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Vol.93 - No 34 | Pages 68 | Rs. 7000 | ★



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OPENING OF NINTH
PARLIAMENT

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A CLOSE
LOOK AT
THE LIFE OF
CAROLINE
JURIE
*Youth
Observer*



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on his way to ceremonially open the ninth Parliament, sans any military escort, horses, outriders and fanfare unlike the previous Heads of State. This proves that he practises what he preaches and leads the way. **Pic President's media unit**



Fillip for Covid-19
hit businesses

By Aanya Wipulasena

The Central Bank (CB) has given Covid-19 hit businesses and others more time to apply for the four percent Working Capital Loan scheme.

The deadline has been extended till September 30, 2020. The new scheme - *Saubagya Covid-19 Renaissance Loan* Scheme Facility - was introduced to help businesses and others during the pandemic.

The islandwide curfew and the closure of international airports in March this year to combat the spread of the virus brought the tourism industry to a virtual standstill. The loan scheme was hailed by many people. **▶ TO PAGE 2**

Northern voters embraced new political parties - *Udaya Gammanpila*

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

SLFP, SLPP, EPDP and TMVP, the coalition partners of the Government.

"We should read the message by the Northern and the Eastern voters properly.

The simple message is that they need development instead of devolution," the Minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday. **▶ TO PAGE 2**

COALITION MUST BE FINE-TUNED TO ADDRESS MULTIPLICITY OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

HAKEEM CALLS FOR REVISION OF SJB CONSTITUTION



SLMC leader Rauff Hakeem called for the revision of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) constitution which he said was drafted hurriedly before the parliamentary election on August 5.

He said that this has already been taken up with the SJB leadership. "The constitution of the coalition must be fine-tuned to address the multiplicity of policies and programs of all parties that

there might be a unified vision for the country, taking into consideration the views of both the majority and the minority," the SLMC leader told the *Sunday Observer*.

He said that the coalition must have a proper leadership council so that the decisions taken will be collective and by consensus while these decisions must be practical.

We are a constituent of the SJB, therefore, we have a pivotal role in

the coalition, he added.

In the past, minority parties such as the SLMC were always invited to join the winning party to ensure the majority in Parliament. However, this time the SLPP-led coalition won a landslide victory and secured a two-thirds without the help of minority parties.

The national list nomination has also become a contentious issue between the SJB leadership and

the SLMC. "We can't say it is settled. There are misgivings about the national list nominees of the SJB," Hakeem said when asked if the matter has been settled by now.

"Promises are promises, they just can't be forgotten, but it has to be made good some way or the other," he said adding that the party members will continue to discuss that matter with the SJB leadership. **▶ TO PAGE 2**

Govt ready to set up a special court for child abuse

By Maneshka borham

Minister of Justice Ali Sabry PC said if necessary, the Government is ready to set up a special court to hear cases on child abuse.

"If the need arises, a special court will be set up with the approval of the Cabinet to hear child abuse cases. We are also prepared to take other steps to check this menace," he said. **▶ TO PAGE 2**

Inflation drops in July

Headline inflation decreased to 6.1 percent in July from 6.3 percent in the previous month driven by the statistical effect of the high base that prevailed in July 2019.

Food inflation (Y-o-Y) decreased to 12.9 percent in July from 13.6 percent in June, whereas Non-food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 1.0 percent in July from 0.8 percent

in June. The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis increased to 5.9 per cent in July from 5.6 percent in June. The monthly change of NCPI recorded at 0.0 percent in July 2020. This was due to setting-off the price decline of 0.15 per cent in the Food category, with the price... **▶ TO PAGE 2**

Eight dead, three injured in two accidents

By M.Maharroof, Kurunegala South Gr. Cor.

Eight people died in two accidents yesterday (22), the police said. Three persons died and three others were injured when the van they were travelling in skidded off the

road and went over a precipice near the Ravana Ella on the Ella-Wella-way road.

The victims have been identified as employees of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), the police said.

The injured had been admitted to hospitals in Sirigala, Badulla, Wellawaya and Demodera. At the time of going to press rescue operations were under way to save another person trapped in the vehicle.

Five persons died instantaneously when the motor vehicle they were travelling in collided head-on with a tipper truck at Walakumbura, Alawwa on the Colombo-Kurunegala Road on Friday morn-

ing. Of the five youth, four had been employed at the MAGA construction company.

They were returning home after attending a funeral.

It is believed that the driver of the ill-fated motor vehicle had fallen asleep at the time of the tragedy. **▶ TO PAGE 2**



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Archaeology Dept under Defence Ministry

Ramanna Nikaya lauds Govt decision

BY CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

Ramanna Maha Nikaya Chief Sangha Nayaka Ven. Dr. Omalpe Sobhitha Thera yesterday thanked the government for taking steps to bring the Archaeology Department under the Defence Ministry.

Ven. Dr. Sobhitha Thera yesterday told the Sunday Observer that the prelates of the Ramanna Chapter had requested President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to place the Archaeology Department under the Defence Ministry about six months ago.

"I thank them both on behalf of the Mahasangha and the people for taking the much needed action," he said.

"We asked previous governments to put the Archaeology Dept. under the Ministry of Defence, but nothing happened," he said.

He said that he was not sure if the previous regime understood the value of preserving the archaeological heritage, or if simply that it did not value heritage.

"Archaeological sites are not only our heritage; they are the world's heritage. It helps us and the world to reconstruct the history of nations," Dr. Sobhitha Thera said.

"The Archaeology Department was in bad shape and was unable to protect archaeological sites from the looting and vandalism which is taking place at a tremendous rate. It was unable to defend the archaeological sites from destruction because it did not have the power to do that," he said. "I am glad that the President made a wise move to change this by taking the matter under his authority as Minister of Defence," he said.

Safe Travel List by Wednesday

BY AANYA WIPULASENA

Sri Lanka Tourism will seek advice from the Ministry of Health (MoH) to reopen the country for inbound tourists from destinations which have adopted sufficient Covid-19 safety protocols, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga told the Sunday Observer.

The safe travel list that will create a 'travel bubble' between Sri Lanka and other safe destinations is expected by Wednesday (26).

Minister Ranatunga said his Ministry will submit a proposal to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to seek approval for several programs, including the recommendations of countries Sri Lanka will encourage visitors from.

"We are looking at several segments to revive the industry. This includes sports tourism and even providing necessary facilities here for the international film industry," he added.

In addition to this, the Ministry is expected to invite and encourage investments in the tourism industry which came to a halt following the closure of international airports in March this year.

Sri Lanka Tourism Chief Kimarli Fernando, speaking in this regard, said they are looking at submitting a proposal to the Cabinet of Ministers seeking guidance for the restarting of the industry.

"We will submit the proposal in the next two weeks," she said. Minister Ranatunga said that

they are awaiting approval from the MoH to decide on a date to reopen the airports for foreign tourists. The original date for the reopening (August 1) was postponed indefinitely to facilitate the repatriation of Sri Lankans who are working abroad.

Deputy General Manager of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), Mangala Randeniya said about 40,000 migrant workers are still awaiting repatriation. Most of the workers are in Qatar, Saudi, UAE and Kuwait.

"We have already repatriated around 10,000 migrant workers. It is hard to predict when we can complete the process because new names are added to the repatriation list every day," he said.

e-Registry proposal fulfils much-needed reform for MSEs

The Advocata Institute has commended the decision taken by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) to launch an e-registry portal to register unregistered and registered businesses in Sri Lanka.

The Institute has called upon the Government to support this reform. This would enable thousands of entrepreneurs, unregistered micro, small and medium businesses to formalise their ventures and gain access to formal sources of finance.

Research carried out by the Advocata Institute has identified an array of regulatory barriers that discourage or hinder micro and small enterprises. An all-island survey carried out during the course of its research has identified

access to finance as a critical problem. It also identified the complexity of the business registration process and related regulation as a barrier to registration.

According to the DCS, 45 percent of micro-enterprises and 10 percent of small enterprises remain unregistered in Sri Lanka, although sole proprietorships account for 63.1 percent of all businesses in the country, and account for 27.1 percent of national employment. Reforming the registration process through the proposed e-registry will help overcome the barriers faced by micro and small enterprises.

The Advocata Institute's report titled, 'Barriers to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Sri Lanka' provides a comprehensive analysis

of the problems faced by these businesses. A key reform recommendation of the report is the setting up of an e-Registry.

"While commending the DCS for putting forward this timely reform, we invite all policymakers to rally behind the task of reducing the documentation and approvals needed to register a sole proprietorship or a partnership in Sri Lanka and bring the process in line with that of registering a private company," an Advocata spokesman said.

Implementing policies that incentivise the registration of businesses would be a step towards achieving the government's vision of empowering entrepreneurs and creating a vibrant national ecosystem for businesses.

PM visits North Western Province



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Ministers perusing the project report. - PMD

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa visited the North Western Province yesterday, to inspect the accelerated work of the project to provide water for 12,500 hectares of paddy lands.

The waterway, a project proposed in 2014, is alleged to have been neglected by the Yahapalanaya Government.

At a meeting with officials, a report on the progress of the project was presented to the Prime Minister by the Engineer in charge of the project, Asoka Perera.

The Siyambananduwa Fishermen handed over a letter containing several proposals to improve their livelihoods, to the Prime Minister.



Gampaha district MP, Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga was felicitated by the Galoluwa Muslim Youth Federation on his appointment as the Minister of Tourism at his Minuwangoda residence recently. President of the Federation M. Rislan, along with the members with Minister Ranatunga at the felicitation ceremony.

(Pic: M.S.M. Munthasir, Panadura Central Gr. Cor.)

WB assistance to protect pre-school children



TEXT AND PIC: ADDALAICHENAI CENTRAL COR.

Women and Child Affairs and Social Security Ministry with the assistance of World Bank (WB), recently distributed protective equipment to the pre-school units of the Akkaraipattu DS division under the Early Childhood Development Project to protect pre-school children from the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The ceremony to hand over equipment to the officials of the pre-school units under the chairman-

ship of Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretary M.S.M. Razzan, took place at the Early Childhood Development Unit of the Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretariat with the participation of Akkaraipattu DS Asst. Planning Director A.M. Thameem and officials.

Fourteen selected pre-school units of Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretariat division received thermometers and washbasins.

Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretariat Counselor S. Abdeen, Early Childhood Development Unit officials, Pre-school Teachers and Parents were also present.



Veteran media personality Rohan Weliwita has been appointed media secretary of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. A former program manager and news director of the ITN, he joined as media secretary of the Fisheries Minister in 2000. In 2004, he was appointed Media Secretary to the Prime Minister. He was also the President's coordinating secretary from 2005 to 2015. Here Weliwita receives his appointment letter from the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff Gamini Senerath.

Graduate employment scheme:

Appeals close on September 15

Graduates whose applications under the special graduate employment scheme of the government, were rejected, can now appeal, states a media release issued by Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government Ministry.

According to Ministry sources, those who have applied for jobs and have not found employment under the program could submit their appeals on or before September 15. The appeals should be sent to the respective Divisional Secre-

tarials of the applicants.

The Secretary to the Ministry, J. J. Ratnasiri said graduates whose applications were rejected due to their membership in the Employees Provident Fund and are employed in the private sector have been given an opportunity to submit their appeals.

According to the advertisement published on the official website of the Ministry www.pubad.gov.lk, their appeals should be submitted to the Divisional Secretariat of the area they live in.

Jumbo threat in Ampara increases

TEXT AND PIC: ADDALAICHENAI CENTRAL COR.

Wild elephants invade border villages of the Ampara district coastal areas more often now causing many difficulties to the villagers. The elephant invasion has increased as the harvesting season ended.

The movements of wild elephants have increased in Addalaichenai, Akkaraipattu, Nintavur, Sammanthurai, Alayadivembu, Thirukkivil, Irakkamam and Pottuvil divisions.

The elephants destroy paddy stores, domestic crops, houses, boundary walls and coconut palms, say the residents. Villagers

are seeking the intervention of authorities for solutions.

Residents are unable to chase them away as elephants visit after dusk in large numbers in search of food. Properties and crops are regularly destroyed by the elephants, they said.

These activities of wild elephants have considerably increased in the recent past, and parents complain that education of their children too are badly affected due to the movement of elephants.

People urge the authorities to take immediate action to prevent wild elephants entering the villages. They request the authorities to find a solution to the issue.

Northern voters... From page 1

Minister Gammanpila said the South, in general, and the Government in particular, should understand this strong message and embrace our Northern and Eastern brethren warmly and join hands with them to develop their areas.

Commenting on the proposed 20th Amendment, the Minister said since 1978, there have been so many constitutional drafts prepared mainly by NGOs on the instructions of some Embassies. We don't want such a Constitution for the people. The Constitution should reflect the aspirations of the people. Therefore, we should ensure that the new Constitution to be drafted should reflect the people's aspirations so that it would take the country in a new direction.

Authoritative sources said the SLPP led Government has been apprised of the burning issues in the North and the East such as unemployment, poor livelihoods, meagre incomes and housing facilities.

Therefore, the aim of the Government is to provide solutions to such issues in the North and the East.

The political change that has taken place was because the Tamils claim that they have been sidelined or neglected due to internal power struggles within the Tamil political parties which gave little thought to their grievances. The poll results in the North and the East at the August 5 general election showed a mixed reaction where the TNA which is the traditional party representing the Tamils of the North and the East from 2001 has been weakened.

The TNA secured 16 seats at the last Parliament but this time around lost seven seats to other parties. The turning point was engineered by Angajan Ramanathan of the SLFP who bagged the highest number of votes - a staggering 36,365 and Douglas Devananda of the EPDP securing 32,146.

Fillip for Covid-19... From page 1

The CB has already approved loans to the tune of Rs.100,017 million for 36,489 applicants.

"Of the approved loans, licensed banks have already disbursed over Rs. 68.5 billion among 25,365 affected businesses and others islandwide as at August 18, 2020," according to the CB media release. Fifty percent of the approved loans were given to businesses in the services sector, 34 percent of which were granted

to businesses in the industry sector and 16 percent for the agriculture sector.

Under phase 3, the CB hopes to provide working capital loans to businesses, including self-employment and others who were affected by the virus outbreak. The CB in consultation with the Government hopes to introduce the loans at an interest rate of four percent annually, with a repayment period of 24-months including a grace period of six months.

Eight dead, three... From page 1

The dead were identified as Mihiri Sachithra Pathirana (29) of Ibbagamuwa, Charitha Kaushalya (25) of Nelumdeniya, Charitha Piyasanka (28) of Welimada, Manoj Mallawarachchi (25) of Welimada and Tharuka Adheesha (23) of Kottukachchiya. The tipper truck driver is in police custody. Alawwa police are conducting investigations.

Hakeem calls... From page 1

According to the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the SLMC, the party had been assured one national list slot by the SJB. However, when the list was finalised Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Tissa Attanayake, Harin Fernando, Imthiaz Baker Markar, Eran Wickremaratne, Mayantha Dissanayake and Diana Gamage were appointed to Parliament under the list.

The rationale of dividing the national seats had been, according to SJB General Secretary Maddumabandara, either all three minority parties in the coalition should get a seat each or else no one should be considered.

Govt ready to... From page 1

The new Minister was speaking at an event titled 'Action Against Child Abuse' at Independence Square on Friday (21). Former first lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa and other dignitaries were also present.

Sabry told the gathering that the Government can bring new laws and ensure that the wrongdoers are punished, the harm done to children cannot be undone. "Young children are like flowers. If they are harmed even once they suffer the consequences throughout their lives" he said.

Over 5,000 cases of child abuse have been reported in the country since the beginning of 2020.

