date of bid opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand (LKR 2,700,000.00)** shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **03rd August 2021** (147 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1300 hrs on 23rd February 2021** and a site visit will be held at **1330 hrs on same day** at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each Contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 when purchasing the bidding document and shall submit the same along with the bid.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, No.15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above item(7)is;

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.**

Tel : 0094-11-2439381/ 0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-11-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk



People's Leasing & Finance PLC

(Subsidiary of People's Bank)

SALE OF VEHICLES & MACHINERIES

BUSES				CABS				CARS			
VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	YARD	VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	YARD	VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	YARD
WP-ND-917X	ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING SEAT 42	2011	GALEWELA	ND-LE-949X	MAHINDRA BOLERO LOAD CARRIER	2007	MABIMA	WP-CF-053X	HONDA CIVIC	2008	MARADANA
060-781X	ASHOK LEYLAND - SEAT 30	1996	MONARAGALA	SG-PV-014X	MAHINDRA MAAXIMO PLUS	2013	GALEWELA	WP-KT-024X	KIA SORENTO JEEP	2002	MARADANA
NW-UJ-757X	ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING SEAT 42	2004	MABIMA	WP-PD-088X	MICRO ACTION SPORTS 2000CI	2012	GALEWELA	EP-KS-430X	MARUTI ZEN ESTILO	2001	MONARAGALA
WP-NA-046X	ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING SEAT 42	2005	MALABE	SP-PV-594X	PAGGIO APT NIN	2012	MONARAGALA	100-112X	MAZDA	1993	ANURADHAPURA
WP-NB-728X	ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING SEAT 49	2014	MABIMA	DOZER				WP-KV-780X	MERCEDES BENZ 180 KOMPRESSION	2000	MARADANA
WP-NA-938X	ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING SEAT 58	2011	MABIMA	RY01140	CATERPILLAR D4C XL	2007	MONARAGALA	SP-AN-779X	MICRO KRON 2000X JEEP	2008	MARADANA
063-436X	ISUZU LR312J SEATS 39	1996	JAFFNA	NB-3157	CATERPILLAR D7G	1990	MABIMA	WP-CF-336X	MITSUBISHI PAJERO IO JEEP	1998	MARADANA
CP-8B-235X	LEYLAND VIKING SEATS 42	2017	GALEWELA	NB-4848	CATERPILLAR D7G	1990	MABIMA	WP-GI-030X	MITSUBISHI RVR	1998	MONARAGALA
063-488X	LEYLAND VIKING SEATS 42	2006	MABIMA	EXCAVATOR				WP-GI-030X	MITSUBISHI RVR	1998	MONARAGALA
NP-HU-120X	LEYLAND VIKING SEATS 42	2001	GALEWELA	NB-4807	CAT CAT3216LCR	2001	MABIMA	SG-CF-880X	NISSAN LEAF ZAA AZIO	2003	MARADANA
SP-JH-030X	LEYLAND VIKING SEATS 42	2004	MATARA	CAT036CPRZ01728	CAT300 C	2009	MATARA	032-030X	NISSAN SUNNY B511FU	1983	MARADANA
WP-NB-615X	LEYLAND VIKING SEATS 34	2011	GALEWELA	NB-5435	CATERPILLAR 311C	2011	MABIMA	CP-CAN-950X	NISSAN ZAA 200 LEAF	2003	GALEWELA
NC-ND-320X	MITSUBISHI HINO BEAR SEATS 31	2012	GALEWELA	PM01878	NOBELLO SKID37	2002	MABIMA	300-987X	DPEL	1998	MARADANA
WP-NE-875X	NISSAN DIESEL LASSORAN ML SEAT 43	2011	MALABE	351106	KOMATSU PC200-8ML	2010	MABIMA	WP-GI-536X	SUZUKI ESCUDO JEEP	1999	MARADANA
NC-IB-437X	TRKA CITY RIDE LPAK SEATS 24	2012	GALEWELA	353555	KOMATSU PC200-8ML	2010	MABIMA	WP-EN-665X	TATA NANO	2001	MARADANA
WP-NA-573X	TATA LPO 1511 SEATS 54	2007	MABIMA	THREE WHEELERS				WP-KV-351X	TATA NANO	2004	MARADANA
NP-ND-608X	TATA LPO 1512 SEAT 57	2018	GALEWELA	SP-AN-454X	BAJAJ RE 205	2013	MATARA	WP-CF-884X	TATA NANO TWIST	2005	ANURADHAPURA
EP-NC-064X	TOYOTA 80G 32840 COASTER SEAT 25	2009	GALEWELA	WP-YN-762X	TVS KING	2011	MALABADA	WP-KV-330X	TOYOTA DIA N4F30	2002	MARADANA
WP-NC-712X	TOYOTA PB-82050 COASTER SEAT 28	2007	MALABE	LORRY				WP-KV-087X	TOYOTA DIA ZW30	2009	MARADANA
SP-NC-847X	MITSUBISHI B163EE SEATS 28	2012	MARADANA	WP-UJ-305X	FAW CA3073PK2Y861	2007	MABIMA	WP-KV-295X	TOYOTA NCP934 BEPOKTAJ	2007	MARADANA
063-061X	NISSAN SEATS 28	1991	MABIMA	048-426X	FROGH ROVERTUSKER (BOUSER)	1996	MATARA	300-076X	VOVO S48	1997	MATARA
061-597X	NISSAN CIVILLIAN SEATS 29	1984	MABIMA	CP-LN-889X	ISUZU JEN HIRBSAN	2010	GALEWELA	300-912X	FORD LASER JCK (DAMAGE)	2000	MARADANA
WP-NB-656X	NISSAN DIESEL PAS31MBN SEATS 50	1996	MABIMA	228-494X	LEYLAND (BOUSER)	1999	MATARA	WP-CA-375X	HONDA VIZEL RUSI (DAMAGE)	2004	MARADANA
WP-NB-046X	TOYOTA 80G 32830 SEATS 29	2007	MABIMA	SP-IT-716X	LEYLAND COMET SUPER	2004	MONARAGALA	025-061X	MITSUBISHI LAWNER (DAMAGE)	1999	MARADANA
060-752X	TOYOTA SEATS 25	1985	MABIMA	EP-LB-629X	LEYLAND COMET SUPER	2006	MONARAGALA	TRACTOR			
TIPPER				047-841X	LEYLAND TUSKER	1995	MABIMA	CP-RF-883X	KUBOTA 4308SR	2008	GALEWELA
SP-EN-188X	LEYLAND COMET	2000	MONARAGALA	WP-UB-772X	MITSUBISHI PA-FE720BV	2005	MABIMA	NW-RE-838X	MASSEY FERGLISON MFL540	2016	GALEWELA
WP-U-822X	ASHOK LEYLAND COMET (DAMAGE)	2018	GALEWELA	047-738X	TWA 1612-CLOSED	1995	GALEWELA	EP-RF-777X	MITSUBISHI MAHID64G3300S	2018	MONARAGALA
VAN				EP-LE-687X	TWA LPT 1615	2006	MONARAGALA	EP-RF-664X	POWERTRAC PTEURO 50	2017	ANURADHAPURA
WP-HF-309X	DAIHATSU HIET	1996	GALEWELA	EP-LK-212X	TWA LPT2515	2012	GALEWELA	CP-RG-000X	SONALUKADI 50 KX-2WD	2018	GALEWELA
WP-PA-548X	NISSAN CARAVAN	2001	MARADANA	NC-LX-790X	TWA LPT709	2013	ANURADHAPURA	MOTOR BIKE			
SP-PE-870X	NISSAN RR-VME25	2006	MATARA	WP-LV-603X	NISSAN (DAMAGE)	2008	MABIMA	CP-BH-915X	BAJAJ PULSAR (DAMAGE)	2018	GALEWELA
CP-GE-283X	NISSAN VANETTE	1995	GALEWELA	EP-LK-218X	TWA LPT-2515 (DAMAGE)	2010	GALEWELA				
CP-PE-597X	TOYOTA (DAMAGE)	2007	MARADANA								

- Vehicle and the documents will be delivered as they are.
- Available information of the vehicle will be displayed in the windscreen of each vehicle.
- Visit www.plc.lk to see the pictures of vehicles.
- The full payment or any alternate arrangements should be made within 3 days from the date of advance payment to get the vehicle released.
- No refund of advance payment will be entertained in any circumstances.

Time & Period of inspection

12th, 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th February 2021 9.00 a.m - 4.00 p.m (All Below mentioned Yards)

Tender will be closed on 16th February 2021 by 4.00 p.m

Venues of inspection

- Maradana - In front of Colombo Municipal Council Work Shop, (Former Gamini Hall), Darley Road, Maradana.
- Galewela - People's Leasing Vehicle Yard & Sale Center, Ketalogolla, Beligama, Galewela. (T.P.066-2287355)
- Matara Sales Unit - No.164, Nupe, Matara (T.P.077-5235888)
- Monaragala - People's Leasing Co. PLC, Monaragala (T.P.055-2277485)
- Mabima - No. 225/D, Nayaala Road, Heliyanthudawa, Mabima.
- Jaffna - No.02, Dutch Road, Insipalai (011-238033, 077-3097353, 077-4803804)
- Makola - No.496, Makola North, Makola.
- Anuradhapura Sales Unit - No.12, Maitripala Senanayake Mawatha, Anuradhapura (T.P.076-2358365, 025-2226054)
- Malabe Sales Unit - No.608, Acharugiriya Road, Malabe (T.P.076-1064773)

Offers to be addressed to
Chief Executive Officer
PEOPLE'S LEASING & FINANCE PLC
No. 1161, Maradana Road, Colombo 08.

* Offers will be informed to successful bidders after 07 days of opening the tender box.

Offers could be placed to Tender Boxes at our Vehicle Yards & Head Office or sent under registered cover or hand delivered marked "Sale of Vehicles" (Registration No. of the vehicle offered) on the left hand corner of the cover and should reach to the above address on or before 16th February 2021 before 4.00p.m. Chief Executive Officer of the People's Leasing & Finance PLC, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the offers without any reason being given for such rejections. Tender forms can be obtained from our Head office at Borella, Branches or at our vehicle yards, after paying non refundable Rs.750/- for each.

Tender Section
People's Leasing & Finance PLC.
Tel: 011 2631631 Fax: 011 2631593

Vehicle yards - Maradana Tel: 011 2688026 Makola Tel: 011 2964300 Mabima Tel: 011 2401031
Galewela Tel: 066-2287355 Monaragala Tel: 055-2277485

ADVERTISING Centres

VISIT OUR ADVERTISING CENTRES IN KEY CITIES TO:

- Submit your advertisements
- Reserve rooms at Lake House Kataragama Pilgrims Rest
- Order subscriptions of Lake House newspapers

Kandy Branch

KANDY
No.99, D.S.Senanayaka veediya, Kandy
081 223 4200

Anuradhapura Branch

ANURADHAPURA
No.310/1/2, Harischandra Mawatha, Bank Town
025 222 2370

Matara Branch

MATARA
No.29, Upper Floor, Main Bus Stand
041 223 5412

Nugegoda Branch

NUGEGODA
4th Floor Savsiri Complex, High Levele Road
011 282 8114

Jaffna Branch

JAFFNA
No.06, Sirampirady, Off Stanley Road
077 616 4901

Maradana k/v Branch

MARADANA
No.383, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10
011 242 9336

Kataragama Branch

KATARAGAMA
Opposite Kataragama Bus Stand, Pussadewa Mawatha
047 223 5291

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No.35, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10

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AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLYING AND LAYING OF ASPHALT CONCRETE AT PHASE II ROAD NETWORK (LL3 AREA) AND BLOCK 02, 03, 04 (PODIUM AREA AND PUMP HOUSE AREA) OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2021/SER/07

- This refers to the invitation for Bids, published in Sunday Observer on 31st January 2021 in respect of the abovementioned Contract.
- Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation for Bids.
 - The Bid opening / closing time has been extended up to 1000 hrs on 17th March 2021
 - Bids shall valid up to 15th June 2021.
 - Bid Security shall be valid up to 14th July 2021.
 - Interested Bidders may obtain further information, inspect and purchase the bidding documents from The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on working days from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs from 22nd February 2021 until 16th March 2021.
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-2787047
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhq@gmail.com

**Registration of Goods/
Services Suppliers and Buyers – 2021
Plenty Foods Private Limited
Janasavigama – Pallekelle**

Applications are called from reputed suppliers/ importers/agents/corporative societies/private businessmen who wish to register for supplying goods and services listed below to the head office, factory and other sub-offices of the Plenty Foods Private Limited during the year 2021.

The application prepared according to the following format on an A4 size paper should be sent by registered post to receive on or before 28.02.2021 to the address, "Plenty Foods Private Limited, Janasavigama, Pallekelle". It should be mentioned as Registration of Suppliers and Buyers – 2021 on the envelope contained the applications.

The Procurement Committee has the full power to receive and reject the applications and call quotations from outside the register where necessary after the registration.

Items List

Type	Serial No.	Item
Supplies	1	Types of grains - Rice- white and red/ Kurakkan/ pepper/ green gram/ soya beans/ sorghum
	2	Dehydrated Lease/Carrots/ Muguruwenna/Gotukola/ spinach
	3	Natural Gotukola/ Curry leaves/ Asparagus/Wel Penela/Young jackfruit
	4	Medicines
	5	Polysack bags
	6	Packing materials -(flexible/Corrugated)
	7	Agricultural Instruments and machines
	8	Agrochemicals materials and fertilizers
	9	Laboratory supplies/instruments/others
	10	Stationeries and office needs
	11	Computers and computer appliances
	12	Office equipments - Duplo/fax/printing machines and others
	13	Photocopiers/Fax machines, Cartridges and toners
	14	Air conditions machines
	15	Office furniture -wooden/iron/plastic/others
	16	Iron goods/building materials/ hardware items/ others
	17	Electrical tools - Switches/holders/bulbs and other Electrical equipments
	18	Electrical items
	19	Vehicle spare-parts
	20	Machinery spare- parts
	21	Batteries - vehicles/others
	22	Tires and tubes
	23	Sanitary items - soaps / disinfectants / others
	24	Fumigation/ fumigant supplies
	25	Disposable Material Applicants - Iron/ Grain husks/cardboard/papers/ wooden materials/ Polythene/polysack/plastic/ disposable foods
Services	26	Building constructions and repairs
	27	Advertising services including artworks
	28	Printing services
	29	Repairs/services - Electrical equipments/machineries/computers/air conditioned machines
	30	Laying carpets/ fixing carpets
	31	Repairs of air conditioned machines
	32	Preparing building frames/models by using aluminum
	33	Iron works - grill works/lathe works
	34	Transport services supplies - Vans Lorries
	35	Cleaning services
	36	Labour services

**Plenty Foods Private Limited -Janasavigama – Pallekelle
Registration of Goods/ Services Suppliers and Buyers – 2021**

- Business Institution /owners name:
 - Business address:
 - Telephone No:
 - Fax No:
 - Email address:
 - Goods and services supplied (mention item and the relevant number clearly):
 • Item's number:
 - Business/Contractor's registered address:
- (A copy of the registration certificate should be attached)
- Whether you are /are not entitled to VAT collection:
 - If you have entitled to VAT collection, Registered No:
 - Your institute agrees/agrees to act according to the conditions submitted in relations to the registration and the transactions made thereafter.

Date: Applicant's name: Applicant's signature:
(Rubber stamp)

For further information, contact Mrs. Devika (077 - 3469324)
Supplies Division
Plenty Foods Private Limited
Janasavigama, Pallokelle, Kundasale (Ke) 20168
Telephone: 081 - 2420230/081 - 5004400
Fax: 081 - 2423427

INVITATION FOR BIDS

OCEAN LANKA (PVT) LIMITED, a leading weft knitted fabric manufacturer in the Island, located in Biyagama Export Processing Zone calls for bids from interested parties for sale of following fabric waste items and stock lot fabrics.

Item Group	Description	Approximate Monthly Quantity
A	Thin long strips of fabric less than 2 inches of width	22,000 Kgs
B	Small cut pieces up to 18 inches in length including cotton waste	25,000 Kgs
C	Production cut pieces from 18-72 inches long	7,500 Kgs
D	Production cut pieces in roll form greater than 72 inches	20,000 Kgs
E *	C-grade Greige fabric stock greater than 36 inches	5,000 Kgs
F1	Dyed and finished production stock in roll form-Solid	35,000 - 75,000 Kgs
F2	Dyed and finished production stock in roll form-Prints	15,000 - 50,000 Kgs
F3	Good Quality-Dyed & finished prod. stock in roll form-Solid	Avil. Qty 20,000 Kgs
F4	Good Quality-Dyed & finished prod. stock in roll form-Print	Avil. Qty 4,000 Kgs
G	Production cut pieces in roll form greater than 72 inches in length-both sides printed	7,000 Kgs
I	Waste yarn (Greige & Dyed Yarn together)	1,000 Kgs
J	Greige fabric roll form	15,000 Kgs
K	Dust waste fabric-Available qty	3,300 Kgs

Item Group D and F consists of the following sub categories:

- Normal Fabric
- Yarn Dyed Fabric
- Printed Fabric

* Item Group E consists of Greige and Heather Grey fabric

The above offer is open only to exporters and BOI registered companies exporting directly. The bid will be awarded for a fixed time period of 03 months.

These aforementioned items on sale can be inspected at the factory premises on a mutually agreed date before 24th February 2021. Please call Manthika 077-2078202 to arrange a time for inspection.

The prices must be quoted per Kilogram for each item group and sub-category (in group D - F) separately on ex-mill basis and all charges including loading, clearance, shipping and statutory charges must be borne by the successful bidders.

The selected bidders will be required to make a deposit of 20% of the monthly quantities of the category allocated. The deposit and the payment for the initial quantities need to be made within fourteen (14) days of the confirmation of the sale via Telegraphic Transfer/Direct Deposit to company account in US Dollars and items have to be removed from the factory premises within four (4) days after the payment.

If the selected bidder fails to make the required deposit as mentioned, the bidding will be awarded to the next bidder.

Sealed Bids may be placed in the tender box made available at the reception desk of Ocean Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd., Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Block B, Walgama, Malwana, Sri Lanka, clearly indicating "Invitation for Bids" in the top left corner.

All bids should be sent on or before 24th February 2021 and selected bidders will be notified within 10 working days from the closing date.

ELPITIYA PLANTATIONS PLC

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited by the Tender Board for the sale of the following used Motor Bikes.

Name and Address of Estate	Telephone No.	Brand	Vehicle No.
New Peacock Estate, Pussellawa	081 4945056	Hero Honda	WP TX 7XXX
		Yamaha 125	89 Sri 3XXX
		Bajaj Pulser 150	WP HP-3XXX
Meddecombra Estate, Watagoda.	051 4925019	CD 200 HONDA	88 - 1XXX
		CD 200 HONDA	86 - 1XXX
		Pulsar 150	WP HP 3XXX
		Suzuki 185 CR	1 25 - 3XXX
		Yamaha DT 175	157 - 8XXX
		Yamaha DT 175	153 - 8XXX
		Yamaha DT 175	153 - 8XXX
		Yamaha DT 175	153 - 8XXX
		Yamaha DT 175	159-4XXX
		Demak 150	WP BAL 9XXX
		Bajaj Pulser 180	WP TY 8XXX
		Yamaha DT 175	153 - 8XXX
		Bajaj Pulser 180	WP HP - 3XXX
		Honda XLR 200	WP BCN 6XXX
		Bajaj Pulser 150	WP MW 5XXX
		Bajaj Pulser 180	WP MW 5XXX
		Yamaha DT 125	150 - OXXX
		Demak	WP BAQ 8XXX
		Bajaj Pulser 180	WP HP 3XXX
		Yamaha DT 175	159 - 4XXX
Bajaj Pulsar	WP HP 3XXX		
Bajaj Pulsar	WP HO 3XXX		
Yamaha	83 Sri 2XXX		
Suzuki	125 - 4XXX		
Yamaha	150 - OXXX		
Bajaj Pulsar	WP HP 3XXX		
Bajaj Pulsar 150 CC	WP HP 3XXX		
Yamaha DT	153 - 8XXX		
Yamaha DT	153 - 8XXX		
Honda CD 200	83 - 1XXX		
Suzuki 125	125 - 4xxx		
Suzuki 125	Chassis number) TS1852/154920		
Bajaj Pulsar - 180DTSI	WP MW 5XXX		
Head Office	011 4693000	Demak - DTM	BAQ - 8XXX
		Demak - DTM	BAQ - 8XXX
Gulugahakanda Estate, Wanduramba	091 4943040	Yamaha DT 125	150 - OXXX

All Tenders should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Sale of used Motor Cycles" on the top left-hand corner and addressed to Chief Executive Officer, Elpitiya Plantations PLC to reach on or before 08th March 2021 at 4.00 p.m. by registered post.

Tender Documents can be obtained between 8.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. during weekdays up to 08th March 2021 from relevant Estate on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 500/= and a refundable deposit of Rs. 5,000/= .

The vehicles could be inspected during working days from 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. by prior appointment with the Senior General Manager/Deputy General Manager / Manager of relevant estates.

Bids may be sent by Registered post to the Head Office, Elpitiya Plantation PLC, 9th Floor, Aitken Spence Tower - 01, No. 305, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

Elpitiya Planations PLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Chief Executive Officer
Elpitiya Plantations PLC
9th Floor, Aitken Spence Tower 01,
305, Vauxhall Street,
Colombo 02.
Tel: 011-4693000

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VEHICLES FOR SALE

KADAWATHA VEHICLE YARD THREE WHEEL

AAD-07XX	AAO-24XX	ABG-28XX	DF-45XX	QT-95XX	YA-48XX	YU-20XX
AAG-24XX	AAO-70XX	JX-45XX	ON-09XX	OW-20XX	YB-35XX	YX-78XX
AAH-28XX	AAO-92XX	JY-89XX	OD-57XX	OX-98XX	YB-79XX	AAU-57XX
AAJ-70XX	AAW-19XX	OB-84XX	OR-57XX	OZ-95XX	YB-97XX	AAS-37XX
AAK-83XX	AAW-99XX	OF-24XX	OR-87XX	OZ-33XX	YD-89XX	

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
KU-95XX	TATA	NANO	BET-59XX	DEMARC	MOTOR CYCLE
CAI-86XX	TATA	NANO	BIA-53XX	HONDA	MOTOR CYCLE
LK-38XX	JMC	MOTOR LORRY	BID-45XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE
PR-97XX	MAHINDRA	MINI TRUCK	BHE-34XX	RTORO	MOTOR CYCLE
DAF-62XX	FOTON	MINI TRUCK	BEZ-37XX	DIG	MOTOR CYCLE
			RD-76XX	MAHINDRA	TRACTOR

HORANA VEHICLE YARD THREE WHEEL

AAO-80XX	AAK-13XX	AAZ-36XX	ON-89XX	OV-54XX	OX-70XX	YP-36XX
AAG-68XX	AAK-18XX	OM-98XX	OP-16XX	OW-76XX	YJ-80XX	YY-54XX
AAO-79XX	AAK-39XX	ON-78XX	OU-42XX	OX-52XX	YM-25XX	YZ-16XX
					YP-35XX	YV-48XX

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
BH2-71XX	BAJAJ	MOTOR CYCLE	PR-24XX	MAHINDRA	MINI TRUCK
BIC-12XX	HONDA	MOTOR CYCLE	PS-43XX	ABL	MINI TRUCK
BID-88XX	YAMAHA	MOTOR CYCLE	418R157XX	TOYOTA	MOTOR LORRY
BIO-86XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE	LB-18XX	MAHINDRA	MOTOR LORRY
BIW-83XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE	LN-51XX	TIPPER	MOTOR LORRY
14SR162XX	TOYOTA COROLLA	MOTOR CAR	CAE-18XX	TATA	MOTOR CAR

KULIYAPITIYA VEHICLE YARD THREE WHEEL

AAO-00XX	OB-78XX	ON-84XX	OV-81XX	OX-71XX	YD-32XX	YY-86XX
AAZ-19XX	OK-22XX	OP-69XX	OW-79XX	OZ-49XX	YF-84XX	YY-62XX
AAZ-83XX	ON-77XX	OT-66XX	OX-51XX	OZ-86XX	YG-10XX	OT-73XX
					YM-44XX	OZ-13XX

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
BH1-50XX	YAMAHA	MOTOR CYCLE	BIL-44XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE
BIB-95XX	BAJAJ	MOTOR CYCLE	BIU-43XX	YAMAHA	MOTOR CYCLE
BID-00XX	SUZUKI	MOTOR CYCLE	LI-69XX	ISUZU	MOTOR LORRY

ANURADHAPURA VEHICLE YARD THREE WHEEL

AAO-12XX	PZ-02XX	OP-82XX	OT-31XX	OX-35XX	OZ-78XX	YF-47XX
AAK-38XX	OK-05XX	OO-45XX	OV-43XX	OX-40XX	YC-78XX	YZ-39XX
AAK-72XX	OK-82XX	OS-81XX	OV-82XX	OX-51XX	YH-14XX	
JZ-21XX	OM-80XX	OS-85XX	OW-80XX	OZ-18XX	YY-00XX	

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
BIT-86XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE	BGB-84XX	HUNK	MOTOR CYCLE
BIL-22XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE	BHE-10XX	METRO	MOTOR CYCLE
BII-45XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE	DAE-89XX	BRILLIANCE SHINERY	MINI TRUCK
BIE-05XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE	RD-85XX	NEW HOLLAND	TRACTOR
BII-14XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE	RD-87XX	NEW HOLLAND	TRACTOR
BIG-88XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE	RE-21XX	NEW HOLLAND	TRACTOR
BIM-81XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE	RE-37XX	NEW HOLLAND	TRACTOR
BIG-83XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE	RE-43XX	NEW HOLLAND	TRACTOR
BH1-05XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE	RE-67XX	NEW HOLLAND	TRACTOR
BHS-80XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE	RE-72XX	NEW HOLLAND	TRACTOR
BIF-67XX	YAMAHA	MOTOR CYCLE	RE-77XX	SDNALIKA	TRACTOR
BIF-43XX	YAMAHA	MOTOR CYCLE	RE-88XX	TAFE	TRACTOR
BIC-39XX	YAMAHA	MOTOR CYCLE	15-76XX	MAZDA	CAR

NITTAMBUWA VEHICLE YARD THREE WHEEL

AAA-58XX	AAS-08XX	OP-28XX	OR-08XX	OV-84XX	OZ-36XX	YN-35XX
AAG-26XX	JX-77XX	OP-70XX	OS-14XX	OW-88XX	YK-49XX	YN-34XX
AAO-83XX	OI-45XX	OO-03XX	OU-24XX	OW-93XX	YL-70XX	YS-02XX
AAH-50XX	OL-68XX	OO-05XX	OU-73XX	OX-03XX	YM-49XX	YY-74XX
						OS-40XX

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
LB-27XX	MAHINDRA	MOTOR LORRY	BHV-15XX	HONDA	MOTOR CYCLE
LK-78XX	TATA	MOTOR LORRY	BIC-32XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE
LK-81XX	ISUZU	MOTOR LORRY	BIG-18XX	YAMAHA	MOTOR CYCLE
LI-08XX	ISUZU	MOTOR LORRY	BGH-55XX	RAY ZR	MOTOR CYCLE
LI-09XX	FAW	MOTOR LORRY	DAC-16XX	MAHINDRA	MINI TRUCK
LO-16XX	JMC	MOTOR LORRY	DAD-61XX	MAHINDRA	MINI TRUCK
LY-98XX	RENAULT	MOTOR LORRY	15SR22XX	TOYOTA COROLLA	MOTOR CAR
			17-43XX	DAIHATSU	MOTOR CAR

MIHINDU MAWATHA VEHICLE YARD OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
68-48XX	TOYOTA	MOTOR LORRY	PR-56XX	TATA	MINI TRUCK
PR-60XX	TATA	MINI TRUCK	PV-64XX	MAHINDRA	MINI TRUCK

VEHICLE INSPECTION

Kadawatha Vehicle Yard. No. 125/F, Ragama Road, Kadawatha.
 Horana Vehicle Yard. No. 166, Angurawathota Road, Horana.
 Kuliypitiya Vehicle Yard. No. 25B, Madampana Road, Kuliypitiya.
 Anuradhapura Vehicle Yard. Chana 05, Kunnegala Road, Rathmal, Shrawasthipura.
 Nittambuwa Yard. No. 055, Jayasuriya Mawatha, Nittambuwa.
 Mihindu Mawatha Vehicle Yard. No. 15/20, Mihindu Mawatha, Mahara, Kadawatha.

15th, 16th, 17th & 18th February 2021 between 10.00 am and 04.00 pm at the above address. Tenders will close at 04.00 pm on 18th February 2021

Tender forms could be obtained from Kuliypitiya, Mahara, Anuradhapura, Nittambuwa & Horana COB Branches. Non-refundable payment of Rs.250.00

Successful bidders will be informed by telephone, and within 7 days from such notification the full amount must be paid as well as vehicle must be removed from our premises. Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle from the sale without assigning any reason for it. Bidders have to accept the vehicle in the present condition it is, and it is the relevant bidder's responsibility to settle any outstanding payments with regards to revenue license and other government taxes.

* The Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle from the sale without prior notice.

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**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
JANATHA ESTATES DEVELOPMENT
BOARD**

REGISTRATION OF SALES AGENT FOR THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF JANA TEA

The Janatha Estates Development Board (JEDB) administers sixteen tea estates in the upcountry area. The highest quality level Tea manufactured using tea leaves obtained from the estates in the central hills in Sri Lanka is distributed under the trade name of "Janawasama Jana Tea".

In order to expand our distribution process, we intend to invite applications from individuals and companies who are willing to be our Sales Agents. Selected applicants should be able to produce a bank draft along with the following details.

Name and Address of the Company :

Telephone No / Email No / Fax No :

Areas covered :

Name / Designation of this Signatory :

Applications in sealed covers, the relevant cover marked "Registration of Sales Agents for distribution of Packetted Tea" at the left-side top corner, should be sent by Registered Post addressed to **Chairman, Janatha Estates Development Board, No. 55/75, Vauxhall Lane, Colombo 2** to be received at or before **2.00 p.m. on 31.03.2021**.

Contact : 0764849300

**Chairman
Janatha Estate Development Board
No. 55/75, Vauxhall Lane,
Colombo 02.**

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
MANAGEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ARBITRATION CENTRE**

01. Introduction and Objectives

The Sri Lanka International Arbitration Centre which is incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee under the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, was established for resolving disputes arising out of International Commercial Agreements and other International Affairs. The Sri Lanka International Arbitration Centre is a state-of-the-art facility situated at Level 22, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Colombo 01.

In order to promote the Sri Lanka International Arbitration Centre as a regional hub through an efficient and effective operationalization of the facility and to transform the facility as a self-sustainable independent organization, the Ministry of Justice invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from eligible entities to provide Alternative Disputes Resolution Services at the Sri Lanka International Arbitration Centre by adopting best practices and management strategies.