The Minister said that children are not harmed by strangers. "It is those closest to them, such as a family member or a teacher who indulge in such abuse," he said.

Sabry who was recently appointed Justice Minister, has been a prosecution lawyer on criminal and other cases for 25 years and had served as Deputy President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for two years. He said that despite controversy and divergent views on the issue in the recent past, he strongly believes that children should be given sex education.

Inflation drops... From page 1

...increase in the non-food category by the same magnitude. Accordingly, within the food category, prices of vegetables, red onion, lime and rice dropped in July 2020 while prices of items in restaurants and hotels; alcoholic beverages and tobacco and health sub categories recorded increases in the non-food category.

Easter Sunday attacks

Former SIS Senior DIG decries information not acted upon

BY MANESHKA BORHAM

After being in the hot seat for over two weeks before the PCoI probing the Easter Sunday attacks former Director of the State Intelligence Service (SIS) Senior DIG Nilantha Jayawardena became emotional on Friday (22) as he expressed his dismay over the failure to prevent the terror attacks despite his repeated attempts. When asked what he felt hearing the news of the terror attacks on April 21 last year, an emotional Jayawardena told the Commission that he felt sad at the time. "I was the head of the SIS. I tried to prevent it but could not" Jayawardena told the Commission.



Attack on St. Anthony's Church, Kochchikade, Colombo

Giving evidence for nearly 16 days before the PCoI probing the Easter Sunday attacks Jayawardena has repeatedly revealed how he had informed several top officials of the impending attacks but to no avail. Instead Jayawardena appears to have been ignored and his information disregarded.

While the then Director of the SIS had received the first tip off on a possible attack on April 4 last year, Jayawardena told the Commission that on the day prior to the attack, the same informant of a foreign intelligence service had whatsapped him specific information of an impending attack that had been planned for the next day.

The message Jayawardena had received read "An attack can take place any time of the day. It may target eight locations including

churches or hotels frequented by Indians. This is the updated information I received from my headquarters".

According to Jayawardena while he had received this message around 4.12 am he had then forwarded it to the then Secretary of Defence Hemasiri Fernando, Chief of National Intelligence DIG (Rtd.) Sisira Mendis, IGP Pujith Jayasundara and CID Chief Senior DIG Ravi Seneviratne.

In response to his message Jayawardena said the Defence Secretary had merely replied saying well received. Jayawardena was then asked by the Commission what the IGP had told him in response when informed of the impending attack. He merely said "Nilantha tell this to Nandana" in reference to DIG Nandana Munasinghe, Jayawardena said.

Since the IGP failed to understand the severity of the information Jayawardena said he once again called the Defence Secretary and said "I informed the IGP. But

he did not take it seriously. Please tell the IGP," he said.

In desperation, Jayawardena then said he even attempted to contact the then President Maithripala Sirisena by calling the head of the President's security division DIG Rohan Silva.

According to Jayawardena he was then informed by Silva that, the President had left for a private foreign tour.

He also told the Commission that Silva had said he can speak to the personal security officer of the President by calling the telephone at the President's residence on Paget Road, Colombo 7.

"I was told the President did not have a mobile phone with him," he added. Jayawardena had then called the President's PSO around 6.18 pm and requested to be connected to the President.

"They said they would try. However, we were not able to reach him on April 20 the day prior to the attack," he said.

Jayawardena said while he may have informed the President when

he received the initial tip off on April 4, he did not do so as the official procedure was to inform the Secretary of Defence, CNI and the IGP. "I did the best I could," the former SIS Director said. He had finally attempted to inform the President incase later he was blamed for failing to do so.

He also said that he had informed top officials again on the morning of April 21. Jayawardena said he had informed former Senior DIG in charge of the Western province Nandana Munasinghe at 8.28 am and IGP Pujith Jayasundara at 8.30 am on April 21 of the immi-

nent attack. "But the IGP did not give me any instructions," he noted. Jayawardena had then called the Defence Secretary as well.

Noting the chain of events since April 4 when the SIS was informed of a possible attack by the foreign service to the day of the attack, the Additional Solicitor General asked Jayawardena wouldn't the attack been prevented if law enforcement had been deployed as they already had all the information at hand. Jayawardena becoming emotional admitted the fact saying "If so we could have at least saved one human being".

Mali in turmoil



Mali's ousted President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita



People cheering Malian soldiers as they arrive at the Independence Square in Bamako after they seized a key military garrison on Tuesday.

From Channa Padmashantha in Mali

Following the looting and vandalism by lawless elements, signs of the country slowly returning to normalcy under pressure from the National Committee for the Salvation (CNSP) of the people appeared remote. The CNSP has imposed a curfew having ordered the closure of the country's land and air borders until further notice. It has formulated a set of proposals for peaceful transition to civilian rule.

Militia groups such as jihadists active in northern and central parts of the country have posed a serious threat against an early and peaceful transition to civil administration.

Peace and constitutional order is yet to dawn on the poverty-stricken Mali, a country of over 1,240,000 square kilometre and a population of 14.5 million people, eclipsed by Islamist terrorist, separatist and criminal forces.

West Africa was deposited in a military coup last week, precipitating the country into a jihadist turmoil. There was immediate reaction by several international organisations such as ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), African Union UNO and European Union which condemned outright the military putsch and demanded the restoration of constitutional order and release of political detainees.

At present, the President, Prime Minister and a few members have been arrested. The ECOWAS has contemplated imposing sanctions against putschists and its collaborators.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for the immediate and unconditional release of Malian President and restoration of constitutional rights of all civilians. Political opponents, religious leaders and civil society activists accused Keita's government for corruption, mismanagement, bad governance and gruelling poverty.

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සැප්. 12 **සිපත් කපල්**

සැප්. 13 **Love and Life**

සැප්. 14 **නිතාවෙලා මිනිස්සුවක්**

සැප්. 15 **විකෘති**

Elphinstone - 2020 Aug. - Sep.

අගෝ. 19 **කැලලිනිණිය**

අගෝ. 21 **රතු මඟුල් කපුවා**

අගෝ. 22 **කොඩාවක වෙඩිතැබීමක්**

අගෝ. 23 **බවල හීනණ**

අගෝ. 24 **සමාර්ථයක් සහ ස්වර්ණය**

අගෝ. 26 **රතු වෙස් මුහුණ**

අගෝ. 27 **ප්‍රාගේ අතර කෝරක්**

අගෝ. 28 **මුහුණ වොන්**

අගෝ. 29 **මල්වඩම් අනවශ්‍යයි**

අගෝ. 30 **වෙරෝනිකා ආපසු ඇවිත්**

අගෝ. 31 **අත් පුත්තක්**

සැප්. 02 **UNTOUCHED**

සැප්. 03 **සිංහයා ඇවිල්ලා**

සැප්. 04 **කුන්සිය නැටවක**

සැප්. 05 **රාළනාම්**

සැප්. 06 **ට්‍රෝපික් කාන්තාවෝ**

සැප්. 07 **රිච්පස්**

සැප්. 08 **බක්මන අකුණු**

සැප්. 09 **වර්තන කොරු අරං**

සැප්. 10 **නිතල ගත්තු හිරණයක්**

සැප්. 11 **ගරු කටානායකතුමනි**

සැප්. 12 **සුදු සහ කලු**

සැප්. 13 **සක්කාය දිව්ඩි**

සැප්. 14 **තස්කිරාජ මහත්තයා**

සැප්. 15 **කාරංගා නැවෙත් ඇවිත්**

3.30 වචර රඟහල

6.30 විලලිත්සවක්

සියළුම ආසන සැලසුම් (Box Planned) කර ඇත.

විමසීම්: 0112 431878, 071-8008202 කාමල්

විමසීම්: 0112 441208, 071-4909290 මිචර

People's mandate for a new Constitution – Minister Gammanpila

By
Uditha Kumarasinghe



Cabinet Spokesman and Power Minister Udaya Gammanpila said the people decided to give a two-thirds majority to the Government not to continue with the current Constitution 'by adding another patch to the old shirt' but to stitch a new shirt. The people's mandate and the message are very clear so that we should act upon that mandate as early as possible. In an interview with the *Sunday Observer* Minister Gammanpila said that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has read that message very clearly and that is why he advised Justice Minister Ali Sabry to table a Cabinet paper on the proposed new Constitution at the very first Cabinet meeting. He said the new Constitution to be drafted will reflect the people's aspirations. It would certainly take the nation in a new direction where the masses could reap the dividends of a new economic renaissance.

Q. The Government has decided to abolish the 19 Amendment and bring in the 20 Amendment to the Constitution. Could you explain?

A. Even the founders and drafters of the 19th Amendment have acknowledged the fact that it has created many problems in state affairs. Mainly in a situation where the President and the Prime Minister are from two different political camps. Thus, the Government couldn't move forward as evinced by the previous Government which ruled the country from 2015 to 2019.

Therefore, this anomaly should be got rid of and that is the main purpose of introducing the 20th Amendment. Basically, we want to repeal the 19th Amendment and introduce the 20th Amendment and retain the positive features of it such as the right to information. Once, we repeal the 19th Amendment, the President's term limitation will also be removed. Moreover, the President's term will

be six years instead of five years. We don't want that to happen. Therefore, the 20th Amendment will introduce the term restriction or rather we will keep those features of the 19th Amendment. That is the broad framework agreed upon at the last Cabinet meeting. We empowered the Minister of Justice to draft the 20th Amendment. Once he drafts the 20th Amendment, it will be reviewed by a Cabinet Sub Committee on Constitutional Affairs of which I am also a member. The other members of the Committee are Ministers Prof.G.L.Peiris, Nimal Siripala de Silva, Dinesh Gunawardena and President's Counsel Ali Sabry. We will review it and with our observations and recommendations, it will come to the Cabinet for consideration.

Q. As highlighted by Government lawmakers, how do you explain the controversy around the 19th Amendment?

A. The 19th Amendment is a total failure. The main objective of the 19th Amendment is to have key Government appointments made independently and make the Government machinery independent of politics. The 19th Amendment failed to achieve that objective, for example, there was only one IGP appointed by the Constitutional Council under the 19th Amendment and he is the only IGP who was imprisoned by the court. Even when we look at the Election Commission, it is such a misery. For the first time in world history, its quorum and the membership are the same. The membership of the Election Commission is three members and the quorum is also three members.

If one member decided to boycott one meeting, it cannot function but fortunately we didn't have to face such a situation. We noticed that Election Commission member Prof. Ratnajeewan Hoole did not want to hold the election. He went to courts by making controversial statements. Frankly, I genuinely feared that he would find other alternatives. The easiest way to stop holding the election was his resignation. If he resigned, there will be no quorum for the Election Commission to hold meetings and make decisions with regard to the election, so that the election process would come to a standstill. Fortunately, that idea never came to his mind.

Otherwise, this democratic right of the people to elect the Government of their choice would have been denied by just one member of the Election Commission. Therefore, the 19th Amendment is not only a failure, it is a misery so that everybody is in consensus that it should be got rid of.

THE 19TH AMENDMENT IS A TOTAL FAILURE. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT IS TO HAVE KEY GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS MADE INDEPENDENTLY AND MAKE THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY INDEPENDENT OF POLITICS. THE 19TH AMENDMENT FAILED TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE



Q. The Government has stressed that the need of the hour is to formulate an indigenous Constitution without following foreign models. Your comments?

A. Our Government obtained the highest number of seats under the Proportional Representation System. We were just short of five members to reach the two-thirds majority. However, we have the two-thirds majority when we consider our grand coalition with the constituent parties which supported our Government.

The people decided to give us two-thirds majority not to continue with the current Constitution by adding 'another patch to the old shirt' and they want us to stitch a new shirt. Thus, the people's mandate and the message are very clear. Therefore, we should act on that mandate as early as possible. The President has read that message very clearly. That is why he advised the Minister of Justice to table a Cabinet paper on the new Constitution at the very first Cabinet meeting.

Accordingly, the last Cabinet meeting empowered the Minister of Justice to recommend a panel of experts to draft the new Constitution. Ultimately, the Cabinet will decide on the panel upon the recommendation of the Minister.

If we take the 1978 Constitution, it is a mixture of French, US and British systems. So, it doesn't fit to our history, culture or aspirations at all. Since 1978, there have been so many constitutional drafts prepared mainly by NGOs on the instructions given by the Embassies. We don't want such a Constitution for our people. Our Constitution should reflect the aspirations of our nation. Therefore, we will ensure that the Constitution to be drafted will reflect the people's aspirations and it would take the nation to a new direction.

Q. After 73 years this is the first time that an inaugural parliamentary session was convened without any UNP representation. How do you view this scenario?

A. The UNP has the fate of dinosaurs. If you can't evolve according to the environment you can't survive. That is what has happened to the UNP. Soon after the new Yahapalana Government came into power, actually, on the 40th day we were able to hold a mas-

sive protest rally at Nugegoda. That was unprecedented and the Government should have read the feelings of the people. They didn't do so.

They should have read the pulse of the people by seeing the growing wave of the 'Wind of Mahinda'. The UNP even failed to do that. They failed to read the results of the 2018 Local Government Election results. They should have adjusted themselves reading the people's messages properly but they failed to do that.

The UNP under Ranil Wickremesinghe's leadership tried to make this country weak, fragmented and 'foreignised'. The people have marked their protest against that. Unfortunately, Sajith Premadasa who is likely his successor is also following the footsteps of Wickremesinghe so that he will end up being Ranil Wickremesinghe the second.

Q. The inaugural session of the ninth Parliament was convened with 223 MPs

as the UNP and the Ape Jana Bala Party had failed to nominate their National List MPs. Would you like to comment on this?

A. This is not the first time that such a situation occurred. In 1989, the United Socialist Alliance had one National List slot. The coalition partners failed to reach consensus as to who should be appointed as their National List member. As a result, that parliamentary seat had been vacant for three years. After ending half of the parliamentary term, they appointed Raja Colure to fill that vacancy. So, this is not unprecedented.

Q. It seems that there is no vibrant Opposition in Parliament against the overwhelming Government majority. Some say this is not healthy for democracy. Your views?

A. The SJB has 54 members in Parliament. If you consider the previous Parliament, until we launched the 'Wind of Mahinda' (*Mahinda Sulanga*), the entire Parliament was supporting that Government. In 1977, the Opposition was restricted to only eight members. So, the situation is not a new phenomenon. But we need a strong Opposition to point out to the Government when it moves towards the wrong direction.

However, we will ensure that although we protect the Government outwardly, we intend to become the Opposition within the Parliament and severely criticise the wrong moves of the Government. We will ensure that there will be no role for the Opposition to play.

As long as the Government is delivering the goods why should somebody be there to criticise and oppose the Government? We want to have participatory development. I am confident that in the near future the entire nation will join hands with the President to take this nation forward.

Q. Eighty-one new MPs have been elected to the new Parliament. Does

this mean that the people have rejected a large number of former Parliamentarians as they failed to deliver the goods?

A. Moreover, this kind of things happen when there is a change of Government. Most of the losers are from the Opposition. At the previous Parliament, the UNP had 106 members and it came down to one member. Therefore, most of the losers are from their side as well as other parties such as TNA, JVP and the parties which had directly or indirectly been involved with the previous Yahapalana Government. On the other hand, when you look at the new faces, they are young, energetic, educated and have a professional outlook. I think they have brought new colour and shape to the Parliament. I really admire that. As seniors, we are ready to guide and assist them.

Q. The Opposition says whatever the Constitutional amendment to be made should be for the wellbeing of the country and its people and not to realise the narrow political objectives of the Government. Would you like to comment on this?

A. Firstly, they should practise what they preach. They used the entire Government machinery and the legislative process for their narrow political agenda. That is why the people vehemently opposed them and rejected them at the past three elections. If they make such a statement, they should ensure their right in front of a mirror. Whatever the Constitutional amendment, the ultimate objective is to ensure that it would eventually benefit the people.

Q. Some Opposition members criticise the formation of the new Cabinet and the allocation of Ministerial portfolios. Could you explain?

A. That is because of their western mindset. Rather than criticising the ministerial portfolios introduced by our Government, they should have sat and reviewed what happened to them and as to why they had been rejected. Because they were not nationalistic in their mindset and they have not been focused on their action. We have introduced new ministries to really focus on certain issues faced by the poor people of this country. They need special attention. That is why we have introduced such new ministries. This is a novel concept of the President. Unfortunately, the Opposition can't think out-of-the-box. That is why they laugh at these portfolios.

The President is a leader who is reputed to be an out-of-the-box thinker who introduces innovative solutions to the problems.

That is how he defeated the LTTE which had been identified as the most ruthless and most powerful terrorist outfit in the world. Ninety-nine percent of the experts said that the LTTE cannot be defeated so they forced us to go for a negotiated settlement. However, the President as the then Defence Secretary gave the leadership to defeat the LTTE within three years.

When you look at as to how the President coped with the Covid-19 pandemic and solved the waste problem in the Colombo city, he is a person who has innovative solutions for prolonged problems. So, this is another innovative solution.

The Opposition can't think out-of-the-box. That is why they are in the Opposition and we are in power.

Continued on page 12



What can we do for our country?

By
Dr. Thilhan U. Hewage



"Ask not what your country can do for you.....ask what you can do for your country."

John F. Kennedy

This is arguably the most famous statement a leader of a country has ever made to date. Though it was meant for the citizens of the United States of America (USA), conveyed by John F. Kennedy (JFK), the 35th president, during his inaugural address in 1961, any country can certainly improve itself if the citizens of that country are willing and able to live according to that philosophy.

Throughout the history of this country Sri Lankans have clearly shown the world that we are capable of doing that. Fortunately, this noble quality of our citizens has always surfaced when there was a threat to national security by any type of aggression, foreign or

domestic, against the sovereignty of the nation. The most recent example is the selfless volunteerism of our young men and women, lining up to join the Security Forces to defend the unity of the country against the divisive terrorism of the LTTE.

It is also important to recognise that there may have been some youngsters who felt they were putting the country before self when they joined the LTTE. The problem was that the country they were dreaming of was not the whole of Sri Lanka. Not only members of the Security Forces and their families, but the political leadership, those who contributed through other supporting services including the people who rushed to blood banks every time there was a call, were all thinking what they could do for the country at that time. Unfortunately, those are probably the only occasions when this noble quality of putting the country before self have been displayed.

When JFK made that statement, he was not referring to only national security but a general concept to live by. If we can adhere to this concept always, during war time as well as peace time,

thinking first what we can do for the country, we will certainly be able to see a highly developed Sri Lanka in a very short period of time. If we assumed that, just for a moment perhaps as a fantasy, at least, all or most of our citizens are capable of putting the country first, then most of our politicians and government officials will be coming from that group. That would certainly minimise corruption since such people will not even think of misappropriating public money and other resources for any personal gain.

Their decisions will not be based on the size of the commission or the gifts they get when they approve government contracts but on the benefits to the country. Farmers will not use harmful chemicals to protect their crop because they know that it is their own countrymen who are going to be ill by eating them.

Owners and administrators of industries will not pollute the waterways and airways as they will put the health of the citizens of the country before their bottom-line. Some might think that this sounds too good to be true. It can happen only in our dreams or

that there is no country on this planet with citizens like that. Well, perhaps there is no country that has achieved all these to the fullest. But, there certainly are countries that have achieved such measures to a much greater extent than we have and that is why most of our citizens are trying to go and live in such countries.

If one doesn't want to put one's own country first and thinks that one would be better off in a different country, it would be hard to imagine that such a person would consider serving that second country before he serves his own self interests.

That is one of the reasons why some of those countries with higher living standards and liberal immigration policies have started to cut down on their immigrant intake and are tightening their borders. Most of these countries with higher living standards, better education and healthcare systems, with citizens who do not hesitate to ask what they can do for their country, have governing systems that can be described as 'Social Democracies'. Sri Lanka, which used to be known as 'Ceylon', declared that the name of the

country will be 'Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka' after it became totally independent from the colonisers of the West in 1972.

That attempt of establishing a social democracy was ignored by the government that came to power after the elections of 1977, and the Constitution was re-written in 1978 since the government had the mandate to do it and the rest, as they say, is history. Therefore, our system of government after 1978 does not seem to be living up to the expectations one would build by looking at the official name of the country, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

If we try to find why a majority of Sri Lankan citizens are reluctant to ask what they can do for their country before they ask what the country can do for them, we may see that their selfishness is the most compelling reason. This would even be better explained if we label it, 'shortsighted selfishness.'

These very same people who put themselves before the country would even say that they have to do it because they want to provide a better life for their children. Their children

of course would want their children's lives to be better than others' and so on. If we project this thought of having a better life for children into just four future generations that would at least be about a hundred years from now. If one looks at the acceleration of the rate at which the resources have depleted and the environment destroyed during the last hundred years, it would not be difficult to predict the availability of resources and the condition of the environment a hundred years from now, if we continue to live the selfish lives that we do now. What that means is, if one's selfishness can include his own grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even great-great-grandchildren then it certainly is in one's own self-interest to do everything one can for sustainability of resources and protection of the environment of one's country and of the planet in general, since the smaller unit can survive only if the bigger unit does.

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

FACT-FILE Udaya Prabath Gammanpila

- ▶ **1970:** Born in Nawalapitiya. Son of a retired school principal. Primary education at Ginigathhena and secondary education at D.S. Senanayake College, Colombo. BSc graduate of Monash University, Australia. Founder of the Sri Lanka Association of Monash University. Computer engineer and University lecturer
- ▶ **1994:** Returned to Sri Lanka. Management Trainee in Australia-Lanka Group
- ▶ **1996:** Called to the Bar as an Attorney-at-Law
- ▶ **2000:** Entered politics. Appointed Propaganda Secretary and Spokesperson for Sinhala Urumaya
- ▶ **2004:** Joined Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) along with member of the Sinhala Urumaya. Former Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Agrarian Development, Minor Irrigation and Industries
- ▶ **2007:** Appointed Chairman of the Central Environment Authority
- ▶ **2009:** Western Provincial Council Minister

Source: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

- ▶ **2015:** Played a major role in former President Mahinda Rajapaksa's Presidential election campaign
- ▶ **2015:** Elected to Parliament for the Colombo District
- ▶ **2015 to date:** Leader of Pivithuru Hela Urumaya, affiliated to Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP)
- ▶ **2020:** Re-elected to Parliament from the Colombo district under the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) securing 136,331 preferential votes

- ▶ **August 2020:** Minister of Energy in the new Cabinet of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa



Uplifting of Disrupted Businesses

Ministry of Urban Development and Housing



Urban Development Authority



In keeping with the "Vision of Prosperity" ("Saubhagyaye Dekma") policies, it has been decided to implement the following relief measures for business persons occupying on monthly rental basis in projects of the Urban Development Authority, whose businesses have been disrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 1) Dutch Hospitals at Colombo & Galle, Independence Square Shopping Complex, Race Course Colombo, Gold Center and the Floating Market will have their rentals reduced by 50%, from the month of March up to the month of December, 2020.
- 2) Payment of full monthly rentals will be exempted for commercial projects, for the months of March, April and May, 2020.
- 3) Delaying of charging of due rentals for the months of March, April and May, 2020 for residents of Urban Regeneration Housing Projects.
- 4) Exempting of paying charges for the months of March, April and May, 2020 by private property owners who obtain annual permits on payment for changing of usage.

It is kindly informed that requests to obtain the above relief measures should be submitted soon to the main or district offices on or before **30.09.2020** on payment of the rental arrears standing as on **01.03.2020**.

Director General
Urban Development Authority

BANK OF CEYLON VALUABLE PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Prop No.	Town	Location of the property	Type of property	Extent
342	Ambalantota	Ganga Para, Mamadala, Walawewatta East, Ambalantota.	Bare Land	R2.P20
403	Ruwanwella	The New Clinic, Ruwanwella.	Formerly Sirinima Nursing Home Land and Building	P7.4
417	Mahiyanganaya	"Handaganawayaya" No. 25/6, Randenigala Rd, Handaganawa.	Formerly Sithum Rice Mills Land & Building	A1 R2
431	Ratmalana	No. 30, Wimalasiri Mawatha, Off Maligawa Road, Telawala, Ratmalana.	Formerly Tri Star Apparel Land & Factory Building (Selection of the bidder is subject to court approval)	A1. R2. P32.0
444	Wariyapola	Ambagahamulawatta, Vilakatupotha, Wariyapola.	Formerly Jayalanka Garment, Garment Factory with Machinery	A0. R2. P37.30
447 - III	Awissawella	Manamendra Mawatha, Awissawella.	Formerly DB Exim (Pvt) Ltd Land and Building	A0. R0. P34.0
447-I	Malabe	Mihindu Mawatha, Malabe.	Formerly DB Exim (Pvt) Ltd Land and Building	A0. R0. P 10.0
453	Awissawella	4B, Thummodara Road, Awissawella	Formerly Mackrata Plywood (Pvt) Ltd Land & Factory with Machinery	A1. R2. P39.0
454	Anuradhapura	Land called "Baduwattegoda Idama" situated at Nuwarawewa Village No.07, Mihinthala Rd, Anuradhapura	Formerly Kandy Holiday Resort Land & Building	A0. R2. P12.87
Tri Star E	Galgamuwa	Land called "Wadugamayaya", Weheragodayaya at Paul Andigama, Galgamuwa.	Formerly Jayalanka Garment Land & Factory Building (Selection of the bidder is subject to court approval) (30 years lease hold rights of property from 01.08.1998)	A1. R0. P35.3
Tri Star F	Buttala	Meegahawela, Buttala.	Formerly Tri Star Apparel (99 Years Leasehold Rights of the property from 01.12.1991) Land & Factory Building (Selection of the bidder is subject to court approval)	A2. R2. P33.3
Kamal Cables	Ratmalana	No. 56, Kandawala Mawatha, Ratmalana	Formerly Kamal Cables Land & Building with Machinery	A2. R2. P11.5

Offers are invited from interested parties (only from principals) for the above mentioned properties. Application forms are issued up to 07.09.2020, on a non-refundable payment of Rs. 2,000/- and refundable deposit of Rs.50,000.00 which can be deposited at any Branch of Bank of Ceylon. Duly completed application forms in sealed envelope marked "PROP/05/2020" with the relevant property number, should be addressed to reach the undermentioned before 10.00 a.m. on 08.09.2020 and the bidders are invited to be present at the bids opening which will be held at this office at 10.00 a.m. on 08.09.2020. The Bank reserves the right to accept or decline the bids made by the bidders. For further details, please contact the undersigned during weekdays:
BANK OF CEYLON Bank of Ceylon, Foreclosed Properties Unit
3rd Floor, Head Office, "BOC Square"
No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha
Colombo 01.
Tel: Assistant General Manager - 011-2203410/011-2386080
Chief Manager - 011-2203443/011-2391984/0764851823
Senior Manager - 011-2321170 / 011-2203429 / 076 962 7068
Asst. Manager - 011 220 3470 / 071 841 8898
E-mail: Fax: 011-2446816 / 2389130
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*Please logon to www.boc.lk and visit Properties For Sale under Special Notices



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News Feature



Marking another milestone in Sri Lanka's political history, the first sitting of the ninth Parliament took place on Thursday, August 20 with a focus on the 81 first-time MPs.

The members unanimously elected SLPP Matara district Parliamentarian Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena as the Speaker. His name was proposed by Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and seconded by SJB Parliamentarian Ranjith Madduma Bandara.

Following the swearing-in of the newly elected Members, SLPP Kegalle District MP Ranjith Siyambalapatiya was elected Deputy Speaker while SLFP Jaffna district MP Angajan Ramanathan was elected Deputy Chairman of Committees. A notable feature was that all three were elected unanimously.

The newly elected Speaker was congratulated by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and party leaders such as SLFP leader and former President Maithripala Sirisena, TNA leader R. Sampanthan, Pivithuru Hela Urumaya leader Udaya Gammanpila, EPDP leader Douglas Deva-



'THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PASSED BY THE FORMER YAHAPALANA GOVERNMENT PREVENTED PEOPLE FROM ELECTING A NEW GOVERNMENT AT THE EARLIEST TO REPLACE A REGIME WHICH HAD FAILED THEM'

nanda, NFF leader Wimal Weerawansa, Democratic People's Front leader Mano Ganesan, All Ceylon Makkal Congress leader Rishad Bathudeen, TMVP leader Sivane-sathurei Chandrakanthan and SLMC Leader Rauff Hakeem.

The Premier welcoming the Speaker said, "It is with humble pride that I congratulate you, a person hailing from the South, on your appointment as the Speaker. As an experienced and senior politician you are well versed in parliamentary traditions and the functioning of Provincial Councils as you played many roles including that of Chief Minister. You have also served as a Cabinet Minister over a considerable period."

Congratulating the newly elected Speaker, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said throughout his political career, the Speaker has acted with dignity, integrity and honour. "You have been a true patriot, you are not a pseudo nationalist, and neither are you a modern day racist. Therefore, we on this side of the political divide are extremely honoured to have you as our Speaker. Premadasa said a democratically elected Parliament is the epitome of a functioning democracy. It is incumbent upon all of us to protect and promote a vibrant democracy."

First time MPs

A notable feature is that the ninth Parliament is represented by 81 first time MPs. There are only 25 MPs aged between 25-40. Minister Jeewan Thondaman is the youngest MP as well as the youngest Minister. The number of political parties being represented in Parliament has increased from six to 15. At the recent General Election, the SLPP secured a landslide win with 145 seats.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrived for the first sitting of Parliament at 3 p.m. Delivering his Policy Statement, President Rajapaksa said abolishing the 19th Amendment and enacting a new Constitution will be the first priority of the Government as it embarks on the next five years of governance.

President Rajapaksa said the people had given the Government a resounding mandate for effecting constitutional changes that will aid the country's forward march. The President said, "An unstable Parliament that cannot take firm decisions and succumbs to extremist influences very often, is not suitable for a country. While introducing a new Constitution, it is essential to make changes to the current electoral system. While retaining the salutary aspects of the proportional representation system, these changes will ensure the stability of Parliament and people's direct representation."

In his 20-minute policy statement the President said, "I love my country. I am proud of my country. I have a vision for my country. Our ardent desire is to build a prosperous nation with productive citizens, contented families and a righteous society. What we have done so far and the plans we propose to implement in the future will be aimed at achieving this objective."

He said the historic mandate received by the SLPP had proved that the people were impressed with the way the party had governed the country during the past nine months despite various obstacles.

"This is the motherland for all of us. Hence, the time has come for all of us to join hands for the sake of the country irrespective of race, religion or party differences. The people have given the government a massive mandate. We have been given the responsibility to take the country towards prosperity while safeguarding the people and protecting the sovereignty of the country without succumbing to any force," the President said.

The UNP which is the oldest political party in the country was not



RANIL OUT

to remain UNP leader



University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

IT IS SPECULATED THAT UNP LEADER RANIL WICKREMESINGHE WILL EVENTUALLY BE THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE UNP TO REPRESENT THE NEW PARLIAMENT. THE UNP LEADER IS PREPARING TO RESORT TO HIS USUAL TACTICS TO CONTINUE TO REMAIN THE LEADER AND RETAIN THE NATIONAL LIST SLOT

represented at Thursday's maiden session of Parliament as their sole National List MP seat remains vacant. This is the first time the UNP is not being represented in Parliament since the party was founded in 1947.