02. The Proposal

The Ministry of Justice will be entering into a Management Agreement with the selected Managing Partner and the selected Managing Partner will be required to;

- Manage and utilize the facility including the movable property to undertake the Alternative Disputes Resolution Services for commercial disputes resolution.
- Promote the use of the facility among all local and international Alternative Disputes Resolution Service Providers.
- Make rules for all matters relating to the provision of Alternative Disputes Resolution services in line with the Internationally accepted norms governing Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanisms.
- Provide for a system for accreditation and training of Arbitrators and Mediators required to provide Alternative Disputes Resolution services.

03. Eligibility Criteria

The EOI can be forwarded by a bidder: a firm, a consortium or a joint venture which individually or jointly has experience in providing Alternate Disputes Resolution services. The following information shall be provided in the EOI;

- A comprehensive corporate profile including the details of business registration, payment of taxes, relevant experience and technical capacity in providing Alternative Dispute Resolution Services and Training.
- Proposed Action Plan for the Operationalization of the Sri Lanka International Arbitration Centre.
- Financial and Management Proposals along with the proposed Financial and Management Models.

04. Procedure of Selection

The proposals submitted will be carefully evaluated by a Professional Evaluation Committee. The selection will be based on the experience, competencies, effectiveness of the Management Proposal and the viability of the Financial Proposal.

05. Procedure for Submission of EOI

Please contact Mr. Madhushanka Dissanayake, Director - Reforms (Tel: + 94-11-2478339 / Email: dirreforms@moj.gov.lk) or Ms. Ruwanadhini Kuruppu, Assistant Secretary - Legal (Tel: + 94-112-436 350 / Email: aslegal3@moj.gov.lk) for further information and/or arrangement of site inspections.

The EOI must be delivered to the following address on or before **15th March, 2021**.

**Secretary
Ministry of Justice
Superior Courts Complex, Colombo 12.**

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Bride
 AA Christian Tamil family from Colombo seeks an educated professional, well groomed and religious God fearing partner for their well educated, born in 1988, 5'2" fair & good looking daughter who's working for an international firm as an Accountant. For more information reply with complete details and contacts. Email : groomnrc@gmail.com OB158517

Able G/B family, 1989 September born, father Lawyer is seeking for a smart, tan in complexion, professionally qualified, healthy son with a respectable family background for our pleasant young daughter who had her education in a reputed Buddhist school in Colombo 7, obtained BBM from Bangalore, MBA from Colombo university and employed as an executive in a private company. She inherits substantial assets including a bungalow and vehicles. Rahu at 7th house, non-malefic horoscope. Horoscope and religion are not much considered. Email: amara6868@gmail.com OB158490

About daughter : Professionally qualified BA English (University of Kelaniya), LLB, UK, MSc. (Reading) daughter, born April 1978, 5'5", fair, pretty, young looking, currently working as an English Lecturer in a reputed Graduate School in Colombo. Academically & professionally qualified caring, employed son from a respectable family is sought by B/G/K respectable retired Teacher mother (Colombo suburb). All family members are University Graduates. Please reply with family details and horoscope. mproposalsmj@gmail.com OB158284

About our daughter Bodu Govi born in 1993, 5'3" parents seek a professionally qualified son for their daughter living in USA. She was graduated as a Doctor very recently. Please reply: mksjsa4@gmail.com OB158149

Above 5'08" tall professionally qualified well-employed partner sought by established B/G and B/K parents from Colombo suburbs for 1994 born, BSc. IT Graduate, employed, slim, 5'7" tall daughter. Educated at leading girls' school in Colombo. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email address : wkndrh@gmail.com OB158532

Academically and professionally qualified B/G partner working abroad or willing to migrate age below 34 sought by B/G well established parents from Kandy for their 1990 September born 5' tall slim fair pretty daughter working as an Executive in Microbiology in reputed International Company, Sri Lanka. Graduated with BSc. and MSc. Degrees. She inherits valuable assets. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email - pr oposaluk1234@gmail.com OB158178

Academically and professionally qualified below 37 years well mannered caring son is sought by respectable G/B parents from Colombo suburbs for their daughter born in May 1986, 5'3", pretty, fair with pleasing personality. Educated at a leading Girls' School in Kandy and graduated at a private university in Colombo. Please reply with family details, a copy of the horoscope and contact number. E-mail : may79798@gmail.com OB158335

Academically and professionally qualified caring son is sought by B/G mother for 34 years, 5'5", kind, pretty, fair, BSc. Degree qualified daughter (she was in the UK) employed in an IT/BPO position in a leading organization in Colombo. Reply with horoscope. Email : rchproposals@gmail.com OB158105

Academically and professionally qualified caring well mannered son from a respectable family is sought by B/K professional parents from Kandy for their pretty daughter 1989/04 born 5'4". Studied in leading school in Kandy and continued higher studies in UK. Currently working in a reputed company in Colombo as Senior IT Professional. Reply with horoscope and family details. proposal_de@yahoo.com OB158428

Academically and professionally qualified caring & smart son (below 36 years) from a respectable G/B family is sought by G/B parents from Colombo suburbs for their 5'3" pretty and professionally qualified daughter 29 years currently well employed in London. She is a UK PR Holder, and inherits assets both UK and Sri Lanka. Pl reply with full family details and horoscope. Email: wprop21@gmail.com OB158128

Academically and professionally qualified caring, kind hearted son from a respectable family is sought by Bodu/Govi mother residing in UK for her only daughter born in UK 1990, 5'2" tall, fair, slim, pretty and kind, broughtup with Sinhala Buddhist values. She holds a Masters Degree in Psychology and professionally qualified also involves in a family business established in UK. Reply with family details, horoscope and contact information. rumistuv@aol.com OB158301

Academically and professionally qualified handsome son is sought by Govi Buddhist well-connected parents for their daughter, Senior Lecturer at a State University. 1985 born 5'3" very fair slim pretty and friendly with excellent character. Owns valuable assets. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Overseas proposals also welcome. wbliss21@gmail.com OB158186

Academically and professionally qualified kind hearted similar caste son is sought by B/G retired parents from Colombo, for their 33 yrs. 5'2" very fair extremely pretty slim young looking daughter postgraduate qualified, working as an Assistant Director at Central Bank of Sri Lanka, having attractive remuneration, fringe benefits, owns substantial assets. pr opksk2016@yahoo.com OB158182

Academically and professionally qualified kind, caring, suitable son sought by Sinhalese parents living UK over 35 yrs. Our daughter 25y, 5'6", caring well-mannered fair, pretty v.good looking, slim with BSc and MSc working NHS. Please send family details by email: propwije35@gmail.com. UK residents are preferred. OB158381

Academically and professionally qualified NS/TT son is sought by B/G dual citizen parents residing in Australia for their well accomplished, kind-hearted down to earth daughter 31 years of age and 5'3" in height. She holds a Double Degree in Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery and currently holds a respected position at a leading tertiary hospital in Melbourne. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Australian PR Holders preferred. Email - marriage05@hotmail.com OB158542

Academically and professionally qualified respectable family son is sought by retired G/B parents from Nugegoda for their only daughter, 5'5" tall pleasant and well-mannered Lawyer born in December 1988. Kuja 12. Reply with family details horoscope and telephone number to: mrpkdd@gmail.com OB158367

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by BK parents for government employed daughter 1989 Sept, 5'3" holding BSc Engineering and PhD non-malefic HC. Reply with family details, horoscope with out Kuja Dosha, Contact numbers. daughterproposals@gmail.com OB158372

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Buddhist mother for her daughter she is 1995 born, 5'8" currently working in a reputed private company. She is in the final stages of her Masters in Strategic Marketing. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email : 1011proposal@gmail.com OB158525

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by respectable Bodu Govi parents living in Colombo for their daughter born in 1983/09 holds BSc. and MSc. Working as an IT Lecturer. Please reply with family details and horoscope. mrj.mp57@gmail.com OB158116

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered caring doctor or Engineer son sought by respectable Buddhist/Catholic/ Govi/ Durawa parents in Colombo for their only child loving daughter Medical Doctor graduated from Sri Jayawardenepura Medical Faculty. She is fair & slim 5'3" well mannered honest decent. Born in 1995 December, she has substantial assets in Mount Lavinia, Ratmalana and Colombo 13. Father an Engineer/ Businessman, prefer son established in Australia, UK or Newzeland. Please call: 0112716765 or email: wperera331@yahoo.com OB158445

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered caring partner is sought by B/G parents for their elder daughter 34, 5'2", pretty, holds MBA, Chartered Accountant and employed as a Finance Manager in a leading company in Colombo. Legally separated after brief marriage as the plaintiff, no encumbrances. Send horoscope copy, contact information and family details to: mmwproposal@gmail.com OB158415

Academically and professionally qualified, well brought up G/B daughter, born 1991, 5' height, studied at Visakha College, working in private sector Colombo. Reply with relevant details please call after 6 p.m. 0112513998. OB158406

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered NS/TT son from a respectable family is sought by retired parents from Colombo suburbs for their daughter well brought-up with Sinhalese Buddhist cultural values. She is 40 y., 5'4", working in a reputed Bank, highly educated-both academically & professionally, career aspiring, religious, slim, absolutely young-looking and pleasant. Please reply with horoscope and full particulars in the first letter itself to - ptk.p@rop.ausi@gmail.com OB158358

Academically and professionally qualified professional partner sought by B/G parents for 1987 May, 5'3" Chartered Architect daughter. Write with full family details & copy of horoscope. mrp.wa500@gmail.com OB158237

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered son from a respectable family living in USA or Canada sought by B/G parents for their pretty fair daughter 1983 born 5'6". She studied in USA qualified with International Business Degree from a leading USA University. She is working as an Administrator in a company in Washington DC. Please reply with horoscope and family details. proposaly12@gmail.com OB158088

Academically and professionally qualified handsome son from respectable family Sri Lanka or overseas (preferably UK) sought by BG parents for 1983 September 5'4" much younger looking pretty MBBS Doctor, Colombo. he magemini53@gmail.com OB158478

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son is sought by B/G parents for their only daughter fair and pretty 85/9, 5'3" graduated with BSc and partly qualified in CIMA, willing to migrate. Inherits assets. Kuja 1,2,3,4,7,8,12 are preferred. Reply with family details, horoscope. T/N email: proposal12342019@gmail.com OB158391

Academically qualified professional partner sought by B/G parents for 1987 May, 5'3" Chartered Architect daughter. Write with full family details & copy of horoscope. mrp.wa500@gmail.com OB158237

Academically qualified well mannered son from a respectable family is sought by a B/G family for their 1984 born pleasant academically qualified daughter (BSc Mgt and CIMA) holding a Senior Executive position in United Nations Organization with possession of house properties land and vehicle together with other assets. OB158475

Academically qualified (preferably BSc Engineer/MBBS Doctor) handsome, TT/NS son from a respectable Govi, Buddhist family is sought by Govi, Buddhist, professional parents (Engineer/Architect) for their pretty daughter born in June 1990, 5'3", MBBS Doctor. Inherits substantial assets. Elder brother BSc/MSc Software Engineer married to a PhD student, employed in UK. Elder sister MBBS doctor married to a MBBS/MD doctor. Full particulars with horoscope in first letter please. Email: tndpr oposal@yahoo.com OB156893

Academically & professionally qualified son is sought by B/G Sinhalese Business parents living in Colombo for their eldest daughter, who holds a Masters Degree in Monash University in Melbourne. Also holding a temporary resident permit & having work experience in Melbourne. She has an income from the family business and owns a valuable house in Colombo. Born in 1990/08 and 5'2" in height and slim. Please reply with family details & horoscope (Kuja 7) on proposal637@gmail.com OB158352

Academically & professionally qualified well mannered sociable young looking son sought by B/G parents for only daughter 1981, 5'2", fair, pretty, very young looking (as age of 25). Educated & employed in Executive position will inherit substantial assets. Never married. Please reply further substantial valuable assets to be inherited. Reply with full details, inclusive of a copy of horoscope either by post or Email - haghetti@gmail.com OB158188

Affluent Govi Buddhist parents from Colombo retired Govt. servant seek professionally and academically qualified partner from Colombo for their daughter 1989, 5'3" in height fair and pretty BSc. Software Engineer working in Colombo private university as a Lecturer. She inherits substantial dowry. Her only sister is LLB, Attorney-at-Law. Please reply with horoscope and family details. OB158247

Affluent G/B Teacher parents seek a suitable son for good looking daughter. She is 35 years, 5'4" tall, graduate BA (Hons) in Creative Multimedia. Currently employed as Senior Executive of a leading Mercantile Organization. Officers of the Forces preferred. Please reply with full details and horoscope. Email : alwprop20@gmail.com OB158521

Age 39, 5' Government School Graduate School Teacher, Bodu Govi (Kuja Shani 3rd House). Reply with horoscope. OB158148

An academically qualified well employed son sought by B/G respectable retired parents from Colombo suburbs for fair, 1981/08, 5'5", young looking, well mannered IT professional (BSc., MSc.) elder daughter well employed. Owns assets. Divorced as innocent party without kids from a brief marriage. 0112912105. mpropbride18@gmail.com OB158099

An academically / professionally qualified, N/S and T/T marriage partner less than 44 years old, employed in Sri Lanka is sought by G/B parents (father retired senior Bank executive) in Colombo suburb for their fair daughter born in 1981, 5'5" in height, qualified in IT with BSc and MSc, employed in a private bank at executive level. She is a divorcee from a very brief marriage as an innocent party. She already owns an upstairs house, in addition to further substantial valuable assets to be inherited. Reply with full details, inclusive of a copy of horoscope to: jds7sn@gmail.com OB158215

A well mannered caring educated son is sought for our well accomplished charming daughter BSc MBA educated in a leading school in Colombo, slim 5'5" born in 84/11 working as a Deputy General Manager for a leading apparel manufacturing company. She inherits substantial assets including a luxury upstairs house and a new car, please respond with a copy of horoscope to: jds7sn@gmail.com OB158215

An educated qualified well-mannered son sought by Sinhalese Buddhist parents retired Senior Managers Gampaha District for their 24 years 5' tall pretty slim daughter only child final year undergraduate in MIS at a private university horoscope essential. marajapakse60@gmail.com OB158086

An employed partner with sober habits is sought for a graduate English teacher residing in Colombo. Catholic Tamil born in 1976. Height 5'5" medium complexion. anthony197661@yahoo.com (Divorcees not considered). OB156065

Australian qualified doctor (MBBS, FRACGP) working in Australia, only child in the family, bears an impeccable character, height 5' very fair, slim and pretty substantial assets in Australia and Sri Lanka. Please reply with details contact: s fnt2020@yahoo.com OB158196

A leading lawyer father Salagama Buddhist looks for his professionally qualified pretty, pleasant, fair only daughter with assets working at a private organization in Colombo. 5'5" 30 years Kuja 8 studied at a leading school in Colombo, academically and professionally qualified smart son with assets. Please do reply. mn sdv678@gmail.com OB158162

A partner of similar status is sought by Sinhala, Buddhist well-respected, wealthy parents from Colombo for their 5'6", slim, fair, attractive professionally qualified (LLB, Attorney-at-Law, ACMA, CGMA) daughter of 27. OB158288

A well mannered caring educated son is sought for our well accomplished charming daughter BSc MBA educated in a leading school in Colombo, slim 5'5" born in 84/11 working as a Deputy General Manager for a leading apparel manufacturing company. She inherits substantial assets including a luxury upstairs house and a new car, please respond with a copy of horoscope to: jds7sn@gmail.com OB158215

Continued on page 84

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A well-established business-owned parents from Colombo seek an academically and professionally qualified son, from a respectable family for their daughter 27 yrs (October 1993) 5'2", very pretty and very fair, brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values. She was educated at a leading girls' school in Colombo and holds a BSc degree in marketing from a foreign university. She is a shareholder and a director in her father's company and inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details, horoscope and contact information. Email: wedpro0000@gmail.com OB158156