In the humiliating defeat at the August 5 General Election, the UNP failed to secure even one seat through the votes received. Since Independence in 1948, the UNP earned its glory in the Chambers, either as a ruling party or as the largest Opposition one could witness in the political arena. However, the phenomenal change in the legislature was evident on Thursday without the presence of a single member of the UNP.

The new Parliament opened its first session after a six-month break following its dissolution in March with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Parliament convened with 223 members, leaving two vacant as the UNP and the Ape Jana Bala Party had not yet filled their National List slots.

By boat

Arriving at the parliamentary complex by boat, newly elected SLPP Colombo District Parliamentarian Madhura Vithanage said that it was a practical mode of transport as the Parliament was situated in the middle of a lake. He said that he had chosen to ride to Parliament in a boat to avoid traffic congestion.

Vithanage said that the President had initiated the boat service as an alternative to reduce traffic congestion, but lamented that people were not making use of it. He said he was planning to promote the boat service, which was a viable alternative to road transport and would help ease congestion on the roads.

The Party leaders who convened on Thursday under the chairmanship of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena decided to hold Parliament sittings on Friday, August 21 where Government Policy Statement was taken up for debate.

The motion moved by SLPP

ish the 19th Amendment and draft the 20th Amendment to the Constitution.

A five-member Committee has been appointed to draft the proposed Constitutional Amendment. The Committee consists of Justice Minister Ali Sabry PC and includes Ministers Nimal Siripala de Silva, Udaya Gammanpila, Prof. G.L. Peiris and Dinesh Gunawardena.

The 20th Amendment to the Constitution will be drafted and presented to the Cabinet of Ministers before being tabled in Parliament for approval. Earlier, senior Government lawmakers said that the proposed amendment will include clauses from the 18th and 19th Amendments and several fresh clauses.

SLPP National Organiser Basil Rajapaksa had also told the media that the proposed Constitutional Amendment will not extend the presidential term or increase the number of times a President can contest for office. Meanwhile, newly appointed Justice Minister Ali Sabry PC had said that the proposed amendments will not be harmful or unfair to any citizen.

Joining the debate on the Government's Policy Statement, Leader of the House Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said. The Minister said the 19th Amendment had delayed a General Election being held after the 19th Amendment to the Constitution passed by the former Yahapalana Government prevented people from electing a new Government at the earliest to replace a regime which had failed them for four and half years and it was against the will of the people.

Ironic

Minister Gunawardena said that it was introduced by the Yahapalana Government led by the UNP to suppress the sovereignty and the freedom of the people. However, it was ironic that UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe who pioneered the move was not elected to Parliament.

SJB Parliamentarian Manusha Nanayakkara demanded that Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena to remove parts of a speech made by former Northern Province Chief Minister and TMK MP C.V. Vigneswaran, from the Hansard.

He accused Vigneswaran of expressing an opinion which could harm Sri Lanka's sovereignty. He said that Vigneswaran took a pledge when entering Parliament to protect Sri Lanka's sovereignty yet made comments which promoted the division of the country.

Vigneswaran in his maiden speech as a Member of Parliament congratulating the newly elected Speaker demanded the recognition of Tamil rights. He said that the people living in the North and the East have a right to self-determination and also noted that every act will have an opposite reaction. He repeated the words in Sinhalese saying "kala kala deh pala pala de" drawing a few reactions from the House. The Speaker responded saying that he will look into the matter.

Joining the debate on the Policy Statement, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said the Government has to explain the people as to how it would implement the programs in the Policy Statement presented to Parliament on August 20. He said that the Policy Statement has commendable moves but they



are difficult to implement adding that the country is facing a high inflation rate at present.

The Opposition Leader said it is estimated that the inflation rate would reach 20 or 22 percent in the next two years, which will be an economic catastrophe and Inland Revenue has dropped to 8 percent from 13 percent. He said the Government lost a tax revenue of Rs. 600 billion due to the reduction in tax rates. The economic development rate has dropped to minus figures during the first quarter of this year. How the Government can achieve development goals with this minus development rate, he asked.

There are media speculations quoting SLFP General Secretary and State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera that discussions are underway on vesting former President and SLFP Leader Maithripala Sirisena with Government titles and this will probably take place after the 20th Amendment to Constitution is passed in Parliament.

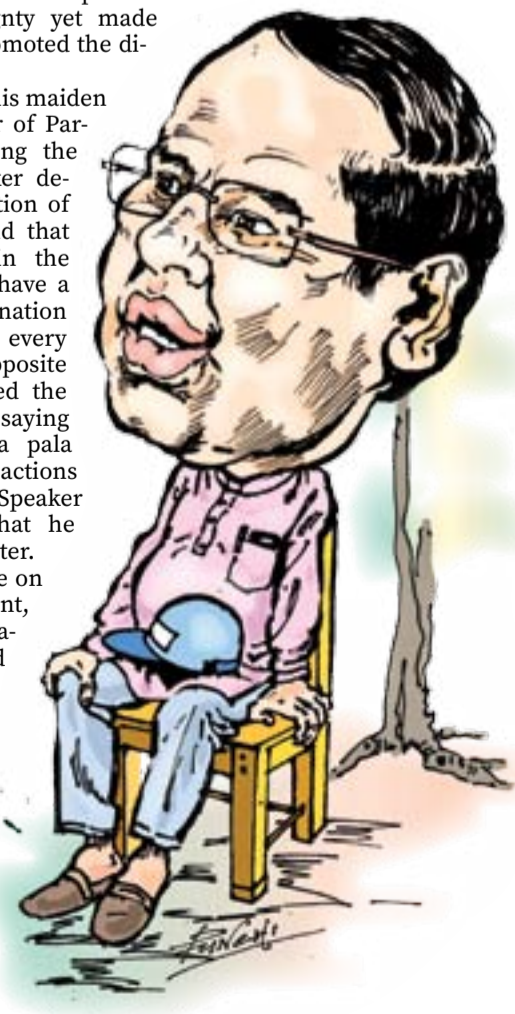
He told reporters in Parliament said that a framework has been discussed in this regard, and is currently in progress.

Monkey issue

Participating in the debate on the Government's Policy Statement, former President Maithripala Sirisena said that farmers were confronted with a serious problem where their crops are being destroyed by animals, particularly monkeys.

He said that the monkey population has increased phenomenally and has become a serious problem in the country. In response to former President Sirisena's claims that monkeys are destroying coconut trees, SJB Gampaha district MP Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka said that Sirisena's assumptions were far from the truth.

Fonseka said, "It is wrong to assume that monkeys have nothing else to do but to engage in a campaign to destroy coconut trees. According to the former President, monkeys eat only coconuts and are thus destroying all the coconut trees. That is far from the truth. Monkeys destroy other crops too. It is ironic that former President Sirisena has chosen to disregard all other burning issues in this country and is fixated only on monkeys," Field Marshal Fonseka said.



Explained: Who is Donald Harris, the economist father of Kamala Harris?

Last week, US Democratic nominee Joe Biden announced Senator Kamala Harris, who is the first Asian American and first Black woman in American history on a major party ticket, as his vice-presidential pick, and a potential White House successor.

While accepting her nomination Wednesday night, Harris, who is the daughter of immigrant parents, spoke about her mother as someone "whose shoulders I stand on". Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, came from India when she was 19 and went on to become a breast cancer researcher, and her father, Donald J. Harris, is a Jamaican-born economics professor.

Harris also mentioned her parents' divorce. "When I was five, my parents split and my mother raised us mostly on her own" to become "strong Black women. And she raised us to know and be proud of our Indian heritage".

In her speech, Harris' mention of her father was limited to establishing how her mother met him at the University of California, Berkeley in the early 1960s. Who is Kamala Harris' father?

Jamaican-born Donald Harris arrived in the US in 1961 to pursue a graduate degree at University of California (Berkeley) and went on to become a professor of economics at Stanford University. He joined the Stanford faculty in 1972 and was a leader in developing the new programme in Alternative Approaches to Economic Analysis as a field of graduate study. He also taught a popular undergraduate course "Theory of Capitalist Development" for many years at the university.



He retired from Stanford in 1998 to pursue his goal of developing public policies to promote economic growth and advance social equity.

Harris also served as economic consultant to the Government of Jamaica in early 2000s and as an economic adviser to successive prime ministers.

According to The New York Times, Harris' work "questioned orthodox assumptions about growth — for instance that lower wages would increase employment rates, or that lower interest rates always result in increased investment".

After a radio interview Harris gave last year, she made headlines when she admitted that she smoked marijuana in college, "Half my family's from Jamaica. Are you kidding me?" she said.

The comment did not go down well with her father who wrote a letter to a Jamaican site, which was later taken down. "Speaking for myself and my immediate Jamaican fam-

ily, we wish to categorically dissociate ourselves from this travesty," he said in the letter.

In an essay her father wrote for Jamaica Global in 2018, titled "Reflections of a Jamaican Father", he spoke of his "grassroots Jamaican philosophy" and expressed "regret" that his daughters "did not come to know very well the two most influential women in my life" who strongly influenced him. He acknowledged that his paternal grandmother sparked his interest in economics "simply by my observing and listening to her in her daily routine".

He also said that his last name comes from his paternal grandfather Joseph Alexander Harris who was a land-owner and an agricultural exporter who died in 1939, a year before he was born. He also described his elder daughter (Kamala Harris) as "ever the adventurous and assertive one".

"This early phase of interaction with my children came to an abrupt halt in 1972..." he wrote "...based on the false assumption by the State of California that fathers cannot handle parenting (especially in the case of this father, "a neegee from da eyelans" was the Yankee stereotype, who might just end up eating his children for breakfast!)"

In Kamala Harris' book published in 2019, titled The Truths We Hold, she mentions her father as someone who "wanted me to run free" and maintains that even after her parents' separation her father remained a part of their lives. "We would see him on weekends and spend summers with him in Palo Alto."

(source- The Indian Express)

SL-born Canadian faces human smuggling charges in US

A Canadian man is facing human smuggling charges in the United States after serving a prison sentence in the Turks and Caicos Islands for what authorities there have said may be the most complex criminal case in that country's history.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) said on Tuesday that Srikajamukan Chelliah, a Sri Lanka-born Canadian citizen, was flown to the U.S. on Monday following an extradition request from the American government. Chelliah was arrested in October 2019 when authorities in the Turks and Caicos came upon a sailboat that had entered their waters from Haiti.

The boat was carrying 158 passengers, including 28 Sri Lankans and one Indian

who the RT&CIPF says were being smuggled. Chelliah was on the boat too, and soon found himself facing charges of illegal entry and assisting illegal entry.

He pleaded guilty to these offences in June and was sentenced to 14 months in prison. Trevor Botting, the commissioner of the RT&CIPF, said in a statement that the investigation into Chelliah and the others on the sailboat "was one of, if not the, largest and most complex criminal investigations ever undertaken" by the agency, also resulting in arrests in Canada, the U.S. and Sri Lanka.

With credit for time already spent in custody, Chelliah's sentence ended not long after his guilty plea, and he was expected

to be deported to Canada. That changed in late July, when American authorities requested his extradition to face charges there.

The U.S. Justice Department said Wednesday that it believes Chelliah was planning to take "numerous Sri Lankan aliens" from Turks and Caicos to Canada, via the Bahamas and the U.S., in exchange for money. Chelliah, a 55-year-old man who also goes by the name Mohan, will now face charges in Florida including conspiracy to bring aliens to the U.S. and encouraging and inducing aliens to enter the U.S. for financial gain.

He was previously convicted of human smuggling offences in the U.S.

Source: CTVNews

MIGRATE TO AUSTRALIA

(Age limit is 45)



Contact:
Senior Consultant
Mrs. U.S. Pathirage
Department of
Home Affairs Off Shore
Agent ID No: 3001304

FOR LATEST AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION NEWS UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT

CDC FB Page : Migration Agents in Sri Lanka
CDC Web : www.cdclanka.lk (News/GSM Visa News)

- 👉 The Government of South Australia will publish their state nomination plan on 27th August 2020 and from 31st August they will commence reviewing EOIs and sending invitations to submit an online application.
- 👉 Other States and Territories are waiting for the Federal Budget delivery on 6th October 2020 to plan the new migration quota for the 2020-21 program year.
- 👉 Australia's travel restrictions will be lifted, initially for overseas students and then for Migrants
- 👉 It will allow temporary and permanent migrants to return to Australia and however, all incoming travellers are still required to undergo two-week mandatory quarantine
- 👉 Once the travel restrictions are lifted, the processing of permanent resident applications will be resumed soon,

WHAT YOU CAN DO WHILE WAITING FOR THE STATE MIGRATION PLANS TO BE OPENED ?

- 👉 Completing the English Test
- 👉 Completing the Credentialed Community Language Test
- 👉 Finalizing the Skills Assessment
- 👉 Claiming Partner's skills (IELTS and the Skills assessment)
- 👉 Prepare your documents for all the next 4 levels.

INTERVIEWS WILL BE STARTED FOR THE BELOW OCCUPATIONS

- 👉 Farm Managers (Mixed crop/Vegetable/Poultry/Mixed crop and livestock, Any/)
- 👉 Business Managers /Hoteliers
- 👉 Hospital Superintendents (MBBS) /MOH (MBBS)
- 👉 Statisticians
- 👉 Service Managers from Disability service organizations/ Army rehabilitation/Elderly homes/Children's homes)
- 👉 Production and QA managers
- 👉 Engineers (Any Group)
- 👉 Building Construction Managers and QS s
- 👉 IT professionals (Any)

"Many more occupations"

Once you commence your process with CDC, you will experience the merit of dealing with an organization that has over 20 years of combined industry experience.

Please Call Ms. Ayodhya on 0112 823000 or 0112 823111 and make appointments for video call interviews
The appointment schedule is as below:

Interviews - Weekdays :10.30 am - 5.00 pm | Saturdays : 10.30 am - 2.30 pm

Career Development Centre (Pvt) Ltd. & Apex, IELTS & English Training Centre
3rd Floor, # 502, Sausiri Building, Nugegoda (Bo Tree Junction). Tel: 0112823000, 0112823111 Fax: 0112823111
Web: www.cdclanka.lk

Investment Opportunity in Tourism

Ministry of Tourism
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

Lease of Land for Tourism Development

The tourism industry is one of the world's largest industries with a global economic contribution of over 1478 Billion US Dollars in 2019. The worldwide international tourist arrivals increased by 3.8% with 1461 Million tourists in 2019. Sri Lanka received 1.9 million international visits to the Island in 2019 and the potential for tourism development is increasing in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) is the national tourism organization responsible for tourism development in the Island. SLTDA was vested with crown land to lease to public for tourism product development. The "Awanhala" land in Warahena, Bentota is also one of the land proposed for tourism development. SLTDA wishes to invite proposals from potential investors to develop the "Awanhala" Land as a tourist recreational area with quality restaurant.

The land with the extent of 0A-2R-2.07P to be developed with a quality seafood restaurant and consists of facilities for children's play area, visitor's waiting / seating area and public toilets. The maximum height permitted for the building from the natural ground level shall not exceed 10m (Ground + 1) including roof, overhead water tank, etc.

Initially, land is leased for period of ten (10) years with the provision for renewal of lease. The annual lease will be 4% of the total land value which will be obtain from the valuation department. The renewal process will be decided with the viability of the business and land use for purpose of lease.

The proposal evaluation criteria are as follows:

1. Creativity in comparison to similar high-class products.
2. Uniqueness of the concept targeting middle and high-end visitor market.
3. Business proposal with the amount of investment.
4. Financial creditability of the tourism sector.
5. Past experience in the tourism sector.
6. Compatibility with the environment.
7. Sustainability of the product with the use of renewable energy and recycling of water, etc.

SLTDA invites all local or international investors to submit concept proposals for the initial evaluation. The selected investor is requested to submit detailed project proposal.

Sealed proposals with a duplicate copy may be dispatched either by Registered Post or hand delivered to the below address on or before 2.00 pm on 15th September 2020. The bids will be opened at the procurement division (4th floor)/SLTDA soon after closing in the presence of the bidders. Please note that "An employee or a firm and/or individual has a close business or family relationship with an employee of the Ministry of Tourism / SLTDA, and other institution under the control of Ministry shall not be eligible for award. It should be written as "Awanhala Restaurant / Bentota" at the left-hand corner of the envelop. Please be noted that the Department Procurement Committee decision will be the final decision.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Asst. Director / Resort Management of SLTDA on 011 234 8887 / 011 242 6800 - Ext. 409 during normal working hours.

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
No. 80, Galle Road, Colombo 03.



SUNDAY OBSERVER

A new era of Governance

In a landmark speech delivered in Parliament on Thursday at its inaugural session, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa outlined several goals, benchmarks and pillars that would form the basis of his governance over the next five years.

The first task at hand, according to the President, is the formulation of a new Constitution that can reflect and take on present challenges. This would be preceded by the removal of the 19th Amendment, which even its founders and architects have criticised. The 19th Amendment makes a mockery of the office of the President, leaving him or her virtually powerless to take any decision regarding the affairs of the State. However, from what we have heard, the Government does intend to keep some features of this Amendment as well as legislation such as the Right to Information (RTI), which should be appreciated by all.

It is also expected that the new Constitution will have even stronger safeguards for protecting National Security and the country's sovereignty. Having lived in peace for 10 years, the Easter attacks gave the entire nation a jolt that neglecting national security even for a second could be catastrophic in this age of transnational terrorism. Obviously, the President's strong stand against narcotics, child abuse, underworld and organised crime and other such vices will herald the introduction of tough new laws.

As the President correctly said, it is imperative to effect changes to the present Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system. It does have certain good points such as giving an opportunity for minority representation, but its negatives far outweigh the benefits. Candidates have to campaign throughout an entire district, leading to massive expenses and intra-party rivalries and even free-for-alls. The toxic atmosphere on the campaign trail leaves many potential professional candidates, especially women, out in the cold. Thus the contemplated new Constitution should incorporate elements of an electoral system that combines the best features of both PR and the earlier First-Past-the-Post system to give both parties and candidates a fair chance.

The next plank of the Presidential speech was the fight against fraud and corruption, the bane of administration and governance in this country. The President was adamant that he would not try to save anyone from the Government or outside of it who is found guilty of acts of corruption. This will be good news for all those who decry the undercurrent of corruption in many State institutions.

An even bigger challenge awaits the Government and the President in the form of a moribund economy, battered by the Coronavirus pandemic that forced a four-month curfew. Reviving this economy will be no easy task, but the President spoke of the importance of giving pride of place to local industries and exports as we move away from the import-driven model that has been followed for almost seven decades. There is no doubt that Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will rise to this challenge along with State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal and other officials.

Talking of officials, gone is the usual method of appointing unqualified persons solely on political patronage. In his speech, the President pointed out that all appointments will henceforth be made on merit basis by a competent panel.

Be it officials or Ministers, they will not be able to escape the President's watchful eye. The President noted in his policy statement that there will be no room for shirkers in his administration. All Ministers and State Ministers have to present a concrete plan for the next several years, which the President will closely monitor. The President has told in no uncertain terms that he would not hesitate to take action against Ministers, State Ministers and officials who shirk their responsibilities.

This is indeed a welcome change from the normal status quo in the past where the Ministers were left to their own devices in plush air-conditioned rooms after being appointed. They will have to be on-site handling their programs and projects, a far cry from the days when some Ministers and MPs did not even visit their own electorates after being elected. Now they will have to be accountable to Parliament and the people, under the President's guidance.

As outlined in the President's speech, health and education will be important pivots in the new administration. Sri Lanka was able to contain the Coronavirus pandemic to this extent thanks to the free healthcare service which was ably supported by the Tri Forces and the Police. But there still are many shortcomings in the health service. For example, many rural hospitals can be improved and upgraded so that villagers do not have to rush to a major hospital 20-30 Km away in an emergency. The same goes for rural schools, which lack teachers and many other facilities. Ideally, the mad rush for Grade One admissions for so-called 'popular schools' can be avoided if all schools islandwide are upgraded.

The President made one more important point - that many simple problems faced by the people have not been addressed for the past 72 years, from the drinking water shortage to the human-elephant conflict. This is a telling indictment on how matters have been handled up to now. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, with his combination of military discipline and administrative efficiency will no doubt make an effort to address these problems as soon as possible. All those in the Government and the Opposition as well as the public must support him and the Prime Minister in this noble endeavour with no conditions attached in the interest of our great nation.

What's raging is not the pandemic, but the recovery

by
Rajpal Abeynayake



Why should there be great prospects for an economy, when the general circumstances are extremely bad, and there are job losses and a huge negative disruption of markets - such as what obtains now during the pandemic?

Positive economic prospects seem virtually impossible in times of a raging worldwide calamity such as the spread of Covid-19. But long term economic prospects from the current downturn in this country, look better in contrast to the economy that prevailed in 'normal times' during the last regime.

It's because most economics is about 'perception'. The US Ambassador here in Colombo Ms. Alaina Teplitz said that the election results in Sri Lanka show that as far as the previous administration is concerned, people did not like what they saw. She should be thanked for her frank but accurate appraisal of the former regime. The US can and has been a great friend of this country, and there is no need to take everything that comes out of the mouths of US diplomats as disingenuous, or consider the U.S as an inimical force. Ms. Teplitz signals in no uncertain terms that the United States of America is our sincere friend.

It's the overall positive vibes that have come out of the Gotabaya administration that hold exciting prospects for the economy, when we are gradually sliding back to normalcy from the depths of a vicious downturn.

RETURNING

Many Democrats in the US will certainly take issue with me for stating this, but the same prognosis seems to be true in certain ways for the US. The Nasdaq is rising and there are signs that on the rebound, the US economy will be stronger than ever. The country may be reeling from the impact of Covid-19, but there is positivity when job numbers are rising fast and people, despite everything, are returning to work.

Positive messaging in Sri Lanka is not necessarily flowing from the two thirds-majority even though that and the brand new government helps. It's because there is foremost, a certain image of policy cohesiveness.

The previous regime was all over the place, and that's putting things mildly. When the Volkswagen Management denies the announcement that the car manufacturers' much heralded plant here is a figment of some Minister's imagination, the message is that the government is bungling.

The positive signalling comes these days from the fact that the government is intent on getting things done, and has relegated the promotional pizzazz to second place. The previous regime telegraphed everything they said they



But emerging from the pits of the Covid-19 havoc, this Government got its messaging right. There is also the tendency to stick to policy. Even State institutions are sticking to staggered shifts and Covid-19 work from home policies, with Ministers not working at cross purposes with each other

were going to do, but the accomplishments woefully did not match the messaging. The Volkswagen factory fiasco was one example. The google-loon debacle spearheaded by Harin Fernando was another.

FLAPPING

But emerging from the pits of the Covid-19 havoc, this Government got its messaging right. There is also the tendency to stick to policy. Even State institutions are sticking to staggered shifts and Covid-19 work from home policies, with Ministers not working at cross purposes with each other. It's a take charge vibe.

This resonates, and contrasts sharply with the general tack of the previous regime which was to interrupt everything it undertook with a side serving of comedy. Volkswagen and google loon comedy aside, there was the ex Prime Minister flapping his arms about in the well of the House and leading cheers of *kaudahoraa* to a chorus of prep school like shrieks from his benches.

This kind of slapstick pulled the rug from under the feet of the planners, and the thing about the planning was that such planning always ended up telegraphing another follow-up plan, and so, there were plans unfolding on an endless loop.

Who was responsible for this messaging pantomime? The answer is nobody and everybody in that government. The positivity of today's regime comes from the fact that it's willing to

try out small things at scale - while getting the macro-economics right simultaneously.

Coming out of the pandemic, the Government did not - repeat did not - take former Finance Minister Samaraweera's advice to starve the economy of money until the reserves are shored up, and there is a bulging kitty, nationally speaking. Instead, all incentives were given for people to borrow at low interest, and start, or rather re-start small.

But 'small' was taken seriously because 'big' was out of the question. Markets for exports had all but vanished. But small markets were emerging for enterprise within the country. It's why the State Ministries became so subject specific, and there were slots dedicated in the gazetted State Ministries for batik, and clay based products.

This led to a good deal of mockery from the current Opposition benches but unbeknownst to them the Government was working to a plan coming out of a vicious downturn, and those were the positive vibes exactly, that are now cranking the economy onto an upward spiral, even in the midst of a serious crisis in global markets.

Extraneous factors also matter, and have added to the positive vibes and the perception surge. Ranking perhaps close to the number one spot in positive perception messaging is the fact that the law and order situation is finally coming under control. The drugs and the prisons-usurpation menace by underworld elements has been confronted head on, but also there is a

no nonsense attitude about other law and order breaches such as extortion gangs operating with impunity, and other brittle points that were never addressed by the previous regime in any meaningful way.

BUMBLING INTERVIEW

Anybody asking what these have got to do with positive economic numbers simply does not know what they are talking about. Positive perceptions start at the top, right at the apex, of resurgent economic activity. Everything follows from positive perceptions, rather than vice versa. The economic blueprints don't usually lead to positive perceptions, it's the other way around - positive perceptions lead to a great economy, that then has to be planned and managed.

All this is not to say that economic recovery will be instant. That would be impossible under post-pandemic conditions of a colossal global slump. But the positive perceptions seem on the one hand to propel the country towards economic survival based upon a largely internal economy of local produce for local consumers. On the other hand a full recovery eventually that is better than what was there before it, seems on the cards.

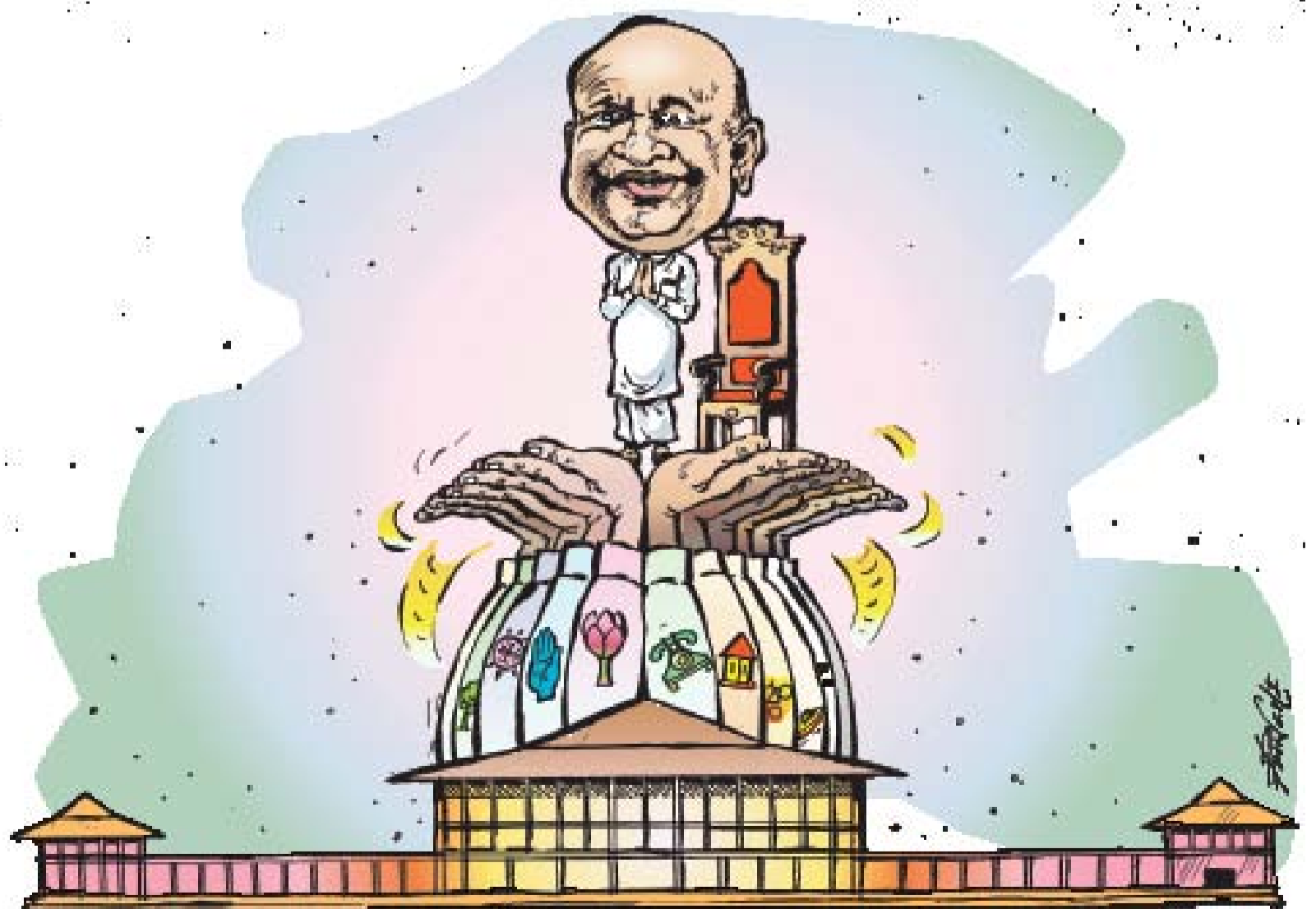
Diehard SLPP and Rajapaksa critiques such as former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga have tried to spin the SLPP victory as being largely due to an Opposition that was divided, rather than the merits of the SLPP per se. But then in a bumbling interview she contradicts herself and says that in such a climate of divided Opposition loyalties, a strong politician such as Mahinda Rajapaksa was able to engineer a two-thirds win.

If she reckons Mahinda Rajapaksa is formidable, he is formidable, and there is no such thing as 'he is formidable, but'. His party's two-thirds win cannot be explained by saying that the Opposition was weak except to the extent of saying that the Opposition was weak precisely because the Rajapaksa led SLPP was so strong.

That strength forced the UNP to split into a breakaway faction and if the SLPP was not strong as it was, the UNP would have contested under Ranil Wickremesinghe's leadership and been done with it.

But the SLPP was powered to a two-thirds largely by the way the economy was handled and the way the pandemic was controlled. Nothing succeeds like success, and from thereon the positive perceptions have grown exponentially almost. It's in this context that those such as Harsha de Silva who talked of negative growth in March and the lockdown months will have a lot of egg on their faces when the economy begins to grow as the global markets improve after the pandemic tamps down worldwide sometime next year.

But the positive perceptions have required a great deal of hard and focussed work on the part of the planners, and the Government's team. Workaholic dedication to the cause has worked.



Future generation, our most valuable resource

- PRESIDENT

POLICY STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT

Steps will be taken to make our motherland a safe country free of terrorism, extremism, underworld activities, theft and robbery, extortionists, the drug menace, disruptions of public order, and the abuse of women and children. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa told the inaugural session of the ninth Parliament on Thursday.