B/G parents in Kurunegala seek an educated, employed caring son in the age range of 52 - 58 for their unmarried daughter - 5'1", fair slim pleasant born in 1967 Management Assistant in Government sector. Reply with family details and horoscope. OB158202

Bodu Govi Engineer father and mother searching for an academically and professionally qualified, handsome, well-mannered son for their 1996 born 5'2" daughter. Software Engineering graduate, educated in a leading girls school in Colombo, currently employed in a reputed software company in Colombo and inherits valuable assets. Reply with family details and a copy of horoscope. Email : marriagep65@gmail.com OB158101

Bodu Govi mother with good family background seeks a well educated son for medium fair born 1977 daughter, 5'4", Accountant PDG. E-mail: mslproposal@gmail.com OB158554

Bodu Govi parents from Gampaha District seek professionally and academically qualified son for their fair pretty 5'1" born 1991 Jan. graduate (Management) daughter employed in a private bank as an Executive. She inherits valuable assets. Reply with family details and horoscope to: proposalhs1991@gmail.com OB158376

Bodu Govi parents from Kurunegala seek a professionally qualified partner for their 1986 born divorced 5 feet tall, beautiful daughter who has a PhD with a 5 year old son and currently employed in Australia. p ropabc1111@gmail.com OB158540

Bodu Govi/Karawa parents from Colombo suburbs seek a suitable son (between 27-32 yrs.) from a respectable family for their elder daughter, professionally qualified pretty, well-mannered born in January 1995, 5'2" studied in a leading girls' school in Colombo and graduated from a Government University (BSc, CIMA, PQHRM) she is currently working in Canada. (PR Holder). (Preferred Kuja 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12). Please respond with family details and a copy of the horoscope. cper era068@gmail.com OB158092

Buddhist Karawa well to do parents in Colombo suburbs seek an educated well mannered professionally qualified son from respectable family for their slim pretty daughter 34 y., 5'1" MBBS (Col.) Doctor inherits substantial assets. Only brother S. Financial Analyst. Caste immaterial. Email : marriageprop2017@yahoo.com OB158239

Buddhist Sinhala parents seek a suitable son for their well accomplished and qualified daughter. 1996 August. Who is employed, she inherits assets. Contact: proposal23feb@gmail.com OB158501

Buddhist Sri Lankan parents seek a suitable partner for their daughter 29 yrs. 5'3" (EU citizen) holds BSc, in Architecture and MSc Degrees, brought up with Sri Lankan values. Please reply with details and a copy of horoscope. Email: ranjani@gmx.at OB158180

Buddhist 29 years height 5'4" pretty only daughter BA and MA in language in English Medium from University of Peradeniya mother seeks engineer doctor executive grade partner preferably working abroad. Caste immaterial. 0372238228. Email: dikeerajapaksha123@gmail.com OB158454

B/D professional parents seek partner for MBBS (SL) 30 yrs, 5'4" height daughter. wajra2020@gmail.com OB158463

B/G Colombo 1982 Sep. 5'7", slim, attractive looking daughter well qualified academically with double degree (Management) and MBA looking as a Manager in reputed company. Retired parents seek an educated son. Owns valuable assets. E-mail: lanka proposal82@gmail.com OB158469

B/G parents from Colombo seek an academically professionally qualified well mannered son for their only daughter born in 1983 / July height 5'2" employed as a Senior Finance Manager in a reputed Company. She holds a Degree Chartered Accountancy and MBA. Please respond with horoscope. 2018propo@gmail.com OB158461

B/G parents from Colombo seek professionally & academically qualified son for pretty fair daughter born 1989 BSc graduate in Australian Please reply with family details, copy of horoscope. pererwim alasiri51@gmail.com OB158511

B/G parents seek a kind well mannered academically and professionally qualified NS/TT son from a respectable family for their daughter 1983/08, 5'5", fair, attractive BSc/MSc qualified in Bio-Medical Science working in a Semi Government Hospital in Colombo as Senior Quality Assurance Executive. She owns a two storey house in Colombo suburbs and inherits family assets. Reply with horoscope and full family details. No migration no divorcees. Please email: pr opsals7923@gmail.com OB158485

B/G parents seek a suitable partner for their 1977/10, 5'4", slim, unmarried daughter, Civil Engineer at Government Institute. Reply with family details, horoscope. v.nissanka@gmail.com OB158265

B/G parents seek a suitable son for their academically qualified, slim daughter, born in 1992 graduated from a UK University (LLB) and is currently reading for an Attorney-at-Law and employed. Willing to migrate. Proposals from overseas are preferred. Reply to: proposal202008@gmail.com OB158411

B/G 1993, 5'5" fair very pretty slim BSc (Management degree) graduate daughter studied at a leading girls school in Colombo working in a private firm, retired parents looking for a professionally qualified caring son who lives overseas. proposal2027@yahoo.com OB158373

B/K parents seek a suitable partner for their daughter, 35, 5'6", teacher of an International School. Please reply with details. propowije123@gmail.com OB158392

B/K parents seek professionally qualified son for youngest daughter 1997, 5'6" educated leading Buddhist Girls' School in Colombo. Obtained 1st class degree in Business Management. Qualified Chartered HR professional currently reading for her MBA working well reputed Multinational Company earning six figure salary. Reply horoscope telephone number. OB158229

Catholic mother looking for a family oriented, professional caring person for her daughter. She is 45 years, medium complexion, 5'6" working as a Manager in private firm. Reply with family details to: proposalsns@gmail.com OB158257

Catholic parents looking from Catholic parents a groom religious qualified and employed preferably in UK for their daughter living and employed in UK as a Post Doctor qualified as a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD Chemistry) Research fellow aged 30 (November 1990) fair good looking height 5'6", for more details write/email proposalsphilip@gmail.com OB158293

Central Province Buddhist Govi / Karawa retired parents looking for a handsome academically qualified employed son for their 1994, 4'10" kind well mannered daughter employed as an Assistant Lecturer in a private University. Inherits valuable assets. Reply family details horoscope in first response. prop 09194@gmail.com OB158204

Christian 92, 5'3" parents seek a partner for daughter a Graduate Teacher in Colombo School. T.N. 2913227. OB158242

Colombo Buddhist father seeks professionally qualified educated son here or abroad between 39-44. For his daughter 38 yrs., 5'2", foreign educated and employed here. Divorced no encumbrances. Respond with horoscope and T/N. pathinc197@gmail.com OB158502

Colombo B/G 1990, 5'4" pretty MBBS (SL) daughter (followings MD) educated at Musaeus. Inherits substantial assets mother seeks B/G educated virtuous son preferably engineers, medical or executive professions. Reply with horoscope . prop251990@gmail.com OB158515

Colombo Sinhala B/G affluent parents seek, suitable partner for their daughter 1993/4, 5', tan, pretty, diploma teacher. She is pursuing a teaching degree at present willing to migrate after marriage is necessary. Reply with horoscope. ishanka.idx@gmail.com OB158552

Colombo suburbs B/G parents seek partner below 38 years for daughter born 1986/9, 5'6" tall slim pretty smart BSc MBA qualified. Senior Project Manager (IT). email: wedprop2021@gmail.com OB158194

Colombo suburbs Govi Buddhist business parents seek educated same caste partner for daughter 1993 April height 5'2" educated at a leading girls' school business management graduate. Dowry available. swarnapala61@gmail.com OB158465

Colombo suburb teacher international school 41 years 5'2" slim fair never married. Parents seek sober non-smoking partner. Govi Buddhist but caste immaterial. Email: ivor.panditha@yahoo.com OB158453

Colombo, B/D parents seek suitable son for their 1993 March born 5'5", slim youngest daughter, Finance Graduate, following Masters abroad. Currently back in Sri Lanka and working at an international organisation. Caste immaterial. Email - p roposalsfourdaug hter93@gmail.com OB158365

Educated professional B/G family from Colombo, with means, seek a pleasant, educated, kind, NS/TT, professionally qualified partner, (Medical, IT, Banking, Finance, Engineering, Academic etc.) between 37 and 43 yrs, with Buddhist values from a respectable family of acceptable standing, ideally from Western Province, for their daughter, born 1980/11, looks very much younger, studied at Ladies College and two Universities, down to earth, currently engaged in Medical Research at a Local University at a Doctorate level (PhD). She is, about 5ft height, quite pretty, fair, kind, impeccable character owns substantial assets in Colombo 5 and suburbs with more to inherit. Only brother is a doctor. Not prepared to migrate and caste differences are ignored. Please reply with full details including residential address and horoscope for nominal comparison. Uttara pal Nekatha and Makara Lagna, Kethu in House 1. Strict confidentiality is assured. Email: kaluarachchige@yahoo.com Tel: 0112500654. OB158394

Government appointed Teacher, S/B, Salagama, 42 y., 5'2" fair and very pretty, honest, kind-hearted from a respectable affluent family, owns valuable inherit assets, separated from unfortunate marriages (innocent party) without encumbrance and no children. Seeking for a very handsome, truly honest, loving caring, well educated, financially established gentleman, preferably high rank Officer from Police or Forces who has undergone similar issues. Reply with a horoscope. sridimunasinghe@gmail.com OB158545

Govi Buddhist mother seeks an academically and professionally qualified, caring and well-mannered son for her daughter born in 1979, 5'2" slim and smart, MBA holder from an Australian University. She holds a top management position in a leading organization and inherits property and assets. Reply with family details and horoscope to: m proposal_c@hotmail.com OB158422

Govi Buddhist mother seeks a suitable employed son for her pretty slim government employed graduate 5'1" daughter born 1984. Owns a house in Colombo. Call after 8 p.m. 0112141885. OB158508

Govi Buddhist 1994/ November height 5'5", IT Graduate pretty daughter, Doctor parents seek educated partner horoscope required, Kuja 1. OB158286

G/B parents Colombo seek son for daughter 41 very young looking fair, slim, pretty 5'1" CIMA part qualified inherits house. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email: pmarriage2121@yahoo.com OB158171

G/B respectable parents from Colombo seek academically qualified suitable handsome kind partner (living in the UK) for our only pretty daughter residing in the UK studying Bio-medical Science at Cardiff University (Final year) her elder brothers live in the UK. Reply with full details and horoscope. Email : aw mt234@gmail.com OB158249

Kurunegala district Bodu Govi retired teacher parents seek a suitable partner for their slim and pretty daughter of 29 years (born in 1991 May) MBBS Doctor from a Sri Lanka university. Preferably a Doctor of similar or higher academic qualifications. OB158482

G/B upcountry parents from a Colombo suburb seek an academically and professionally qualified, NS/TT kind son, respecting Sinhala, Buddhist values for their slim and pretty daughter, 1993 June born, height 5'5", educated in a leading girls' school in Colombo, Science Graduate, well employed and also pursuing post graduate studies, bearing Dhanu Lagna, Kuja in the 8th house, inherits considerable assets. Please reply with complete family details, a copy of horoscope of FB in the first letter itself. Kuja in 1,2,4,7,8, 12 houses preferred. Email: marrprop20@gmail.com OB158488

Kandyan B/G, parents seek an educated unmarried son below 45 yrs. for their pretty daughter 1982, 5'3", young looking and professional living in Australia. Working in an established company. suwi1951@gmail.com OB158240

Kandyan Govi Buddhist parents seek suitable educated son same caste for 54 yrs. daughter holding Director position in a reputed company, dowry house car and valuable assets. Horoscope and details needed. OB158245

Kesbawa, Buddhist, Govi, well-connected, retired parents seek professionally qualified matching son for only daughter. She has brought up with Buddhist cultural values. Born in Jan 1990, height 5ft, completed entire preliminary studies overseas, living with the parents. Now works as a Doctor in Colombo. Please Whatsapp or email copy of horoscope & family details to: +94770163528/0112615050 aluthgers@hotmail.com OB158409

Kottawa B/G parents seek a professionally and academically qualified partner for fair, slim, youngest daughter born 1990 January, 5'3 1/2" employed in Government Sector. She holds BSc, LLB, Masters in Business Studies and reading for Attorney-at-Law. Matching to horoscope Mesha Lagna, Kuja 8, Kethi Nekatha. Reply with full details and horoscope. Email : aw mt234@gmail.com OB158249

Kurunegala district Bodu Govi retired teacher parents seek a suitable partner for their slim and pretty daughter of 29 years (born in 1991 May) MBBS Doctor from a Sri Lanka university. Preferably a Doctor of similar or higher academic qualifications. OB158482

Looking for a caring kind genuine handsome 5'7" academically & professionally qualified B gentleman between 56 and 65 yrs from a respectable family with no attachments for a professional attractive B/G lady working and living in Australia to spend the rest of the life with a dual citizen holder with assets in Australia. Reply with details and a photo. spro96@yahoo.com OB158386

Loving, honest, kind, well established, caring gentleman over 43 from a similar background is sought by a foreign educated at a prestigious university professional from an affluent, well connected G/B family, dual citizen very fair, beautiful, charismatic, looking very young, bubbly, kind, enjoys socialising, travelling, interested in charity work and Buddhism. Currently living in Sri Lanka and looking for a partner based in Sri Lanka. Divorcees and widower considered. Self replies encouraged. OB158397

Mataru Bodu Govi parents seek an educated son (well-employed or having own business) for their academically and professionally qualified daughter born in 1996, 5'7" height very religious, kind-hearted and well-mannered. Caste differences are immaterial. Email: apg999000@gmail.com OB158388

Moor family from Colombo seeks an educated, suitable partner for daughter 47 years unmarried (looks much younger), 5'2", slim, tan in complexion & pleasant personality. Contact: 0112767114 Email: colombofam7@gmail.com OB158279

Moor parents from Colombo seek a partner for their daughter 24 years old, 5'5", pretty, fair, charismatic and well-mannered. Educated at a leading school in Colombo. Completed Bachelor's degree from a top university in Melbourne and presently intend to do Masters in Melbourne. We are seeking an educated professionally qualified groom, tall, slim, handsome with good character and a teetotaler. Hailing from a good compatible family background. Preferably living in Australia. Please reply with full family details to: groomp rop2020@yahoo.com OB158357

Moor parents from South seek professionally qualified pleasant partner around 30 years who is employed in Sri Lanka or abroad for their daughter 27, 4'10", fair, pleasant looking smart qualified in Finance and Accountancy working in a reputed organization. Email full details to proposals257@gmail.com OB158543

Moor respectable parents Colombo seek suitable partner for daughter, BSc. in Software Engineering, 31-5'2", religious, fair, pretty. proposals9372@gmail.com OB158356

Mother seeks an educated professional groom for well mannered government English teacher, born in November 1979, 5'3", pretty, kind hearted, very younger looking. Owns properties, working in Gampaha. Likes to migrate too. OB158489

Mother seeks professionally qualified son from a respectable family for an MSc qualified teacher 5'6" 75 born pretty and kind hearted having assets. Only sister married and living in UK. Kuja 8 partner between 45-50. nugg roposal2019@gmail.com Reply with details and horoscope. OB158183

Nugegoda Bodu Govi 1989 Dec. 5'2" government Doctor parents are seeking well family background government Doctor, Engineer or professionals. OB158498

Our 31 years old, dual citizen, academically and professionally qualified pretty daughter with bachelor's degree in engineering (first class) and commerce, currently following post graduate studied in Melbourne, Sinhalese Buddhist professional parents living in Australia looking for a caring son over 5-10" height from a matching family. Preferably living in Australia, NZ or UK. Please respond with full details and horoscope to: ausrilanka@gmail.com OB158419