Excerpts:

I have this opportunity to address you as the Head of State of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka consequent to the historic victory granted to me by the people of this country on November 16. Hon. Speaker, I now take this opportunity to table the 'Visions of Prosperity and Splendour' Policy Statement.

The people of this country gave me a clear mandate at the Presidential election on November 16, 2019. That mandate was granted because of the trust the people had in me. I, together with my Government, stand committed to honour the trust of the people and implement the program of developing a prosperous nation that we promised to them.

We must always respect the aspirations of the majority of the people. It is only then that the sovereignty of the people will be safeguarded.

In accordance with the Constitution, I pledge that during my term of office, I will always defend the unitary status of the country, and protect and nurture the Buddha Sasana while safeguarding the right of all citizens to practise a religion of their choice. To develop the country, the right vision and plans are needed.

The Policy Statement, 'Visions of Prosperity and Splendour', placed before the people at the Presidential Election by me contains a national program crafted during a period of nearly four years by incorporating my vision with the ideas and recommendations of national organisations such as *Viyathmaga*, the findings of the 'Conversation with the Village' program conducted by the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, the discussions held with other political parties, and the ideas contributed by the public.

In accordance with that program, we have already taken several steps including the easing of taxes that were unduly burdening the public, introducing a high degree of transparency and efficiency to government administration, and curtailing unnecessary government expenditure.

In our policy, National Security occupies foremost place.

We have already taken steps to strengthen the national security apparatus. Talented officers have been given appropriate responsibilities again. We have taken steps to ensure proper

coordination between the Security Forces and the Police, who are collectively responsible for maintaining national security. The network of national intelligence agencies has been reorganised and strengthened.

We will take all necessary steps to make our motherland a safe country free of terrorism, extremism, underworld activities, theft and robbery, extortionists, the drug menace, disruptions of public order, and the abuse of women and children. We need everyone's support for our efforts to reduce the cost of living of the people. The corporate sector must ensure that some percentage of the benefits of the tax concessions recently provided to them is passed onto the public. Accordingly, we expect a reduction in the price of all goods and services on which taxes have been reduced.

We have made plans to find employment opportunities for 100,000 young men and women from low income families within the next month.

Ours is a country with an ancient history, and a society nurtured by Buddhist teachings and the teachings of other world faiths. We must always safeguard our culture and our values.

We have introduced a people-centric economic policy through the 'Visions of Prosperity and Splendour' manifesto.

Its main aims are to ensure economic stability for all citizens, provide equal opportunities to all who seek to improve themselves, establish a clean and efficient state sector committed to public service, and protect and empower local entrepreneurs.

We must also implement a special program to combat corruption and fraud. Legal action must be taken promptly against all who engage in corrupt practices, irrespective of their status.

We will pay special attention to increasing the use of technology in government institutions. During the period from 2005 to 2014, the Government of President Mahinda Rajapaksa planned to develop Sri Lanka as the commercial hub of South Asia.

The Mattala Airport was built adjacent to the Hambantota Port with the aim of establishing an industrial city in the south.

The decision to develop the Colombo Port City was taken with the aim of making Sri Lanka a hub for finance and commerce in Asia. We must



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

carry forward these projects that were designed to achieve long term objectives.

Urbanisation brings both good and bad results to a country. We need a restructuring program to ensure that the benefits of development reach every region of the country.

This will reduce congestion, pollution and the cost of living. People throughout Sri Lanka should have access to education and healthcare, and opportunities for employment, within their own area. The development of the roads and rail network together with the provision of high-speed internet and telecommunication facilities throughout the country is essential for this.

We need short-term and long-term solutions to generate power at a reasonable price. As long term solutions, our principle is to pay special attention to the use of eco-friendly renewable energy sources such as solar,

wind and hydro-power. We should establish a world class marketplace in which gems from not only Sri Lanka but even from African nations can be sold after value addition.

We should provide new technological facilities for conducting oceanic and geological surveys, and special incentives to encourage investments in industries that will provide value addition to Sri Lanka's mineral resources.

We need to increase earnings from agricultural produce such as spices, fruits, vegetables, grains, meat and fish, for which there is export potential.

One third of the country's population is engaged in agriculture, plantation industries and the fisheries sector. We must raise their standard of living.

There is a need for new technology-based approaches that can develop these industries beyond traditional farming methods. Encouraging the production of food free of pesticides

and chemicals, by increasing the use of organic fertilizer for agriculture is part of our policy. We must prepare plans to encourage Sri Lanka's entire agriculture sector to use only organic fertilizer within the next decade. Increasing domestic production of organic fertilizer should be included in these plans.

The problems that had been caused to growers of export-oriented crops through the allowing of unlimited re-exports were addressed by the new Government soon after its assumption of office. Instructions have already been issued to completely stop the re-export of agricultural products.

More attention has to be paid to the ocean economy. We will introduce a systematic program to improve the fisheries sector through the introduction of new technologies and equipment. Existing harbours will be improved and new harbours developed to cater to the requirements of multi day vessels that engage in deep water fishing.

Introducing new technologies to further develop the inland fisheries sector is also part of our plan. Protecting the natural environment for the future generations is our fundamental responsibility. We will pay special attention to environmental protection in the formulation and implementation of government policies.

We hope to make Sri Lanka one of the world's leading nations in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Our most valuable resource as a nation is our future generation. As such, we have identified the development of our human capital as one of the primary responsibilities of the government.

We have to pay special attention to ensure that the future generation will become productive citizens by nurturing them with the required knowledge, skills and abilities. The opportunities of young people to pursue higher education and technical education should be broadened.

The infrastructure facilities needed for this must be developed within a short time frame. The number of students entering tertiary education can be increased through more effective utilisation of the capacities of state universities and other higher educational institutions.

Some of the courses taught in universities today are not in consonance with market requirements. In the near future, we intend to introduce short-term courses to equip university students to meet the needs of the modern job market, which they can opt to attend while pursuing their current courses of study. Universities and

other higher education institutions should be given more freedom in the enrolment of students and in the restructuring of their syllabi to meet the needs of the marketplace.

Institutions that currently teach diploma level programs must be gradually enhanced to the level of degree awarding institutions. As a preliminary step, we look forward to upgrading teacher training schools and nursing schools to degree awarding level. The shortage of trained graduate teachers continues to be a problem in the education sector. By upgrading the existing three-year diploma program in Nursing into a four-year degree, and by improving the English knowledge of nurses, we will create opportunities for them to even seek work abroad by providing services that meet international quality standards.

Many young people are currently deprived of employment opportunities due to their lack of proficiency in English. We will introduce a special program to improve the facilities provided for English education in all schools, and to recruit the required teaching staff.

New technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, robotics, 3D printing, and the Internet of Things, among others, are continually changing the world.

We must pay attention to this in the formulation of our investment policies. We must understand what type of investments we need to spur future economic development. We must provide special incentives and concessions to encourage investors capable of introducing new technologies to the country.

It is important to understand that we have market opportunities beyond technology heavy sectors. One sector we can swiftly develop is the tourism industry.

This sector, which earned 4.4 billion US Dollars in 2018, has space to grow to one that can earn revenue in excess of 10 billion US dollars within the next few years. We will introduce a systematic program to achieve this.

After the formation of the new Government, we established a committee to evaluate and recommend suitable persons for the governance of state institutions.

The success of a democracy rests upon the Constitution. The 1978 Constitution, which has since been amended on 19 occasions, has given rise to many problems at present because of its inherent ambiguities and confusions. To safeguard the security, sovereignty, stability and integrity of the country, changes must be made to the existing Constitution.

Continued on page 12

A clear path for the new administration

by
Hemantha
Kulatunga



Sri Lanka has offered a mandate that no other government received in the recent past. The voice of the people was loud and clear in their preference. The winners came out with an unmatchable and overwhelming victory. They have been offered more than was expected, with a higher percentage than that received at the 2019 Presidential election. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has repeatedly said that he will do his job if the citizenry does theirs. At this point, the citizenry has done their job and eagerly await the President to fulfil his pledges.

At the outset, it would be pertinent to glance at the newly appointed Cabinet and State Ministers. A noteworthy feature is that most of the State Ministries were assigned tasks aligned with chapter five of 'Visions of Prosperity', the Presidential manifesto, under the topic, 'People-centric economy'. Many of the subjects discussed in this chapter have been included in the scope of State Ministries. This is an encouraging sign that the Government is on the right track.

President Rajapaksa was consistent in reminding everyone that he will monitor the progress in their respective assigned tasks. As practised in private sector organisations, he has

given time frames to all to reach their goals. The results will be tremendous if performance indexes are introduced to Ministries as in successful private sector organisations. To initiate such a practice, the President can obtain the assistance of the many top rung business leaders available in the recently appointed presidential task force units.

Immediately after the ministerial appointments, the President issued two important directives through his secretariat. The first is to refrain from removing or changing any present heads or directors of Government institutions of any of the State Ministries without the prior concurrence of the President. The second, the appointed Ministers should assume duties within four days. The public witnessed that most of the Ministers started their duties within the first two days, ahead of the set deadline and in simple ceremonies.

Firm control

These acts prove that the leader has taken firm control over the matter. Not only that the usual practice of dumping public funds to organise extravagant ceremonies was curtailed but also the move has put a stop to the removal of government officials at the whims and fancies of the Ministers. It is no secret that Ministers, soon after assuming their portfolios, recruit their families or acquaintances, ignoring whether they are suitable or not for the job. The public, through social media, has welcomed both moves as necessary. The current economic situ-



ation, in reality, is in dire straits as anyone can understand, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in massive foreign revenue losses and the containment measures.

Foreign revenue of approximately US\$ 17 Billion earned through foreign employment, apparel exports, and tourism was lost, giving a sucker punch to the economy. Some experts say that the worst of the crisis is over and the economy is gradually picking up. The operating conditions in the manufacturing and services sectors suffered huge drawbacks. Duty and tax loss due to import restrictions added to this issue, although the move was hailed by the majority as it encouraged domestic business. So far, according to research, only domestic retail trade has returned to almost near normal.

The presidential task force appointed for economic revival and poverty eradication under the versatile Basil Rajapaksa has maintained a silence in the past few months, probably due to the August 5 elections. Now that the election is over and seemingly they have more authority from the public, it is the best time for them to initiate appropriate action.

The elite panel comprising a cross-section of political, business, and administrative leaders will have a daunting and un-enviable task, though no doubt they will succeed.

Restructuring economy

The most important task of the Government today is to engage everybody concerned actively and devise methods to face the imminent challenge of restructuring the economy before it gets out of control.

The Government would otherwise face many issues on both, the foreign and domestic fronts. The President has already initiated several actions including appointing a number of task force units.

The President, as the Defence Secretary, and the tri-forces defeated terrorism due to the leadership, vision and the decision making freedom given by his brother the then President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Similar to the battle against terrorism, leaders and field commanders should be given authority to make executive decisions in the battle for economic revival. The Government is directed in the right path by President Rajapaksa, which

fact has been evident since his taking over of office. Nevertheless, the issue is the speed of economic recovery and the efficiency of those involved. The President, as any other successful leader can only provide leadership and the liberty to perform, apart from motivation.

Knowledgeable citizens hope that the newly appointed Finance Ministry officials, headed by the capable State Minister who is a financial expert will appoint the right people to the right place. The country witnessed the gross inefficiency of the appointees of the previous government and how they abused power and allegedly pilfered colossal amounts of public funds.

Government spending

The control over Government spending was haphazard and totally out of control during the past few years due to the weak leadership on the one hand, and the tug of war that existed between the then President and the Prime Minister on the other. It was revealed in many forums that even the Presidential candidate of the main Opposition was on a spending spree by way of campaigning for the election, in the guise of providing houses, with billions of rupees from the government coffers.

The management of the economy is complex at this crucial juncture in history. Covid-19 has dealt a blow of unimaginable magnitude to the whole world. No one can offer immediate solutions to improve the three main foreign revenue earners in a short time.

Sri Lanka's main markets for apparel, the USA and Europe are not even close to controlling the pandemic. While the United States never got it under control, currently Europe is suffering from a bad second wave. According to industry stalwarts, they are managing with the orders placed before the Covid-19 breakout and on the verge of completing all those orders. None of them has a clear idea when the two main markets would bounce back.

Tourist arrivals will not be possible for a considerable period and, therefore, the anticipated revenue cannot be expected in the next few months in the least, although the industry expects a surge in business when the pandemic in the world is controlled. This is due to the reputation earned by Sri Lanka in controlling Covid-19 effectively, thus making her one of the most desirable destinations.

Foreign employment earnings are also declining at an alarming rate as many expats are trying to return. Therefore, controlling and managing domestic finances is the only solution and hope. As the practice in the private sector, cost-cutting and waste management at this juncture is the key solution until the foreign reserves return and the world gets back to normalcy. Hence, the simplicity introduced by President Rajapaksa will continue to pay dividends as his team also, taking a cue, follows in his footsteps to reduce expenditure, cut costs and stop wastage whereby millions of rupees can be reverted to the coffers to help improve the prevailing financial situation.

Continuing Professional Development for lawyers, a must

By
**Aanya
Wipulasena**



The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) is exploring avenues to introduce the Continuing Professional Development system where lawyers will obtain marks for professional development in a bid to encourage continuous learning and growth of legal professionals, President of the BASL, President's Counsel Kalinga Indatissa told the *Sunday Observer*.

Excerpts:

Q: Can you explain what the Bar Association is and what it does?

A: The legal profession is one of the oldest professions in the world. It started in Greece. The young men of Athens are the founders of the legal profession. There was a time during the Greek empire when people did not have rights, and could not air their grievances before the Emperor. Unqualified lawyers would plead the causes of the underprivileged people and take the case before the Emperor or his men.

In that context they were not qualified lawyers, and were known as pleaders. When the Greek Empire shifted to the Roman Empire, the system continued and there was a set of lawyers in the Roman Empire who basically had no legal education, but they could plead the cause of others. However, they could not charge a fee.

By the First Century there was an Emperor called Claudius who introduced a law where a limited fee would be charged. This was called the civil law system of the Roman Empire, while a parallel system was developing in England called the common law system. The common law system was developed through the church, in which they started recognising lawyers.

In Sri Lanka or Ceylon, we had our own legal system for a long time. One of the earliest times was during the reign of King Devanampiyatissa, after the advent of Buddhism. He built temples and donated properties to them. That was the beginning of the Buddhist ecclesiastical law, one of the oldest laws.

Thereafter, Ceylon came under the influence of three foreign powers. The Portuguese did not do much about the law. When the Portuguese arrived in Sri Lanka in 1505, we had a comprehensive legal system. The head of the legal system was the King and he had his subordinate officers who addressed legal issues in the Provinces.

The Portuguese did not do much about the legal system and in 1656 the Portuguese areas were captured by the Dutch, who ruled until 1796. They made a huge contribution by introducing the Roman Dutch law, thereby trying to establish a proper legal system in Ceylon. They introduced their legal system to the coastal areas of the country, while the King ruled the midlands.

Then came the British in 1796. They captured the coastal areas from the Dutch and unlike their two predecessors, they focused on staying in Ceylon for a long time. They realised the commercial value of the country, and wanted to introduce a proper legal system. They passed what is called the Charter of Justice of 1801. This was the beginning of the legal system and the judicial system in Sri Lanka.

Still there was no legal education in the country. Most of the lawyers who practised at the Bar were either from England, Scotland or Ireland. There was an element of South African lawyers at that time too.

In 1833, there was another Charter of Justice passed by the British rulers, which recognised the Supreme Court of Ceylon and its power to admit Advocates and Proctors. Still there was no legal education in the country. In the 1870s the Council of Legal Education was established with powers to start the Ceylon Law College. They conducted two courses for Advocates and Proctors, until 1972.

In 1972, the late Minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike was the Minister of Justice and many changes took place. We did away with the Soulbury Constitution and adopted our own first Republican Constitution. Thereafter, the right of appeal to the Privy Council in England was abrogated, and the Court of Appeal in Sri Lanka became the highest court at that time.

At the same time they did away with the division of Advocates and Proctors, and introduced the 'Attorney-at-Law', which continues to date.



BASL President, Kalinga Indatissa, PC

THE BAR IS ABOVE POLITICS. THERE CANNOT BE POLITICS IN THE BAR. THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES WHERE THE BAR HAS TAKEN EXISTING GOVERNMENTS UPFRONT ON ISSUES. THERE IS NOTHING POLITICAL ABOUT IT AND NOTHING PERSONAL. IT IS THE COLLECTIVE DECISION OF THE BAR

The Bar means the collective body of all lawyers. After the amalgamation of Advocates and Proctors in 1974, the Bar Association (BASL) was established. The primary objective of the BASL is to maintain the dignity and independence of the legal profession, develop standards, maintain ethical values and traditions, and work for the progress of the members of the Bar.

We have over 22,000 members, scattered throughout the island. The body called the Bar Council, makes the final decision in respect of mat-

ters relating to the profession. The executive committee, makes recommendations to the Bar Council.

Policy decisions are taken by the executive committee and ratified by the Bar Council. After the Bar Council ratifies, it becomes the decision of the Bar Association in Sri Lanka.

Q: What are the primary functions of the Bar?

A: The BASL's duties are as follows: to protect the Rule of Law, retain the independence of the legal profession, confront issues faced by the legal profession or the Rule

of Law, stand up whenever the independence of the judiciary is threatened and all matters connected to the legal profession and the rule of law.

The Bar is above politics. There cannot be politics in the Bar. There have been instances where the Bar has taken existing governments upfront on issues. There is nothing political about it and nothing personal. It is the collective decision of the Bar.

Q: What is the latest project the Bar Association is working on?

A: We are involved in several projects. The most important project is to streamline legal education. Until the 1980s there were only two institutions passing out lawyers to the profession - the Law College and the University of Ceylon. In the 1980s the Open University of Sri Lanka was set up.

As of late, there are students who join the legal profession after completing foreign exams such as, the London A/Ls. We have to streamline this because there could be institutions that are not up to standard in teaching Law in Sri Lanka.

Continuing legal education is absolutely necessary for every Lawyer. In other countries it is called the CPD - Continuing Professional Development. I believe every Lawyer should be updated with the latest information in law. Otherwise, the lawyer will have a problem.

Therefore, we will be starting a mandatory CPD program soon for every Lawyer. They can take part either as a resource person or as a participant. In other countries you earn marks. We are trying to introduce the same system here.

We are also involved in several projects, such as the infrastructure development of court houses, with the Ministry of Justice. In the post Covid-19 situation the process of digitalising the courts began where filings and everything else can be done digitally without the need for physical presence.

Some of the laws in the country are very old and date back to the British period. The Bar will embark on a law reform project where all the laws will be identified and changed.

Q: How important is it for the Bar to stand against the infringement of the professional rights of a Lawyer?

A: The Bar gets involved whenever

there is a complaint by a member of the public relating to professional misconduct or negligence on the part of a Lawyer. No sooner a complaint is made, the Bar, especially the Supreme Court, has the authority to conduct an inquiry and deal with that Lawyer.

Sometime back there were newspaper reports that the professional rights of Lawyers were allegedly violated and Lawyers were subjected to arrest. The Bar can get involved if there is an infringement of professional rights. If a Lawyer has committed a crime the normal investigation process should continue. However, if the professional rights of a Lawyer are infringed by the Executive, we have a duty to step in.

Q: What advice do you have for new members looking to join the Bar?

A: I started my legal career from a humble beginning. I do not come from a legal background. But there was something about the law that attracted me and motivated me. When I entered the Bar in 1986, times were different and things were different.

There was no technology, no social media, smart phones or even laptops. Basically, nothing on technology was available then. That was a transitional period. So invariably, we had to read a lot. Reading to me is not e-reading. It is in the book form. Nothing was easy for us. Today you Google and find everything you need.

The first thing a young Lawyer should understand is that there are no shortcuts to success. You have to learn, learn and learn. You should be prepared to learn from anyone. For me, for lawyers, there are three important Ds. Dedication, Determination and Discipline.

It is wrong to generalise a generation. But one of the fundamental things a young Lawyer should aspire for is discipline because it is very important. The aspiring Lawyer must read, be computer literate, and be conversant in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil and English).

He or she must also learn to respect the Court, Colleagues and the public. I am a firm believer that the law is for the people. We are the intermediary between the Courts and the people. We are expected to know our law, have skill and competence.

You must also learn to be patient as there are no short cuts. There is no substitute for hard work.

Largest illegal firearms cache found

More underworld elements rounded-up

BY MANESHKA BORHAM

The Police Special Task Force (STF) seized the largest weapons cache to be recovered from an underworld gang in Sri Lanka on June 29. Acting on a tip off, the STF found 11 T-56 and one T-81 assault rifle hidden in a house in Pitipana, Homagama. The haul of weapons is said to belong to the infamous drug lord 'Gagana', a close associate of the notorious underworld leader 'Kosgoda Tharaka'.

The Police found more weapons from several safe houses of the gang including three T-56 assault rifles, over 750 rounds of T-56 assault rifle ammunition, four hand grenades, a pistol, two detonators, a locally manufactured gun, 10 rounds of ammunition used for repeater weapons, a pair of handcuffs, an air rifle and other explosive materials following the initial raid.

The discovery and information that the weapons belonged to the Kosgoda Tharaka's gang led Acting IGP C.D Wickramaratne to hand over investigations to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Police. 'Kosgoda Tharaka' is the main suspect in the Matara jewellery store heist, which resulted in the death of a police officer following a shoot-out between criminals and the police.

As investigators arrested several suspects in connection to the illegal firearms cache including an underworld figure identified as 'Potta Kapila' perhaps the most shocking arrest happened on August 17 when the Police arrested a print media journalist for allegedly transporting the weapons cache from Minneriya to the safe house of the underworld gang in Pitipana, Homagama.



Illegal firearms storage in Pitipana, Homagama

The 30-year old journalist, a crime reporter working for a leading Sinhala newspaper has now been accused of helping the gang to transport the weapons during the Covid-19 lockdown by using his government issued media accreditation to travel between districts undetected. While refusing to name the suspect, the Police only revealed that the arrested journalist is a resident of Ambakolawewa, Medamulana.

According to sources, the CID investigating the illegal stash of firearms had found that nearly 100 T-56 and T-58 firearms had been stolen from an Army camp in Minneriya to be sold.

The CID sleuths had traced the weapons in the possession of Kosgoda Tharaka's gang to this haul of firearms stolen from the Army. Kosgoda Tharaka is believed to have purchased 30 firearms from this stash

from the Boossa prison where he is serving a lengthy sentence.

While the purchase had been made during the Covid-19 lockdown, sources said Kosgoda Tharaka had then sought the assistance of an associate, identified as Narahenpita Amila as well as the arrested journalist to transport the purchased firearms from Minneriya to the safe house in Pitipana, Homagama.

Narahenpita Amila along with the journalist had left for Minneriya in a van during the Covid-19 lockdown. According to the Police they had displayed a media signboard to mislead the law enforcement and Security Forces.

Though the van had been stopped at several checkpoints from Colombo to Minneriya and back, they had gone undetected by using the journalist's media accreditation and the media signboard.



Kosgoda Tharaka

According to the Police, the arrested journalist had previously worked at several leading Sinhala newspapers in the country and had made a name for himself as a crime reporter. Investigators now claim the journalist had been paid around Rs. 200,000 for helping the underworld figure Narahenpita Amila to transport the firearms. While the money had been deposited to the bank account of the journalist, the CID has already obtained the details of the transaction.

While the Police had uncovered the journalist's role in transporting the illegal firearms nearly a month ago, the arrest had been delayed to ensure the Police uncovered all details connected to the incident prior to making the arrest.

Therefore, the CID had obtained mobile phone tower data before finally arresting the journalist on August 17.

While the State Intelligence service (SIS) with the CID had worked on uncovering the details relating to the journalist and his role in the smuggling of weapons, the Police said during questioning he has denied any involvement.

Instead the journalist has claimed that he was unaware of any weapons being in the vehicle he had travelled in with Narahenpita Amila and instead he is being framed by a group in the Special Task Force (STF) over a personal dispute.

The CID investigations have also revealed that two more journalists also working for leading newspapers in the country are connected to Kosgoda Tharaka's gang. According to sources, the journalists are also said to be crime reporters of their newspapers. It appears that however journalists are not the only persons who have supported the activities of the underworld.

While all recent arrests including that of the journalist is linked to the case of an alleged drug smuggling racket carried out by a group of Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) officers, the CID this week also arrested two workers of the Government Analyst's Department believed to be linked to the racket. Investigators have claimed that drugs sent by the law enforcement authorities to the Government Analyst's Department for testing had been smuggled by the duo. The Police said this was revealed following the interrogation of two workers of the Government Analyst's Department, who were arrested on Monday (17) for having drugs.

The Government Analyst's Department worker who was arrested in Moratuwaha, Athurugiriya has now been detained and will be interrogated for seven days.

The suspect, a resident from Matara was arrested for the possession of 18.73 grams of heroin. The other Government Analyst's Department worker was arrested on Monday (17) evening for having ICE and heroin.

Haul of illegal weapons

June 29



STF seized 11 T-56 and one T-81 assault rifle belonging to underworld figure Kosgoda Tharaka's gang in a house in Pitipana, Homagama. Two suspects, accomplices of underworld figures Kosgoda Tharaka and Gagana were arrested along with the weapons.

July 1



A woman was arrested with seven hand grenades, two sets of body armour, a shotgun and several rounds of ammunition from a house in Homagama following the questioning of the two suspects.

July 2



More weapons including four hand grenades found at a house in Kendalana, Homagama.

August 17



A 30-year-old journalist, a crime reporter working for a leading Sinhala newspaper and a resident of Ambakolawewa, Medamulana is arrested for transporting the weapons found in Homagama from Minneriya.

August 20



Two Army personnel are arrested in connection with the ongoing investigation into the alleged transportation of the stock of weapons to Pitipana, Homagama. The CID believes the weapons were smuggled out from an Army camp in Minneriya. Police said more arrests are likely.

Sudden power outage swallowed almost Rs. 1 billion

By
Rajitha Jagoda Arachchi

According to a World Bank report published in 2017, South Asian giant India loses USD 86 billion annually following power sector disruptions including frequent power outages, this is equivalent to the total economy of Sri Lanka. The report "In the Dark: How much do power sector distortions cost South Asia", highlights that more than 255 million people in the region depend on the electricity grid which is equivalent to more than a quarter of the world population who do not have access to electricity.

Kerawalapitiya incident

Last Monday, Sri Lanka also faced a sudden blackout at 12.45 p.m. which prevailed for several hours till late evening the same day, a 'relatively' rare incident as Sri Lanka has a better electricity distribution system compared to other regional countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. However, this sudden blackout had cost nearly Rs 1 billion to the Sri Lankan coffers, according to Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) calculations.

Following the power failure, the Ministry of Power appointed a seven-member committee on Tuesday, August 18 to investigate Monday's sudden power outage. However, the CEB believes a human error by an officer

attached to a grid substation in Kerawalapitiya to be the reason for the power failure on Monday.

Dr. Susantha Perera, Additional General Manager at CEB told the media on Friday that an officer has made a mistake during maintenance at the above-mentioned substation. He claimed that a condition of 'earthing' happened during the maintenance and it affected the shutdown of the Kerawalapitiya and Norochcholai power plants.

President of the Technical Engineers and Supervisors Association A. G. U. Nishantha who testified before the Ministerial Committee on Friday, August 21 said, "I admit the fact that there was an incident during maintenance work at the Kerawalapitiya substation. But I do not admit that it was the reason for the Norochcholai break down" he said.

He said there are four safety zones (substations) between Kerawalapitiya and Norochcholai namely Kotugoda, Veyangoda, Chilaw and Noochcholai where any fault in the transmission can be detected and stopped automatically. As the Yugadhanavi power plant in Kerawalapitiya contributes less than 5% to the national grid, had the safety system worked properly, the incident in Kerawalapitiya would not be the reason for an island-wide blackout.

"I think there was a separate breakdown at Norochcholai and they want to cover it up the Kerawalapitiya incident," Nishantha said.

The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), the economic, technical and safety regulator of the electricity industry in Sri Lanka was established by an Act of Parliament No. 35 of 2002, with primary goals of

promoting interests of all consumers.

PUCSL

The same day the power outage occurred, the PUCSL instructed the CEB to submit two reports on investigation results of the power failure, an initial investigation report with causes of the failure and a detailed report on the failure and action taken to check it. The former was due to be submitted to the PUCSL on Thursday, but it had not reached the PUCSL till Friday night, Director Corporate Communications at PUCSL, Jayanat Herath said.

The PUCSL considers the CEB is one of its licensees to generate and distribute electricity.

As per condition 30 (10) of the licence, the CEB shall obtain prior approval of the Commission for every scheduled interruption of electricity supply throughout the island/ or major part of the island irrespective of the cause of the same, other than the interruptions due to maintenance in respect of which prior notice is given to the general public. It also states, "the licensee shall also prepare a report on any event that resulted in unplanned interruption of electricity supply throughout the island/ or major part of the island irrespective of the cause of the same, and submit to the Commission".

Nevertheless, in addition to reviewing the CEB report (when it reaches the PUCSL), the Commission itself has launched an investigation through their engineer teams.

"We want to investigate two matters. One is the incident that happened at Kerawalapitiya and how it affected the Yugadhanavi plant. The second is to investigate the Norochcholai break



down," Herath said.

In order to cover both aspects, two investigation teams have already visited both locations and are planning to finalise the report in two weeks following the obtaining of some more information from the Norochcholai management.

As the regulatory body the PUCSL wishes to find the real cause between the island-wide power outage and also to present recommendations to avoid similar incidents in the future.

"Hopefully we can tell what actually happened by the first week of September," Herath said.

Meanwhile CEB Engineers Union President Anuruddha Thilakrathna debunked the claim of a separate break down in Norochcholai. In a brief interview with the *Sunday Observer* he said that if there was a break down in Norochcholai, the power supply

would not have been restored this soon.

"There had been a malfunction in Kerawalapitiya and it led to the shutdown of Norochcholai. Now the independent committee appointed by the Minister is investigating the incident. We hope that they would submit a fair report," he said.

The management

The World Bank report underscores three types of distortions that lead to most inefficiencies in the power sector in South Asian nations as follows; Institutional distortions that arise from weak governance and inefficient allocation of inputs and outputs of the electricity sector.

Regulatory distortions are due to price regulation, subsidies, and cross-subsidies. Social distortions

that cause environmental and health damages.

A.G.U. Nishantha said that there are several management errors in the CEB which has led to the neglect of certain protocols with regard to the power supply.

"As Electrical Engineers are in most of the administration positions it is hard to ensure a smooth function of the sector" Nishantha accuses. He also believes that the entire incident was suspicious and could be a disruptive attempt to frame a certain party.

A press release on Friday by Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma stated that action will be taken on the incident after he receives the Ministerial Committee report.