Panadura Bodu Govi mother seeks an academically and professionally qualified son for pretty highly educated daughter born in 1984 and 5'4" tall. She is a USA PR holder working as an Accountant in California. She has been brought up with Sri Lankan Buddhist values. She completed her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in California. She has valuable investments and properties in Sri Lanka. Sons living in USA are preferred. Please send details with horoscope to: p roposl79@gmail.com OB158403

Panadura, B/K mother seeks an academically & professionally qualified son with good moral values & sober habits for her elder daughter, Lecturer in Government University, 1986, 5'4" slim & tan complexion. Reply with horoscope & family details. marriageprop osals333@gmail.com OB158326

Parents B/G from Panadura seek a compatible life partner, well mannered, caring son below 35 for their only daughter born in November, 1991, 5'4" height brought up with Buddhist values. Graduated from University of Colombo and employed in a reputed firm. She wears a hearing aid to overcome mild audio defect. Please email family details, horoscope and contact number to: pr o1991@yahoo.com (except persons divorced) 0382238531. OB158399

Parents seek suitable decent life partner for their 1991 born pretty, kind, academically qualified daughter living in Australia. abey sekaresumithra@gmail.com OB158111

Professionally academically qualified Catholic or Christian partner below thirty-six years height above 5'6" is sought for Catholic pretty slim qualified daughter studied at St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo. Family details to: stjude28oct@gmail.com OB158371

Professionally qualified well-mannered and handsome son is sought by wealthy respectable Catholic parents, father Sinhala Govi, mother Burgher from Sydney for their Australian born, pretty, fair, slim and beautiful daughter born in 1985. She is private school educated and a qualified Lawyer who is employed in their successful family group of companies. She owns her own house and will inherit substantial property and business assets. Preference will be given to well-qualified sons already in Australia (or prepared to live in Australia) from a respectable family, similar background and ideally over 5'8". Race and caste immaterial. No horoscopes. Please send full details to: m proposalsydney@gmail.com OB158513

Professionally qualified, kind-hearted, caring and well-mannered son with good family background is sought by B/G parents from Colombo suburb for their well brought up daughter. She is 28 years, 5'5", kind-hearted, down to earth, and attractive. She has completed ICSSSL III and is currently working at a Government Bank. Please reply with horoscope and family details. prop93328@gmail.com OB158291

Respectable Buddhist parents living in Mount Lavinia B/G seek educated employed decent son for their 1982 born 5'3" height pretty, younger looking daughter former employed at Qatar Airways. Please reply with horoscope and family details. E-mail: ruche82@yahoo.com OB158559

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runegala suburbs seek a partner for their only daughter 40 yrs 5' divorced with no encumbrances. Holds Masters Degree in Architecture. Reply with copy of horoscope to: bride2021prop@gmail.com OB158299

Respectable B/G parents from Colombo / Kandy, seek a well-mannered, caring and honest son for their 27 year old, professionally qualified, pretty, smart and well brought up daughter. She attended a leading Girls' School in Colombo and is currently pursuing her Masters in the USA. Respectable family background expected. Kindly reply with details to Email : effort2020march@gmail.com OB158523

Respectable G/B parents from Nugegoda seek academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter who is slim, fair and brought up with Buddhist values. Proposed daughter is 1990/12 born 5'3" height and an MBBS Doctor working in a government hospital. Doctors, Engineers or well-educated grooms in the same caste preferred. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: mrgp2017@gmail.com OB158509

Respectable parents from Negombo with substantial resources seek an educated, established partner with sober habits for their daughter, Roman Catholic, only child, born June, 1987, 5'7", pretty, slim and kind-hearted. Well educated and bilingual. Holding a responsible position for 11 years in a premier state owned establishment. She draws a six figure salary and drives her own car. Please reply with details. E-mail: matprop0001@gmail.com OB158493

Retired father seeks Government employed partner willing to stay in for Buddhist charitable only daughter 22 years height 4'6" owns house in Kandy City Limits, differences immaterial. All details with contact numbers in first letter please. OB158255

Retired semi-Government Executive father seeks an educated employed son for 94 Jan. born 5'5" height daughter working as an Accounts Executive. She owns properties in Gampaha. Please respond with family details and horoscope. OB158138

Roman Catholic Vellalar 1985 born height 5', fair, MBA/CMA graduate double degree working as a Senior Executive Accountant. Looking for partner graduate same matching above in Colombo abroad. Con: 077 6447014, 2437085 a.mahes1960@gmail.com OB158243

Sinhala Buddhist parents living in the USA seek academically and professionally qualified partner preferably grew up in USA for their daughter. She is 27 years, 5'2", completed her undergraduate in Micro Biology and currently studying for Graduate Degree in PharmD. Please reply with family details. Email : mp roposal474@gmail.com OB158519

Sinhala Govi Buddhist family seeking an academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter who is slim, fair and brought up with Buddhist values. Proposed daughter is 1990/12 born 5'3" height and an MBBS Doctor working in a government hospital. Doctors, Engineers or well-educated grooms in the same caste preferred. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: mrgp2017@gmail.com OB158509

Sinhala Roman Catholic parents (Govi / Karawe) from Ethul Kotte, only child (smart) born in 1995 December, 5 feet 6 inches. Entire schooling at St. Bridgets Convent, Colombo 07, BSc. Special Degree Holder in IT at SLIIT, Malabe. Reading for MSc. (1st Year) in SLIIT, 10 perch block and 15 perch block of land in Ethul Kotte and Malabe respectively, 25 acres of fertile Coconut property in Kurunegala District, Toyota Vitz car and fair amount of cash to be given. Looking for professionally and academically qualified person. Born in 1987 to 1995, willing to settledown in Sri Lanka and does not believe in horoscopes. Preferably a matching partner as per details given above. Email - a nurap1977@gmail.com OB158529

Sinhala / Buddhist parents would like to find well-mannered compatible professional qualified son after 1988 for their pretty, kind hearted daughter born in 1996, completed Diploma & following HND in Psychology. Father retired non-commission Army Officer, mother works in Israel as Care Giver. Elder son married. Please review & transmit more details of your son & family in order to continue the dialogue. We assure confidentiality of your details & expect the same. Dial 0112830848 after 5.00 p.m. OB158234

Sinhalese Buddhist/Karawa retired, parents residing in Canada seek professionally qualified well-mannered son for their eldest daughter born in 1985, currently studying in a state medical faculty, Sri Lanka. Completing MBBS in 2021, brought up with Sri Lankan Buddhist values. Please reply with family details, horoscope, contact number to; propo sal.can.sl@gmail.com OB158269

S/G/B professional UK citizen parents seek educated smart professionally qualified partner for their smart, pretty educated daughter who respects Sri Lankan values + culture - 25 yrs., 5'6" working in a Energy Company in London, LLB (Hons) LPC & MSc. in Law Business & Management. Malefics in seventh house. Preferred Lagna, Makara, Kumba, Thula, Vrushaba, Kanya, Mithuna. Please reply with family details & horoscope preferably living in UK. propo almda2020@gmail.com OB158075

Thalawatugoda, 1994 (February), Buddhist, Govi, 5'5", only child, daughter, pretty, healthy, chartered, educated, modern, business person. English educated, seek same age up to 32 years, sober habits healthy motivated youth of unassuring parents. Should either be well employed, successful businessman or English modern agriculture. A Binna marriage, assets, caste, horoscopes, immaterial. Devoted Roman Catholics, outstanding are considered. OB158341

UK citizen parents seek 33-42 years old a professional (prefer a Doctor/Engineer), fair and handsome partner (preferably residing in the UK, Europe, USA or Canada) for their 35 years old younger looking daughter. She resides and works as a qualified Senior Engineer in a renowned Pharmaceutical company in Republic of Ireland and has been brought up with Buddhist & Catholic values. She has got a younger sister (Aircraft Engineer) and a younger brother (Doctor). She holds assets in the UK and Ireland. Please reply to; biyanka36@yahoo.co.uk with your details. OB158555

We belong to Sinhalese Roman Catholic family. I am a Chartered Mechanical Engineer (Memeber of IESL and ImechE UK) and worked for Multinational companies as Industrial Manager, Factory Manager and Project Manager in Sri Lanka and overseas as well. My daughter studied at a Colombo convent school. She has completed a BSc degree in business management in 2019. She was born in August 1994, 5feet 6 inches tall and the only single child in the family. We are living in Moratuwa in our own three storey house, she inherits properties in Colombo, Kalutara, Hambanthota and other assets. If you are interested with the above provided particulars. Please send us your details msm499180@gmail.com We trust you would treat this information with at most concealment and we would do the same with yours. OB158557

W/P from reputed business family B/G parents seek a smart academically professionally qualified son in similar family background for their 26 yrs 5'4" slim attractive, pretty daughter BSc (Hon) 1st class and LLB London Final year currently holding an Executive Position in a reputed International Organization. She inherits substantial wealth including a house, lands and a vehicle. Reply with horoscope. proposal3235@gmail.com OB158476

We are a Buddhist, Sinhala, Karawa family residing in Kaduwela for the last 25 years. We are looking for a son who is a teetotaler and non-smoker who is academically and professionally qualified to suit our daughter's educational background. Should be a Sinhala, Buddhist, caste is immaterial. Father was a Group Human Resource & Administration Manager in a leading private sector Organization who retired recently. Presently employed in the similar capacity. Mother is a Science & English Teacher in a private leading school in Colombo. We have 02 children, the eldest is the daughter and 2nd is a son who studied at St. Thomas' College - Mount Lavinia and presently pursuing his higher studies. Our daughter is 24 years of age (1996 November) and height 5'4", she is fair, pretty, pleasant and has an outgoing personality and was educated in a leading school in Colombo. She is a QLD-LLB Degree Holder from University of London and currently studying at Law College. Presently she has completed her final year at University of Kelaniya reading for specialized Degree in International relations. Inherits considerable assets. Please respond with a copy of the horoscope and family details. proposal051@gmail.com OB158329

1987/9, 5'4 1/2", pretty, fair, slim daughter educated at leading school obtained degree from Sri Lanka and American universities doing Executive grade job in International company, parents seek suitable partner. Sri Lankan living overseas also considered horoscope and all details in first letter. kpsdpdathirana@gmail.com OB158190

1989/3 Colombo suburb 5'4" BEng (Electronics), Masters/IT, Executive Officer, studied in leading Buddhist Girls School, pretty and with good qualities, seeks partner from healthy family background and good qualities parents (Bodu/Govi) are retired Senior Executives only young sister, Business Analyst working in Singapore, inherits valuable properties, steps taken for migration but with partner's interest will be decided. 011-2849850 mwije280@gmail.com OB158303

1990 NWP Kandyan Govigama parents seek a suitable son for their Lawyer daughter (LLM), 5'3". OB158480

1994 BG educated parents seek a suitable partner Engineer or a doctor for their daughter Senior Software Engineer, 5'5" educated at a leading School in Colombo graduated from Colombo Uni. Have won a Scholarship to pursue higher studies (PhD) in Australia. p rapo2075@gmail.com OB158531

1997, B/G, 5'6", Colombo school educated & graduated very pretty, leading business parents seek suitable partner for daughter having assets worth over 600 million. macnalini@gmail.com OB158550

27 years old Tamil Roman Catholic girl, working as a Teacher in a reputed International School in Colombo. Looking for a suitable partner. Email: nirmalajennifer@gmail.com OB158421

40, 5'2". Colombo executive fair daughter seeking well-mannered son. Reply full details & horoscope. Assets 35 M. seth wewa@gmail.com OB158547

Able affluent G/B family seeks an attractive partner below 50 years, from a decent family background for their handsome son 53 years, who is academically and professionally qualified in locally and overseas well established dual citizen with USA divorced no encumbrances at all. Divorcees are considered. Pl. reply with full details. Email : dilr33460@gmail.com OG158235

About our elder son, he has graduated reputed university in Melbourne and currently 3rd year Medical Student at one of the leading Universities in UK, born 1997 height 5'11" very handsome personality well-mannered, non-smoker and teetotaler. Well reputed family background Medical Doctor mother seeks pretty well-mannered/good character & educated fluent in English daughter to build a relationship before marriage. Buddhist family mainly living in Sri Lanka and holding dual citizenship (AUS), father is a Chairman/Managing Director of export oriented companies (BOI Approved) in Sri Lanka and in Australia. Younger son is studying in Australia. Reply with family details recent photographs, contact details to: pl2234088@yahoo.com OG158449

About our son 28 years (born in 1993) 5'11", handsome and well-mannered, respectable, non-smoker. We are a B/R, respectable family from Colombo and currently residing in Canada. Our son is employed at a well reputed Company in Canada in Automotive Technical Trade. Parents seek a pleasant, religious daughter, who is willing to relocate to Canada. Please reply to: wmandiram@gmail.com OG158362

About son : Professionally qualified, BSc. (Moratuwa) MSc. (UK) Engineer son, born August, 1983, 5'7" handsome working as an Electronics & Telecommunication Engineer in Europe. Academically and professionally qualified caring pretty daughter from a respectable family is sought by B/G/K respectable retired Teacher mother (Colombo suburb). All family members are University Graduates. Please reply with family details & horoscope. mpropos alr1983@gmail.com OG158282



Absolutely beautiful daughter is sought by mother for my younger son 39 years K/G Buddhist truly handsome 5'7" studied at a leading college in Colombo. Good family background. Owning 10 acre coconut land and a house (Minuwangoda). Production Executive at an International Company. Divorced after a short marriage. Innocent party, No children and No encumbrances. Differences immaterial. Prefers a fair pretty daughter below 37. Please reply to: 2019mpgroom@gmail.com OG158441

Academically and professionally qualified daughter below 38 years is sought by B/G Colombo parents for their son, a well employed IT Professional, dual citizen living in Australia. TT/NS. Reply with horoscope, full family details and telephone number. Email: propo salm190@gmail.com OG158225

Academically and professionally qualified in Quantity Surveying and graduated with BSc. (Hons) Quantity Surveying. Pleasant looking, well-mannered, 31 years, 5'5" with decent family background, residing and well-employed as a Quantity Surveyor in International Company at Oman. Respectable Bodu Karawa & Govi middle class parents (Retired Gov. Bank Manager) who lives in Colombo searching professionally qualified, pretty, pleasant daughter for their son. Only elder brother (Network Engineer) married and lives in Australia. Proposed son wishes to migrate to Australia as well. He is possessing valuable assets in Sri Lanka. No barriers with caste. Reply with full family details, FB link of proposed daughter and copy of horoscope, Email : tehroposal1989@gmail.com OG158527

Academically and professionally qualified pleasant-looking daughter sought by Buddhist mother for her educated, good looking, 33 yrs. old, 5'9" height, son who currently lives and works in Brisbane, Australia. He holds Quantity Surveying and Construction Management bachelors degrees and employed several reputed construction companies in Sri Lanka and Australia. Father was a school principal and mother was a teacher and a brother is a chartered accountant. Fairly known respectable family from Galle region. Please reply e-mail: lapkwee rasinghe@gmail.com OG158263

Academically qualified slim charming daughter from respectable family is sought by B/K well-to-do parents in Colombo for their slim handsome son with good personality 33 5'8" NS/TT University Lecturer (PhD) Inherits assets including two storeyed house in Colombo. Brother Doctor. Caste immaterial. Email: marriage2019@yahoo.com OG158471

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered daughter is sought by respectable Buddhist parents from Badulla for their eldest son born in 1979, BSc, MSc. He is 5'3" working as development officer, ministry of city planing. Migration also possible. Please reply with family details and the horoscope to; anthoni oleonard@gmail.com OG158261

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered daughter is sought by respectable Buddhist parents from Badulla for their eldest son born in 1979 BSc. MSc. He is 5'3". Working as Development Officer, Ministry of City Planning. Migration also possible. Please reply with family details and the horoscope to: anthoni oleonard@gmail.com OG158169

Academically professionally qualified pretty slim beautiful daughter is sought by S/B/G parents Colombo for their only son 5'11" 39+ handsome kind hearted employed Senior Position prestigious company Colombo double graduate AU/UK famous Universities Interior Arch Design studied leading Colombo school owns assets differences immaterial. newsvwj@gmail.com OG158236

Academically qualified, pretty, fair daughter is sought by B/G parents from Colombo for their well educated smart son, 31 years old, 5'8" Canadian citizen. Reply with family details and a recent photograph. Caste immaterial. Email: matrimo nytorontoca@gmail.com OG158424

Academically qualified pleasant-looking daughter sought by Buddhist mother for her educated, good looking, 33 yrs. old, 5'9" height, son who currently lives and works in Brisbane, Australia. He holds Quantity Surveying and Construction Management bachelors degrees and employed several reputed construction companies in Sri Lanka and Australia. Father was a school principal and mother was a teacher and a brother is a chartered accountant. Fairly known respectable family from Galle region. Please reply e-mail: lapkwee rasinghe@gmail.com OG158263

Academically qualified slim charming daughter from respectable family is sought by B/K well-to-do parents in Colombo for their slim handsome son with good personality 33 5'8" NS/TT University Lecturer (PhD) Inherits assets including two storeyed house in Colombo. Brother Doctor. Caste immaterial. Email: marriage2019@yahoo.com OG158471

Academically and professionally qualified, employed as a Multimedia designer, working "Doha Qatar" in a multinational company. G/B parents in Ratnapura suburbs. Son born in 1982, 5'8", old Thomian. Only sister married. Karawa also considered. Reply with horoscope, family details & contact details. Reply to deco one001@gmail.com OG158496

Affluent G/B parents from Nugegoda seek an educated pretty daughter for our only son - 26 yrs., 5'6", BSc. Business Management Graduate, currently reading for MBA final year @ University of Colombo. Replies to marriageprop2194@gmail.com TP 011-2813652. OG158246

Ambalangoda Buddhist Karawa mother seeks educated pretty employed bride for her son 1984 May height 5'7" banking sector Executive only horoscope compatible for Kataka Lagna, Visa Nekatha, Kuja Shani in 4th reply please. Sister is bank manageress, brother an Engineer (married). OG158191

An attractive, fair, educated and well-mannered daughter from a respectable family is sought by Roman Catholic well-respected business parents from an affluent background in Ja-ela, for their younger son born in July 1986, 5' 7 1/2" in height handsome NS/TT who's currently engaged in his own vehicle business. He inherits considerable wealth. Please reply to Indira.fernando1957@gmail.com Tel: 0112236505. OG158375

An attractive, fair, educated and well-mannered daughter from a respectable family is sought for a B/G son born in April 1991, 5'11", fair and handsome NS, TT, B.Sc. graduate from an American university, currently looking after inherited family business, which includes a shopping complex and rental property. Apart from these he owns other assets including land. Reply with family details and contact number. Email: kdldp roposal@gmail.com OG158364

An educated attractive partner is sought by Bodu divorcee possess Masters Degrees in Business and Engineering, 5'5" born 1957 dual citizen employed in Australia, n ewproposal755@gmail.com OG158109

Academically and professionally qualified, employed as a Multimedia designer, working "Doha Qatar" in a multinational company. G/B parents in Ratnapura suburbs. Son born in 1982, 5'8", old Thomian. Only sister married. Karawa also considered. Reply with horoscope, family details & contact details. Reply to deco one001@gmail.com OG158496

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Continued on page 86

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Continued from page 85



A fair, pretty and slim medical student/teacher or educated daughter is sought by Bodu Govi mixed parents to their son 1994 and 5'6" height an Engineer (Moratuwa University) working in government sector, caste immaterial. From ordinary family. Contact number: 045-3124256. OG158267

A pleasant tall daughter is sought by G/B mother for PhD qualified, healthy son, 6ft tall, born in 1973 with sober habits, employed in USA. Legally separated after very brief marriage with no encumbrances. Reply with horoscope, and details. usaproposal333@gmail.com OG158078

A respectable professional/business G/B family from Colombo 05, seeks a suitable partner for good looking son 5'5" in height, born mid 1981, a TT/NS with foreign University education engaged in the family business. propma kara2016@gmail.com OG158504

A suitable bride is sought by parents for their youngest son, age 43, 5'7" tall, handsome, educated at University of Moratuwa / NDT, working as a merchant navy officer. Two elder brothers are engineers and settled abroad. We are retired government servants. A nice bride is expected, divorcees, widows considered. 0323134152 / chathufirebird@gmail.com OG158200

A University Lecturer from Peradeniya, aged 45 years, separated from previous marriage, seeks for a honest, genuine and educated partner. Differences immaterial. mpropos446@gmail.com OG157340

A well established Govi Buddhist parents seek an educated (preferably a professional) pretty, slim daughter for their Barrister-at-Law (UK) & Attorney-at-Law (SL) son, 6 feet tall, aged 27, fair and slim. Respond with horoscope to: proposail2021.marriage@gmail.com OG158118

A well mannered, educated & pleasant, working or non working, Sinhala Buddhist girl with a good character, is sought by well connected respectable Sinhala Govi Buddhist parents for the eldest son. He is presently managing the family Business Companies, 46 years, 5'9" tall, educated at a leading School in Colombo, and will inherit valuable assets. He is a non smoker & teetotaler with excellent character and managerial skills and no family encumbrances. Reply in English or Sinhala with full family details and a copy of horoscope and contact telephone numbers, in the very first letter. Email: mppgrom@gmail.com. All information treated strictly private & confidential. OG157909

Bodu Govi parents from Colombo suburb seek a fair, attractive, slim, educated, kind-hearted daughter from a respectable family for their son aged 31, 5'5" and slim build. He possesses BSc. in Management (Honours) and Master of Science Degrees from reputed UK Universities and currently employed abroad. Mixed parentage considered. Please reply with full details. All details will be treated with strict confidentiality. Email : meda dush93@gmail.com OG158124

Bodu Govi 1986 born Colombo suburbs 5'7", MBA (USQ), AIV (SL), MCIM (UK) passed owns a two storey house a jeep and other financial wealth. Parents seek a suitable daughter for fair handsome teetotaler Bank Manager son who earns a six figure salary, non-malefic horoscope. bmsonproposal@gmail.com OG158160

Born in 1992, Bodu Govi, 6ft tall, handsome, Doctor of Engineering (PhD) with Australian PR and stable income. He is well brought up with Buddhist and family values. Parents seeking a pretty, kind and educated girl with Buddhist values. Contact parents with family details and horoscope: proposal92@gmail.com OG158417

Buddhist Govi respectable parents living in Kandy suburbs seek academically and professionally qualified well-mannered pleasant daughter for their 36 year old, handsome, 5'11" tall son. He works as an Assistant Professor at a prestigious university in USA. Sri Lankans residing in USA are preferred, but not a must. Please contact with family details and horoscope. mrgprop.us@gmail.com OG158407

Buddhist Sinhala mother from Colombo seeks a kind, well-mannered, educated, daughter for son 35, 5'10", kind, smart, professionally qualified Merchant Navy Officer. Reply with horoscope and family details to kamjalie@gmail.com OG158103

Buddhist Sinhala parents holding dual citizenship living in UK for the past 40 years seek partner for son aged 35 years height 5'10" degree in Accountancy and Management from London University employed in a large establishment in London inherits property and cash from UK. Email: crystal8882019@outlook.com OG158389

B/G Colombo mother seeks an educated daughter below 41 years unmarried divorced without children for 45 year old young looking son. Height 5'4" divorced no encumbrances. Employed Executive Officer. Reply: mpropos675@gmail.com OG158154

B/G parents residing in Canada seek an academically and professionally qualified pretty daughter preferably from Canada or willing to migrate, for our handsome son, Canadian citizen 28 years (1993 January) 5'7", Software Engineer with sober habits, brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values. Please reply with family details and horoscope to: proposallhcr@gmail.com OG158360

B/G parents seek a professionally qualified daughter for their son 5'3", who is well educated and born in 1985. He is a qualified IT Engineer and currently works as an IT Director. He holds an MSc and a BSc. We look forward to hearing from you. Please reply with details along with horoscope to: proposalmail2020@gmail.com OG158395

B/G parents seek slim beautiful caring daughter below 35 yrs. for son 38 height 5'5", fair, very handsome, BSc., MSc. qualified Bank Manager six-figure income owns house, luxury car in Colombo suburb. Reply with family details, horoscope. proposal.luck@gmail.com OG158368

B/G respectable Kandyan family from Kandy seeks for their son 1982/08, 5'11" fair smart, N/S, T/T, graduated in Australia, working in Australian Government Institution, managerial grade, possessing Australian citizenship, an educated fair, pretty, height 5'2" or above, daughter with a good character from B/G (Christians considered) respectable family (including overseas) willing to reside in Australia. Write or e-mail to mpropos112@gmail.com with family details, including horoscope. OG158176

B/G 1991 well-educated working Govt. Bank 5'8" with valuable properties. Parent seeks well-mannered kind slim educated good looking, simple less 27 y daughter from decent family. Bank preferred. Email: mpmnk2021@gmail.com OG158379

B/S/G parents from Colombo suburbs seek a pleasant fair slim well-mannered employed daughter below 34 years for their 36 years, 5'8", fair, slim, very handsome, caring youngest son IT Manager in a multi-national company. Fluent in English and Spanish, foreign Nationals also considered. Please reply with the horoscope and full family details. Caste religion immaterial son is divorced from very short incompatible marriage no encumbrances. E-mail: mprop4579@gmail.com OG157661

Central Province Buddhist Govi / Karawa retired parents looking for a fair slim academically qualified employed daughter for their 1991, 5'8" handsome kind well-mannered MBA qualified son employed as an Assistant Manager in a reputed company. Inherits valuable assets and have no intention of migrating. Family details horoscope in first response. propo9194@gmail.com OG158204

Christian parents seek suitable partner for son 34 yrs 5'11" academically and professionally qualified well employed reply with family details and contact number: matrimonyd21@gmail.com OG158483

Colombo suburbs Bodu Govi retired Bank Manager seeks a fair, kind daughter living in America with PR for her son 42, 5'4", fair, working in America. He has substantial assets in both countries. Please respond with horoscope and family details. OG158492

Colombo suburbs B/G 31 5'4" handsome, NS/TT son living abroad with parents, employed, owns a house, parents seek suitable girl. Caste/religion immaterial. victory2860@gmail.com OG158115

December 1993, Bodu Govi well-respected affluent family, father, a university professor and mother, a teacher in a leading girls' school, seek a well-mannered, caring, and honest daughter for their educated, handsome, well-mannered son. Height 5'9", and he is working as an Executive in a reputed firm. Early education in Royal College, Colombo and is a graduate in Business Management. Only sister is married to an affluent educated family. Proposed son inherits properties and assets exceeding 250 million located in Colombo Galle Districts. Please contact with horoscope and complete family details of similar caste and stature. proposals_2020@yahoo.com OG158455

Educated, pretty daughter sought by Bodu Govi well-respected family residing in Western Province for their qualified 28, 5'6" handsome son reading for his Masters. We are looking for an intelligent daughter who would be able to look after millions worth properties that he would be inheriting, a non smoker, teetotaler with excellent character. mpropos922@gmail.com OG158447

Father seeks a bride only with an unblemished character, below 30 yrs, financially stable, for his British citizen Dr son, towards the end of consultant training in the UK, 39 yrs and 5'7". virginproposal@yahoo.com OG158401

Gampaha, Bodu / Govi, professional / Business parents, seek a daughter for their son of 5'6", fair, 1992/7, BSc., CIMA and presently practicing as a commercial Lawyer, a professionally / academically qualified pretty, well-mannered girl to join the family. Email : 1959xyz1959@gmail.com 0112-404274. OG158248

Gampaha, Bodu / Govi, professional / Business parents, seek a daughter for their son of 5'6", fair, 1992/7, BSc., CIMA and presently practicing as a commercial Lawyer, a professionally / academically qualified pretty, well-mannered girl to join the family. Email : 1959xyz1959@gmail.com 0112-404274. OG158248

GB respectable parents seek undergraduate or similar educated with Buddhist upbringing, absolutely pretty slim daughter to keep proposed to settle in UK for son 1993 born, handsome, 5'7", NS/TT Engineer holds a Senior Managerial position. Reply with horoscope only by emailing to : 8Smaheesa@gmail.com OG158113

Govi Bodu Christian dual citizen professional parents seek pretty fair well-mannered daughter preferably MBBS Doctor, Medical student living in Australia, or New Zealand (others are welcome if willing to migrate) for their very smart fair, 5'8" (1992) Executive Civil Engineer son, owns assets in overseas. Please reply with horoscope and family details. oxbri dge892@gmail.com OG158473

Govi Buddhist respectable, professional parents seek educated, pretty, slim, fair daughter preferably live in Canada from a similar background for only son 27 years, 5'8", very handsome, dual citizen, graduated in reputed university in Canada, owns his construction company and substantial assets in both countries. Non-malefic horoscope. He is non-smoker and not taking habitual drink. Please reply with copy of horoscope. Email : propsea20@yahoo.com OG158536

G/B European dual citizenship holder 49y. 5'5" Shani 7, seeking down to earth daughter for marriage. She should be 42. suba33mangalam76@yahoo.com OG158174

G/B parents from Kandy seek a pretty educated daughter for their son born in 1984 5'8" in height, handsome educated in a leading school in Kandy. Completed his Degrees in Australia (BSc. in Networking) and Bangalore (BSc. in Microbiology) he has applied for Australian permanent residence. Having assets worth over Billions. (He has a 4 storey building) in the center of the town and 2 storey house) the horoscope should be compatible with Rahu 7 horoscope, his father is running a private dental clinic and laboratory in the heart of the town. His mother is a retired School Dental Therapist (Special considerations for Dental Doctors / Doctors or who is already in Australia). phan dara88@gmail.com OG158484

Pilot, employed in USA, age 39 years. Email: flightsusaflorida@gmail.com Please reply: Contact: 011 5813871. OG158308

Professionally qualified Chartered Architect, handsome and well-mannered, G/B, 39 years, 6'3" with very good family background from Sandalankawa, has his own practice and residing in Sandalankawa and has his own inherited assets in estates in Sandalankawa and Dambulla. Malefic horoscope, no barriers with caste. Reply with full family details, FB link of proposed daughter and copy of horoscope. Email: proposal39@yahoo.com OG158205

Professionally qualified Sinhala Catholic parents seek a pretty fair kind daughter from respectable family for son highly qualified Engineer with Masters Degree employed in USA reputed Company 5'8" handsome born 1993 US citizen spouse should migrate to USA preferably Engineer IT field, provide family details. marp marp221@gmail.com OG158093

Kandyan B/G parents living in Colombo looking for a suitable bride for their 39 years old son. Educated in a leading school in Kandy, fair and handsome, height 5'10", a graduate in Business Administration and presently employed in the capacity of Assistant Director in a Government Institution in Colombo. Please reply with family and horoscope details to myrpopoad@gmail.com OG158250

Kandyan Govi Buddhist unmarried 53 yrs., MSc. Civil Engineer Director in a reputed Company seeks pretty educated bride below 40 yrs. from same caste and religion, horoscope and details needed. OG158290

Looking for a bride for a B/G 38 year old groom. Working as a Doctor in Western Europe. 5ft 10, handsome with sober habits. Never married. From an upper middle class family in Colombo. Please reply to: proposal010118@yahoo.com OG158413

Moor parents based in Melbourne Australia looking for a suitable bride for their professionally qualified son, 27 yrs. old, 5'7" tall, and is working as a Project Manager in a well-known Australian water company. The bride should be willing to live in Australia. Interested parties, kindly email details to: ausgrm72@gmail.com OG158506

Moor - uncle looking for simple fair bride from respectable family for nephew age 28 working as Public Relations Officer at leading private hospital chain. Email : matripop@yahoo.com OG158280

Respectable B/G mother (retired teacher) from Galle seeks a suitable, educated, pretty, kind daughter for her youngest son, 34, 6'1" tall and handsome. Chartered Engineer (BSc. Engineering-Moratuwa, MSc-Sweden) educated in a leading school in Galle, employed in reputed institution in Colombo. Late father Deputy Director in Agriculture Authority. All siblings well educated, employed and married. Having assets in Galle and Colombo. Reply with horoscope and family details. mproposalatte@gmail.com OG158126

Respectable Moor family from Colombo District seeks well-mannered religious fair partner from a respectable family for our religious son 5'5" professionally qualified Quantity Surveyor "Engineer" B.Sc (UK) Degree holder presently employed in a leading construction company in Riyadh Saudi Arabia. Please share full details. Email: groomdetail89@gmail.com TP: 0112534871. OG158007

Respectable Sinhala Roman Catholic Govi-Gama Business parents from Colombo suburbs seek a pretty fair educated & kind hearted daughter for their son. Born in 1987, height 5'10", educated in a leading Catholic College in Colombo. Academically professionally qualified (BSc, CIMA, MSc & final year PhD) Please furnish full details. mrgppl2021@gmail.com OG158405

Professionally qualified, slim, attractive, kind-hearted daughter in early or mid thirties in age, height above 5'4" living in UK is sought by UK resident Doctor parents for their son smart looking well-mannered 5'11" height born in 1979, brought-up in UK, well qualified and works as a Consultant Surgeon in UK. Please reply giving family details to: day anil1649@gmail.com OG158564

Ratnapura District Sinhala, Buddhist, Govi, traditional respectable family, age 39, height 5'10", studied Ananda College, Colombo, landed proprietor planter, businessman, owning substantial assets, educated, handsome son, parents seek virtuous daughter from a Govi or Kandyan respectable Radala family. Reply with all details in first letter with telephone number. Email: propo818489@gmail.com OG158370

RC parent from Colombo seeks kind hearted fair pleasant well-mannered working daughter from a respectable RC or Christian family for their son 32 years 6'2" fair handsome non-smoking & teetotaler, Manager in a reputed Company. Email with family to (2)proposals@gamil.com OG158133

Sinhala Bodu/Govi father (Engineer) and mother living in Melbourne seek a pretty kind-hearted and caring daughter for their handsome only son 20 years to get to know from a similar family before getting married, son is studying for Engineering Degree 3rd year Monash University Australia and caring oriented person, is Australian citizen. The daughter we seek should be fair cultured and educated fluent speaker in English contact with details email: khddj@yahoo.com OG158383

Sinhala Bodu, Govi, mother lives in Colombo seeking kind hearted suitable daughter for her divorced son lives in Melbourne. He is Buddhist, dual, citizen, height 5'7", born in 1974, working full time as Quality Controller in a reputed company. Please email full family details to: Email: marriagproposalnil@gmail.com OG158426

Sinhala Buddhist parents who are professionals seek a suitable partner for their 32 yr. old son employed in private sector as an Executive. Email - chandrika.mp266@gmail.com OG158539

Sinhala 84 handsome British citizen employed 5'11" seeks professionally qualified partner preferably Doctor or business family. 031-2278617. kamapp1@hotmail.com OG158495

Roman Catholic Karawa parents residing abroad seek well brought up caring daughter, age 28 or below with decent family background. Son is 30 years old, 5'8", non-smoker, well employed in IT sector, holding a managerial position in a reputed company. Educated in a leading school in Colombo. Reply with family details. propose177@gmail.com OG157320

Seeking a suitable caring partner for academically and professionally qualified, overseas employed son born in 1980, 182 cm in height affluent BG family dual citizen, flexible in selecting a country of residence caste and religion immaterial. Please respond with family and horoscope details to: marriagep.04@gmail.com OG157937

SGB expat 53, 6'2", non drinker, non-smoker, animal lover devout Buddhist from a distinguished family, Ser. Manager overseas seek bride from a Sinhala English speaking background with & good character & similar values. Pls inquire with phone number. 0112500220. nordmendespectra@gmail.com OG158259

Well-established Kandyan Sinhalese Govi Buddhist dual citizen parents living in Australia seek a kind hearted, educated, beautiful daughter for their 35 year old son. He is an IT professional running his own business, very handsome, 6 feet tall with gentle disposition. Reply with family details, horoscope and contact number to email: proposal2021rs@gmail.com OG158167

We are looking for a well-mannered, educated & pleasant, working or non-working, Sinhala partner with a great character for my younger son who is well settled in the UK. He is expecting his life partner to settle with him in the UK. He works for a reputed research and Survey company in London as an Engineer. He is in his late 40s but looks much younger, height is 5'4", educated up to MSc in Telecommunication Technologies. He is a non-smoker with excellent character, nature lover, kind hearted, respectful, spiritual and mature in life and the world. He is an active member and a Director of a charity service in the UK. He is a great personality in term of humanity. He is a divorcee of an incompatible marriage as the innocent party and no family encumbrances. He inherits valuable assets. I am a retired teacher and my late husband was a media professional. We are an up country, Sinhala, BG family with two sons and two daughters. If you are interested with this profile please reply in English or in Sinhala with full family details and contact Telephone Numbers, in the very first letter. Pictures and a copy of the horoscope can be provided on request. All information treated strictly private & confidential. (Email: dmhdisanayake@hotmail.com) OG158562

S/B/Govi Colombo parents son 32 yrs 5'11" medium built living in USA since 2008 BSc in Chemistry then completed PhD in Polymers and Coatings in 2016 currently living in Boston working for a Company as Research and Development Manager. Professional Green Card Holder. Only sister PhD final semester @ a university in Boston. Parents looking for an educated employed S/B/Govi Bride to settle down in America. Green card holders or American citizens preferred. Compatible Kuja 12 horoscope. grdon5711@yahoo.com OG158210

Well educated company Director working for a multinational company, 40 yrs old, 6ft tall and athletically build. Looking for a modern, mature, good looking partner to travel, enjoy life and marriage. Divorcees/Widows welcome, self reply only/no brokers. I do not believe in horoscope so pls don't request. Email: desilvawinston888@gmail.com 011-2886915. OG158230

S/B Engineer parents seek professionally qualified daughter with university education for their son born in 1989 (US), graduated from a leading university studied or residing in US/Canada preferable. He is a highly compensate Senior Executive in Financial industry. Please reply: rdmed.2020@gmail.com OG158499

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1980 height 5'7" B/G parents from Colombo seek kind partner for their handsome son IT professional B.Sc. working in a leading private telecommunication company. Legally separated from unsuccessful marriage. Child is under her mother's custody - No encumbrances. Kuja 7. Owns vehicle and other assets. Email: myproposal@gmail.com OG158467

1994 January Buddhist Karawa height 5'6" son doing masters overseas after working in two leading institutions in Colombo. Business parents seek suitable bride. Owns new house in Colombo. lpsilva7777@gmail.com OG158151

1995 Bodu Govi 5'11" leading business parents seek suitable pretty good hearted partner for son Engineer having assets worth over billions in Sri Lanka & over seas. propo3535@gmail.com OG158548

1995 Gampaha Buddhist BSc. Civil Engineer son hailing from respectable family with two sisters (Architect and Medical student) no encumbrances, a daughter from a respectable family background is sought preferably from Gampaha, Kandy, North Western Province. He owns house worth 44 million in Wattala and fertile land in NWP worth 35 million. OG158090

95/July, Govi, Buddhist, respectable educated parents from Colombo, father professional seek pleasant daughter from similar family for only child, 25 yrs., 5'11", very smart son, BSc, MSc (supply chain), presently employed as a Senior Executive in reputed company with valuable assets, sober habits, educated Colombo leading school. Kuja 1 & Shani 7 horoscope. prabhath_ranathunga@yahoo.com OG158487



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Trump impeachment: Defence team set to present speedy case

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (BBC) - Donald Trump's defence lawyers are set to present evidence in the US Senate, denying charges he incited insurrection in the Capitol riots of 6 January.

The team has indicated it may take up only four of its 16 hours, and so move the impeachment trial to a speedy end.

Democrats spent two days putting their case, including video footage of the violence and arguing acquittal could see a repeat of the attack on Congress.

Acquittal is the likely verdict though, as most Republicans remain unmoved.

A two-thirds majority is required to convict Donald Trump in the evenly split 100-seat Senate.

At least 17 members of Mr Trump's party would need to vote against him and although six have shown some movement that way, none of the others have, with many staunchly rejecting the accusation.

Donald Trump will not appear and testify in his defence yesterday.

If Mr Trump were convicted, the Senate could then vote to bar him from holding elected office again.

The Democratic-led House of Representatives voted to impeach Mr Trump last month - for a second time - accusing him of inciting supporters to attack the Capitol building to stop Joe Biden's election victory being certified. Five people lost their lives.

Over the course of two days of Senate evidence this week, the Democrats argued Donald Trump had shown a pattern of condoning violence, did nothing on the day to prevent the riot and had expressed no remorse.

It hasn't given any specific details but there are obvious lines of defence that have already been suggested.

The first will be simply freedom of speech. The Democrats tried to head that off on Thursday



by arguing that this did not protect Mr Trump if his comments to supporters on 6 January and before incited them to attack Congress.

His lawyers will probably argue that there was no overt call for violence in Mr Trump's remarks and that he could not be held responsible for the rioters' actions.

The defence will also paint the impeachment as a partisan Democratic action motivated by political gain.

In their comments so far they have accused the Democrats of

"tremendous hypocrisy", with lawyer David Schoen saying their case lacked any real evidence. He said the video presentation-based evidence was like making "movies" and an "entertainment package".

media captionSee how close the mob got to Mike Pence, Mitt Romney and other lawmakers

The Democrats have themselves asked the defence to answer why Mr Trump did not act quickly to stop the attack, send police reinforcements or later condemn the riots.

But it appears unlikely the defence will spend much time on this. Its main plank may well be whether a former president should be impeached at all.

The Senate did vote on Tuesday to reject the argument that an ex-president should not be impeached, but many Republican senators still back it.

Senator Roy Blunt told the New York Times: "I get to cast my vote, and my view is that you can't impeach a former president. And if the former president did things

that were illegal, there is a process to go through for that."

Senator Marco Rubio echoed this, saying impeaching a former president was not appropriate.

One thing the defence team will want to do is to avoid the sometimes baffling statement it gave to Congress earlier in the trial.

Lawyer Bruce Castor's meandering 48-minute address was roundly criticised by Mr Trump's opponents and supporters alike, and reportedly by the ex-president himself.

media captionThe prosecution's closing argument: "We humbly ask you to convict President Trump"

New video footage of the riots was presented on both Wednesday and Thursday, as the Democrats took senators step-by-step through the events of the day of the riot.

The impeachment managers hoped the graphic shots of violent rioters, fleeing lawmakers and crushed police would propel conviction for incitement.

House prosecutor Joe Neguse made the case that Mr Trump was "not just some guy" making a controversial speech - he was a president addressing supporters who were "poised for violence [and] he struck a match".

The arguments on Thursday were more in the "never again" vein.

Representative Jamie Raskin said: "My dear colleagues, is there any political leader in this room who believes that if he's ever allowed by the Senate to get back into the Oval Office, Donald Trump would stop inciting violence to get his way?"

Congressman Ted Lieu said: "Impeachment, conviction and disqualification [from office] is not just about the past. It's about the future. It's making sure that no future official, no future president does the same exact thing."

After the defence case, senators will then have up to four hours to present written questions to the legal teams.

That will be followed by a debate and vote over whether to allow witnesses - if either side wants them. If they do not, or if the vote fails, both sides will make brief closing arguments followed by the final vote on Mr Trump's fate.

This could wrap up as early as tonight or by Monday at the latest - less than a week from start to finish.

Senators on both sides have indicated this is likely.

Myanmar coup: 'Evidence' live bullets used against protesters, says UN envoy

NAYPYITAW, Feb. 13 (BBC) - Myanmar's security forces have been using live ammunition against anti-coup protesters in breach of international law, the UN human rights envoy says.

Speaking at an emergency meeting in Geneva, Thomas Andrews condemned the leaders of the coup and said there were "growing reports and photographic evidence" of wrongdoing. He called for economic sanctions and a ban on weapons exports to the country.

Protests continued on Friday in defiance of a plea from the army chief.

Gen Min Aung Hlaing called for "unity" to prevent "disintegration" as the country marks the Union Day holiday. Demonstrators are demanding the release of detained elected leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi.

During Friday's emergency meeting, Mr Andrews - the United Nations human rights investigator for Myanmar - said while investigators have been denied access to Myanmar, there was growing evidence that live ammunition had been used against protesters.

Mr Andrews said the people of Myanmar had invested their hope in the UN, and needed more than a statement on paper. He called on the UN - through the security council - to consider economic sanctions against Myanmar, a ban on arms exports, and a travel ban on military leaders.

Earlier this week, 19-year-old Mya Thwe Thwe Khaing was shot in the head and seriously injured when police tried to disperse protesters using water cannon, rubber bullets and live rounds.

She remains on a ventilator in hospital in a critical condition. The wound was consistent with one from live ammunition, rights groups said.

The UN calls for sanctions came as protests continued on Union Day, with reports of rubber bullets fired by police in Mawlamine.

On Thursday, in a TV address to the nation, Gen Hlaing said those protest-



Russia's Sergei Lavrov had a frosty meeting with the EU foreign policy chief a week ago

ing had been "incited" and again asked them to work for the country without "focusing on the emotion".

The military marked Union Day by granting amnesty to, and ordering the release of, more than 23,000 prisoners, including 55 foreigners. Mass pardons are common on national days, often to reduce numbers in overcrowded prisons. Union Day celebrates the signing in 1947 of an agreement between the government under Ms Suu Kyi's father, Aung San, and the Shan, Kachin and Chin people that marked the unification of the republic.

A student activist in Mandalay, Tayzar San, told the BBC he feared the prisoners were being released to attack protesters.

"The people have a very bad precedent. In 1988, the military junta released the pro-military prisoners and they disturbed our people's peaceful demonstrations," he said.

The crackdown on the 1988 pro-democracy uprising is believed to have left thousands dead.

In his address, Gen Hlaing called on people to stay in their houses, citing the dangers of the pandemic.

But the protests continued on Friday. They remained mostly peaceful, although Radio Free Asia footage showed police charging at protesters in

the city of Mawlamine.

A Red Cross official told Reuters three people were injured by rubber bullets.

Protests have also continued in the biggest city, Yangon, the capital Nay Pyi Taw, the coastal town of Dawei, and Myitkyina in northern Kachin state, among others.

The US has been among those demanding a return to democracy and the release of civilian leaders. It has targeted a number of officials and companies with sanctions.

media captionPolice in Myanmar used water cannon and rubber bullets on protesters

The military seized control on 1 February following a general election which Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won by a landslide.

The armed forces had backed the opposition, which was demanding a rerun of the vote. It claimed widespread fraud, an accusation rejected by the electoral commission.

The coup was staged as a new session of parliament was set to open. Ms Suu Kyi is under house arrest and has been charged with possessing illegally imported walkie-talkies. Many other NLD officials have also been detained.

Russia warns EU it could cut ties over sanctions

MOSCOW, Feb. 13 (BBC) - Russia is ready to sever ties with the EU if the bloc imposes new, economically painful sanctions, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says.

The EU has raised the prospect of further sanctions amid a row over the treatment of the jailed Russian opposition leader, Alexei Navalny.

When an interviewer asked if Russia was heading for a "break" with the EU, Mr Lavrov said "we're ready for that".

"If you want peace, prepare for war," he said.

He said a break in ties could be triggered by EU sanctions that "create risks for our economy, including in the most sensitive areas".

"We don't want to isolate ourselves from world affairs, but we have to be prepared for that." He was speaking on the Russian YouTube channel Solovyov Live.

In the past week Russia and the EU have expelled three of each other's diplomats in a tit-for-tat dispute centering on the Navalny case. Russia went first, a week ago, saying three EU diplomats had attended an illegal pro-Navalny protest - an allegation rejected by the EU. The Russian announcement came during a visit by EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell.

media captionWho is Alexei Navalny?

This week the EU countries involved - Germany, Poland and Sweden - expelled three Russian diplomats.

Mr Borrell told MEPs in the European Parliament on Tuesday that the next step "could include sanctions, and I will put forward concrete proposals".

Last October the EU imposed sanctions on six top Russian officials and a Russian chemical



Protesters were out again in force on Friday in Yangon

weapons research centre, accusing them of direct involvement in the poisoning of Navalny in August. The attack with the weapons-grade nerve agent Novichok nearly killed him.

Many of President Vladimir Putin's close aides are now under EU and US sanctions, that is, asset freezes and travel bans. They date back to Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in 2014.

Dozens of MEPs have called for Mr Borrell to resign, saying his Moscow trip was "humiliating", but EU leaders have not backed them.

He told MEPs the Kremlin had left "no opening for democratic rule of law". It was crushing any alternatives to President Putin, he said. "They are merciless in stifling any such attempts."

Navalny is in court again to face allegations that he defamed a World War Two veteran. The anti-corruption campaigner says it is a further fabricated case aimed at

blackening his name. This month he was sentenced to nearly three years in prison in a separate case, widely seen as politically motivated.

On 22 February EU foreign ministers will meet and are expected to discuss more sanctions on Russia.

Despite the souring of ties with the Kremlin, Germany is going ahead with the huge Russian Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project. It is very controversial - EU partners Poland and the Baltic states oppose it strongly.

This week German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said "energy ties are almost the last bridge between Russia and Europe".

Speaking to the German daily Rheinische Post, he recalled the huge losses suffered by Russia in World War Two at the hands of Nazi Germany.

"That doesn't justify any wrongdoing in Russian policy today, but we mustn't lose sight of the bigger picture."

The Indian government's war with Twitter

NEW DELHI, Feb. 13 (BBC) - Last week, a top Indian official held a virtual meeting with global executives of Twitter.

There the social media giant was told that it was "welcome to do business in India", but it had to follow the laws of the country "irrespective of Twitter's own rules and guidelines".

The backdrop of the meeting was the mounting tension between Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government and Twitter over tweets and accounts linked to the continuing farmers' protests against a series of agriculture reform laws. The largely peaceful agitation

had been jolted by violence involving a group of protesters on 26 January, which left one person dead and hundreds of policemen injured. The government had asked Twitter to remove tweets that had used an incendiary hashtag, and accounts allegedly used by Sikh separatist groups and "backed by Pakistan".

Twitter had first blocked some 250 accounts in response to a legal notice by the government, citing objections based on public order. These included accounts of an investigative news magazine, and activists and outfits associated with supporting the months-long protests on the outskirts of Delhi. Then, six hours later,

Twitter restored the accounts, citing "insufficient justification" for continuing the suspension.

media captionIndian farmer: 'Why I'm protesting'

Mr Modi's government was not pleased. In a terse statement, it ordered Twitter to block the accounts again, and threatened people working for the company in India with legal action - up to seven years in prison - if they refused to do so. The tweets, insisted the government, were part of a "motivated campaign to abuse, inflame and create tension in society on unsubstantiated grounds".

On Wednesday, Twitter responded.

In a blog, the firm said it had suspended more than 500 accounts - some permanently - that were engaged in "platform manipulation and spam", taken action on "hundreds of accounts" that violated its rules on incitement and violence, and prevented certain terms that violated its rules from trending. In line with its rules, some accounts had been blocked only in India.

But it also said it would not block accounts belonging to media companies, journalists, activists and politicians because that would "violate their fundamental right to free expression under the Indian law".

The face-off continues. India's information technology minister has now joined in, telling the parliament on Thursday that "action" would be taken against social media platforms if they were "misused to spread fake news and violence".

"You have millions of followers in India, you are free to do business and make money, but you will have to follow the Indian constitution," Ravi Shankar Prasad, said, naming a number of sites, including Facebook and Twitter.

Many say it is not clear whether the government is trying to strong-arm Twitter to silence protesters or moving



towards blocking it from India.

"I think we need to move beyond the rhetoric and move to action if the government really believes that Twitter has violated the law.

"What is the point of issuing statements, having meetings, when you think they are breaking the law? What is stopping the government from taking action?" says Nikhil Pahwa, a digital rights activist and editor of MediaNama, a technology policy website.

Shell in Nigeria: Polluted communities 'can sue in English courts'



Pollution in the Bille area of the Niger Delta

LONDON, Feb. 13 (BBC) - The UK Supreme Court has ruled that polluted Nigerian communities can sue oil giant Shell in English courts.

The decision is a victory for the communities after a five-year battle and overturns a Court of Appeal ruling.

The Niger Delta communities of more than 40,000 people say decades of pollution have severely impacted their lives, health and local environment.

Shell had argued it was only a holding company for a firm that should be judged under Nigerian law. The Supreme Court, the UK's final appeal court for civil cases, ruled

that the cases brought by the Bille community and the Ogale people of Ogoniland against Royal Dutch Shell were arguable and could proceed in the English courts.

Royal Dutch Shell did not dispute that pollution had been caused, but argued it could not be held legally responsible for its Nigerian subsidiary. Shell is responsible for about 50% of the delta's oil production.

Last year the Court of Appeal agreed with the company, but the Supreme Court said on Friday that that decision was flawed.

The communities, represented by law firm Leigh Day, argued Shell owed a common law duty of care to

individuals who had suffered serious harm as a result of the systemic health, safety and environmental failings of one of its overseas subsidiaries. Leigh Day partner Daniel Leader said the ruling was a "watershed" for "impoverished communities seeking to hold powerful corporate actors to account". The firm said the amount of compensation sought had yet to be determined.

This is the latest case to test whether multinational companies can be held accountable for the acts of overseas subsidiaries.

Amnesty International welcomed the ruling. Mark Dummett, director of Amnesty International's Global Is-

ssues Programme, said the fight had not yet been won, but added: "This landmark ruling could spell the end of a long chapter of impunity for Shell and for other multinationals who commit human rights abuses overseas."

Shell said the ruling was "a disappointing decision".

In a statement it said: "The spills at issue happened in communities that are heavily impacted by oil theft, illegal oil refining, and the sabotage of pipelines."

It said that, despite the causes of the pollution, its subsidiary had worked hard to both clean up and prevent spills.

Judge rules Britney's father must share conservatorship



LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13 (BBC) - A judge has denied a request by Britney Spears' father to exert greater control over her finances.

Jamie Spears has controlled his daughter's financial affairs since 2008, but the singer has recently indicated she wants him removed.

On Thursday, a judge upheld a previous ruling that made a financial company a co-conservator for the singer.

The judge rejected Mr Spears' request to keep his previous level of power over his daughter's investments.

The ruling means Mr Spears and the private trust company, Bessemer Trust, will now have equal power to manage her finances.

As a result, he is now expected to work with the company to create a budget and investment proposal for the singer's estate.

The conservatorship is a legal arrangement that was put in place because of concerns about her mental health.

Los Angeles Judge Brenda Penny appointed Bessemer Trust as co-conservators in November, but

rejected the star's effort to remove her father entirely.

Jamie Spears had objected to Bessemer's involvement, arguing that it reduced the power he has held for years. Judge Perry threw out his objection on Thursday. Another hearing is scheduled for 17 March.

Britney Spears' lawyer Samuel D Ingham III has previously said the singer is "afraid" of her father and does not want him to control her finances and career.

On Thursday, Mr Ingham reiterated the pop star's wish, adding that it was "no secret" she didn't want her father to be a co-conservator, but acknowledged that removing him altogether would be a "separate issue".

Interest in the case has been renewed after the recent release of a documentary that focuses on the conflict over the singer's guardianship.

Framing Britney Spears, which was produced by The New York Times, examined the conservatorship in depth, as well as how the singer has been treated by the media throughout her career.

Victoria to enter lockdown with fans barred from Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Feb. 13 (BBC) - The Australian state of Victoria will enter lockdown for a third time in a bid to suppress an outbreak of the UK strain of coronavirus.

Officials this week found 13 cases stemming from a quarantine worker who became infected at a Melbourne hotel.

The lockdown will begin on Friday midnight and end on Wednesday.

However, the government has said the Australian Open tennis tournament would continue in the state's capital, Melbourne.

Spectators will be banned from attending the event from Saturday, which had previously allowed up to 30,000 visitors a day. Tickets will be refunded, tournament director Craig Tiley said. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said the current outbreak was not linked to the quarantine hotels used by the tennis players. He stressed that a "circuit breaker" was needed to combat the "hyper-infectious" strain which he said had likely already seeded other infections in the community.

"This is the fastest-moving, most infectious strain of coronavirus that we have seen," he said, adding that almost 1,000 close contacts had already been reached.

Prior to this outbreak, Victoria had not seen a local infection for 28 days and the state had largely eliminated the virus. Many Melbourne residents have expressed dismay but also resignation over the retreat into lockdown again, media captioned How the Australian Open was trying to stay Covid-safe

Last year, in Australia's winter, the city endured one of the world's longest and strictest lockdowns to overcome



People queuing to get tested in Melbourne this week following news of the new cases

a second wave which led to more than 90% of Australia's 29,000 cases and 909 deaths.

"We've built something precious, and we have to make difficult decisions, and do difficult things, in order to defend what we've built," Mr Andrews said.

"I am confident that this short, sharp circuit breaker will be effective. We will be able to smother this."

The state will be under the following restrictions for five days:

- People must stay at home except for shopping, exercise, caregiving and essential work needs
- No gatherings allowed
- Travel is restricted to within 5km (3.1 miles) of the home
- Mask wearing is mandatory in public
- Places of worship and all non-essential venues are closed
- Schools are closed except for children of essential workers

Meanwhile, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia have announced travel bans on people from Melbourne. Further border closures are expected. International flights to Melbourne will also be cancelled, authorities said.

The tough ride continues for the Australian Open as Covid and controversy strike again. When I was there reporting on the event's opening weekend, the tennis fans I spoke to said how happy they were for sport to have come back to Melbourne.

"We're just grateful," one fan, Angela, told me as she walked around the park. "We know how much this is worth. We know how much we've struggled to achieve that."

The city went through a traumatic, lengthy lockdown last July after a quarantine breach led to more than 18,000 cases. Now the city is going back into lockdown again and for many it's a dispiriting déjà vu.

China bans BBC World News from broadcasting

BEIJING, Feb. 13 (BBC) - China has banned BBC World News from broadcasting in the country, its television and radio regulator announced on Thursday.

China has criticised the BBC for its reporting on coronavirus and the persecution of ethnic minority Uighurs.

The BBC said it was "disappointed" by the decision.

It follows British media regulator Ofcom revoking state broadcaster China Global Television Network's (CGTN) licence to broadcast in the UK.

Ofcom's decision earlier this month came after it found that CGTN's licence was wrongfully held by Star China Media Ltd.

CGTN was also found in breach of British broadcasting regulations last year, for airing the allegedly forced confession of UK citizen Peter Humphrey.

In its decision, China's State Film, TV and Radio Administration said BBC World News reports about China were found to "seriously violate" broadcast guidelines, including "the requirement that news should be truthful and fair" and not "harm China's national interests".

It said that the BBC's application to air for another year would not be accepted.

The BBC said in a statement: "We are disappointed that the Chinese authorities have decided to take this course of action. The BBC is the world's most trusted international news broadcaster and reports on stories from around the world fairly, impartially and without fear or favour."



The commercially-funded BBC World News TV channel broadcasts globally in English. In China it is largely restricted and appears only in international hotels and some diplomatic compounds, meaning most Chinese people cannot view it.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab called the move an "unacceptable curtailment of media freedom".

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. View original tweet on Twitter

The US State Department condemned the decision, calling it part of a wider campaign to suppress free media in China.

Relations between China and the UK have seen a serious deterioration in recent months over Hong Kong, where Beijing introduced a controversial new security law after a large pro-democracy movement swept the ex-colony.

In January the UK introduced a new visa that gives 5.4 million Hong Kong residents the right to live in the UK and eventually become citizens because it believes China is undermining the territory's rights and freedoms.

And in the past two years China has been systematically blocking or banning foreign media, including in effect expelling journalists from three US newspapers in 2020. The BBC website and its app are already banned in the country.

In February the BBC published a report featuring interviews with Uighur women who said they had been systematically raped, sexually abused and tortured in China's "re-education" camps in Xinjiang. China's foreign ministry accused the BBC of making a "false report".

Last month the US said China has committed genocide in its repression of the Uighurs and other mainly Muslim groups.

According to estimates, more than a million Uighurs and other minorities have been detained in camps in China.

China denies that Uighurs are persecuted. Last year China's UK ambassador Liu Xiaoming told the BBC's Andrew Marr that reports of concentration camps were "fake" and the Uighurs received the same treatment under the law as other ethnic groups in his country.

Chinatowns fighting racism and pandemic to survive

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13 (BBC) - Lunar New Year is usually the busiest period for businesses in Chinatowns around the globe. But in 2020, it coincided with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, leaving many restaurants empty. A year on, the BBC speaks to business owners to find out how they survived - and what's next.

Sam Wo's has been a fixture in San Francisco's Chinatown for more than a century, but the last year has been hard.

Coronavirus has forced restaurants across the world to shut their doors,

and Chinatowns have been hit particularly hard. The virus first emerged in late 2019 in the Chinese city of Wuhan, leaving businesses like Sam Wo fighting not just fear, but anti-Asian sentiment.

"All the Italian restaurants in North Beach were still busy and packed and then you went through the tunnel to Union Square and those guys had lines waiting to get in. And then you drive around Chinatown and it's completely empty," recalls Sam Wo's co-owner Steven Lee, describing the weeks before shutdown orders



came in early last year.

"So we know that xenophobia was affecting small businesses. Why would other districts be busy and we're not?"

In the 12 months since, it has been forced to cut its staff numbers from 23

to three due to a lack of customers.

"People wouldn't show up, they were just scared," Mr Lee tells the BBC. "We had to rally and tell people to fight the virus, not the people and all this kind of stuff - but it didn't help much."

In Yokohama, home of Japan's largest Chinatown, it went beyond just people avoiding local businesses. Notes containing anti-Chinese messages were left on the doors of several restaurants last March.

They were already in deep trouble financially: sales figures had plummeted to about 10% of what they were in a typical peak period.

Yokohama's mayor came out in support of the businesses, telling local media that he was "utterly infuriated" with the letters.

In response, locals rallied around

Yokohama's Chinatown, sending messages of support on social media, telling businesses to "hang in there" and promising to visit their establishments.

And then, the shutdowns arrived, meaning the restaurants were unable to open their doors.

"I know many businesses in Chinatown have closed. It's terrifying," Ying Hou, who runs Shandong MaMa in the Australian city of Melbourne, tells the BBC. "There are gift houses where tourists come to buy souvenirs - most of them didn't make it and have closed down."