"The State Minister of Power and I do not hesitate to take action for the betterment of the Power sector. Hence, I dedicate myself to take all decisions immediately for the uplift of the power sector" he said in the letter.

Despite several attempts the CEB Engineers Union President, Anuruddha Thilakrathna and Chairman of the CEB, Eng. Vijitha Herath was not available for comment.

Even though Sri Lanka is not experiencing huge losses due to power outages the way India or other South Asian countries do, the loss of Rs 1 billion is not a simple amount especially in a situation where the country struggles to breathe in an economic downturn due to a massive debt trap and post-pandemic financial woes. Perhaps this could be a sign of warning to the newly appointed Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma to break the long hibernation in the power generation sector as there was no single major power plant built after Norochcholai in 2011.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT LTD



INVEST, BUILD, OWN, OPERATE AND TRANSFER OF HOSTEL FACILITIES AS A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR NSBM GREEN UNIVERSITY TOWN, PITIPANA, HOMAGAMA

1. The Chairman of the Board appointed Procurement Committee of the National School of Business Management Ltd (NSBM) invites prospective **Investors cum Operators** to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) to Invest, Build, Own, Operate and Transfer of a hostel facility for 500 male students and a hostel facility for 500 female students as a Public-Private Partnership procurement model at the proposed Phase 2 of NSBM Green University Town Project of National School of Business Management Ltd, Pitipana, Homagama.

2. The key objective of this project is to provide convenient and safe accommodation facilities for both male and female undergraduates who are currently studying at NSBM, and new students of proposed degree programmes to be launched under the Phase 2 of NSBM Green University Town Project as the existing hostel of 500 beds capacity has met its full occupancy and is unable to meet upcoming demand.

3. NSBM will position the selected Investor cum Operator of the hostel as the preferred and exclusive hostel service provider of NSBM and facilitate to market the hostel facilities to over 9,500 existing on-campus students and over 2,500 new students enrolling annually. Hostel Fees and other income (canteen operations, laundry, etc.) will be the main source of revenue to the Investor cum Operator of the hostel.

4. NSBM will provide the Investor cum Operator with facilities such as the land required for the project within the NSBM Green University Town premises at a nominal rate, building design drawings together with BOQs, access to all utility services and preliminary approvals.

5. The selected Investor cum Operator is expected to construct the hostels



NSBM Green University Town established in Pitipana, Homagama offers nationally and internationally recognized, UGC approved undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and foreign degree programmes in three faculties, namely Management, Computing and Engineering & Design.

This state-of-the-art university built in par with international standards, currently houses over 9,500 students with over 2,500 new enrollments each year. The university, spread over an area of 26 acres of land, is now geared to start its Phase 2 in the adjoining land on 16 acres. Phase 2 comprises faculties of Health Sciences and Social Sciences due to market opportunities and multi-purpose conference hall with 2,000 seating capacity, hostel facilities for 2,000 students, vehicle parking facilities up to 1,000 parking slots, Food & Beverage facilities and a larger playground with extended facilities due to the rapid increase in demand for these facilities.

(covering architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing services, external works, utility services, furnishing, including piling works and construction management, etc.) within the shortest possible duration for which the evidence of operations management, financial and construction capabilities should be submitted.

6. The 10 storied Hostel building for 500 male students consists of two towers with 8 typical floors in each tower containing 16 double bedrooms with an attached bathroom and a mini pantry. A cafeteria with a kitchen, laundry facility, a front office, two warden accommodation, staff facilities and related infrastructure will be included in the proposed building design. The estimated floor area per hostel is 14,200m². The design of the Hostel facility for 500 female students will be identical to above.

7. The Investor cum Operator is required to propose an attractive Operational Model with a complete scope of Professional Hostel Management Service for the

proposed hostel building, operate the hostel and undertake routine maintenance as an independent operation for a pre-agreed number of years and transfer the property to NSBM at the end of such period.

8. Prospective Investors cum Operators may opt to express their interest in both hostel Facilities (500 male students and 500 female students) or any one of the hostel facilities. However, priority will be given to those who choose to invest in both hostels in the selection process.

9. Prospective Investors cum Operators should submit capability details related to both proposed ongoing operation and construction separately for evaluation

10. Following criteria shall be considered for pre-qualification of prospective Investors cum Operators who will be eligible to receive a "Request for Detailed Proposal" (RFP)

a. Attractiveness of the proposed Operational Model for Professional Hostel Management Service

b. Past and ongoing projects in similar nature and complexity

c. Availability of experienced and qualified personnel in similar nature of projects with facility management/hospitality experience and capabilities

d. Financial strength, stability and availability of funding sources

e. Attractiveness of room rates and fees policy proposed for students

f. Nature of value-added facilities proposed for students

g. Capacity and capability in the undertaking of both hostels vs. single hostel

h. The time period taken for the construction and launch of the project

i. Construction partner's past experience in similar nature projects, qualifications, capabilities and CIDA registration

11. A facts sheet of the operation of the existing hostel facility of NSBM will be issued along with the EOI Application Form which contains capacity, occupancy and indicative operational experience over the last 4 years.

12. EOI Application Form can be obtained upon request along with a payment of **Rs. 2,500/-** in cash, from **19th August 2020 to 31st August 2020** during office hours from the office of Manager Procurement, National School of Business Management Ltd, NSBM Green University Town, Mahenwatta, Pitipana, Homagama. Interested parties may obtain further information at the address below, from **9.00 am to 3.00 pm** on working days. You may contact us on **011 544 5036, 071 672 6012** or projects@nsbm.lk for more details.

13. NSBM shall not be responsible for any expenses or losses which may be incurred by the Investor cum Operator related to preparation, submission and participation in this EOI. Board Appointed Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interests (EOI) proposal at any time prior to the issuance of the RFP.

14. Expression of Interests (EOI) Proposals prepared in English language and printed in ORIGINAL and two COPIES shall be delivered and deposited in the Collection Box which will be kept in the Office of Procurement Division of the following address: the Chairman, Board Appointed Procurement Committee, National School of Business Management Ltd, NSBM Green University Town, Mahenwatta, Pitipana, Homagama on or before **03.00 pm on 9th September 2020**.

15. EOIs will close on the date and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately after the closing of the EOIs. Investor cum Operator or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present during the opening of EOI.

Chairman,

Board Appointed Procurement Committee, National School of Business Management Ltd,

NSBM Green University Town, Mahenwatta, Pitipana, Homagama | Contact us on 011 544 5036, 071 672 6012 or E-mail : projects@nsbm.lk

News/Obituaries

Future generation... Continued from page 9


While preserving the positive characteristics of the proportional representation system, electoral reforms are needed to ensure the stability of Parliament and to ensure the direct representation of the people. We can solve this problem through constitutional reforms that will establish a strong executive, legislature and an independent judiciary that can ensure the sovereignty of the

people. Our country's unique position has resulted in considerable attention being given towards Sri Lanka in global geopolitics in recent times. We follow a neutral foreign policy. We must strive to maintain friendly relations with every country. However, we can never give up our independence. We must establish an honourable governance that will allow this country to maintain its sovereignty,

security, national pride, and deal with all nations on equal terms, without demonstrating weakness in our diplomatic or trading relationships. We will never allow other countries to take over our economically significant geographic regions or physical resources. It is my aspiration to ensure that the Sri Lankan people will become a proud nation with a global standing. We can overcome

all the obstacles in our path to reach that goal if we unite as a nation. I love my country. I am proud of my country. I have a vision for my country. I invite all of you to join and work with me to achieve the responsibility that has been assigned through history to our present generation.

THIRD MONTH REMEMBRANCE OF FORMER DIRECTOR MANAGING DIRECTOR AND SENIOR ADVISER M/S ALLIANCE FINANCE CO. PVT. LTD.



Birth	Demise
1938	2020
12	05
18	23

MR PRATAPKUMAR DE SILVA J.P. (FICM SL) FICM (ENG)

We missed you so much and we think of all fondly memories. The Yeoman Service rendered by you to uplift the standard of Education and Vocational Training of the children especially in Moratuwa.

Affectionately remembered by our Patron President and all Members of Moratuwa Youth Welfare League.



TILLEKERATHNE GAMINI

Beloved husband of Maya, much loved father of Mahen and Dilan and loving brother of Tissa and Sujatha, passed away suddenly on the 18th of August 2020.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Funeral Service which will be held on 26th, Wednesday at 4.00 p.m. at Castlebrook Memorial Gardens Rouse Hill, Sydney NSW, Australia.

First Year Remembrance



Rohan Goonathilake

Called to Jesus : 21 August 2019


Our dearest brother, a year has passed since you were called away to eternal rest. Every moment without you reminds us of the ache and tears that fill your absence. But your eternal love still comforts us, your saintly example guides us, and your spirit brings light into our lives. It is these eternal gifts from you that we grip tightly in our hearts to remind us that in your memory, you're still here.

Holy mass will be offered at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Raddolugama.

Sadly missed and fondly remembered, your ever-loving sisters Siri and Erma, brother Dushi and loved ones.

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
(15 August 2019 – 15 August 2020)

DR. UPALI KARUNATILLEKE
(Attorney-at-Law)



An exceptional and noble soul, full of compassion and love for everybody. You touched the hearts of everyone you met. Such are memories you left behind. You are remembered every moment in our lives and not a single day passes without you in our thoughts.

May you Attain The Peaceful Bliss of Nirvana!
A loving tribute to you from your ever loving wife Mallika, ever loving sister Sumana Pieris and all family members and relatives.

No. 41, Siri Dhamma Mawata Colombo 10. 189, Ampitiya Road, Kandy.

OBITUARY

Birth	Death
19	15
02	08
1955	2020



Mrs. Skanthavathana Ratneswaran
(Alumni - Hindu Ladies College, Colombo 6, Senior Personal Support Worker, Senior Citizens & Disabilities, Scarborough, Canada)

Dearly beloved wife of late Ehamparam Ratneswaran (Owner of General Trading Agency (Pvt) Ltd, Eakanthan Traders (Pvt) Ltd (EKT), Old Moor Street, Pettah, Colombo, Rani Rice Mill, & Rani Stores (Pvt) Ltd, Vavuniya). Darling mother of Sendurraan, dearest daughter of Late Rajadurai (Chief clerk, Ceylon Electricity Board, HQ, Colombo 2) and Maheswary, loving daughter in law of late Ehamparam and Rasamma (Founder - Eakanthan Traders (Pvt) Ltd, (EKT), Pettah, Colombo). Precious sister of Rajkumar, Sriranjana (Canada), Kailasanathan (UK), Easwarakumar (USA), and caring sister in law of Ehamparam Sasikantharajah - Niththila (UK), Kalanithi, Kamalini, Jayanthini and Parasakthy. Darling Aunt of Dr. Bavan, Arani, Tharani, Aravinthan, late Thatchayini, Shayanthini - Prashath, Saiabirami, and Hari, affectionate grand mother of Raeshaun. She is also a dearest niece of late, retired Galle, Mercantile Bank officers Mahesa, Mahadeva and Mahendra. Caring cousin of Vasu (Montreal), Sivakumaran, Saththiyakumaran (USA), Anusha, Santhakumar (Canada), Jeyanthini, Shanthni, Vasanththini, Keshavan (Canada), Late Mrs Gomathi Navaneetham (UK), and Sathitharan.

Due to restriction/regulations covid 19 pandemic a private funeral with a limited number of attendees will be held as follows:

Thursday, August 27, 2020 Visitation: 9:00am - 10:30am Rituals: 10:30am at Chapel Ridge Funeral Home, 8911 Woodbine Avenue, Markham, ON Cremation at 12:30pm at Highland Hills Crematorium, 12492 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley, ON.

Information Provided by: **R. Kailasnathan (brother) - 0044 79672 80492 rkailasnathan@btinternet.com**

For more details: Anusha - 0094(77)5421903 Sathitharan - 0094(77)2389584

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SHANI CHRISHELLE LIYANAGE
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Time Slips by and Life goes on, But from our hearts you're never gone, We think about you always, we talk about you too, We have so many memories, But we still wish we had you.

Ammi, Thaththi, Akki & Aiyya, Nana and all your loved ones (Jenny, Susil, Janice & Shehan)


DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The family of late **PRASANTHA GAMAGE** wishes to express its deep appreciation to the past pupils of Dudley Senanayake & D.S. Senanayake Vidyalyaya, 96th Batch of Sri Jayawardanapura University (Faculty of Management Studies), Staff of State Trading Cooperate and Management and the staff of Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka and all those who offered such kindness, support, messages of sympathy and comfort at the moment of our bereavement.

Sorry we are unable to thank you all individually.

DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord!
LEELAWATHIE ANTHONY of 68/9, Justice Akbar Mawatha, Colombo 2 passed away peacefully on 12th of August 2020 at the age of 90

Beloved wife of late A.R. Anthony, beloved mother of Chitra, Sherani, Laliitha and Mala.

Mother-in-law of Veda, Ram, Patrick and Siva.

Sister of the late Amarabandu, Muriel, Chandradasa and of Viola and Karunawathie. Adored Amamma of Manju / Bala, Suren / Nelu, Subi / Anush, Dhillip, Niru / Shanika, Pradeep / Udani, Dilu / Dinusha and Rajiv.

Great grandma of Avishai, Krishanth, Rachel, Mahesh, Kyle, Pranud, Shanir, Nivane, Diyashni and Dhevin.

The family members thank Rev. Fr. Subaraj and Rev. Fr. Janaka of the Infant Jesus Church, Colombo 2, and also all relatives and friends who were with them during this time of immense sorrow.

They regret their inability to thank them individually.

Obituaries

ABEYSEKERA - WALIMUNI MARY PREETHI DAYANISIA MENDIS (ANTHONY), loving daughter of the late W. Henry Mendis Abeysekera & the late Gladys Mendis Wijesinghe Samarasekera, loving wife of Walwin Matthew Anthony, loving mother of Nilmini, Sanjeewa & Marise, loving mother-in-law of Anomie & Nadeeth, loving grandmother of Ananya, Adhara & Gerard, loving sister of Ranjith, Nalin, Pathi, Damayanthi, Srikanthi & late Ananda. The remains lie at A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour. Corтеge leaves **A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour** at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday 23rd August for St. Anne's Church, Wattala for burial at Roman Catholic Cemetery at 3.30 p.m. 047951

DENZIL ALGAMA (D.F.D.) (Former Superintendent Transport, Lake House) Precious Husband of Noeline (nee-Kaluarachchi). Loving father of Sherwin, father-in-law of Amali. Grandfather of Ashani (Australia) and Shalini. Youngest son of late Simon Appuhamy and Juliana. Son-in-law of late Andrew and Nita Kaluarachchi. Brother of late Stella, late Walter, late Stanley, late Therese and Anthony. Brother in law of late Godfrey Silva, Felicia, Wimala, late Noel Samaranyake, Indrani, late Stanislaus, late Daphne, late Oswald, late Winston, late Hugh, Christine (Australia) and late Marzye. Corтеge leaves residence. **No. 84, Averiwatte Road, Wattala** on Monday 24th August 2020 for burial at around 4 pm at RC burial grounds, Wattala 047952

GOMIS TRENCE. Beloved husband of late Ruby Goonasekera, loving father of Rohantha, Mahendra, Prasantha and late Suranganie, loving father-in-law of Sri Lal Horence, Geethani and Juliana and grand children, loving brother of Rt. Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis Archbishop emeritus of Colombo, Bertha and late Evelyn Benedicta and Vernon. Corтеge leaves residence No. 61, Gomis Mawatha, Kelaniya at 3.30 p.m. on Monday 24th August 2020 for burial at St. Anne's church Pilapitiya Cemetery (Catholic Section). 047954

RAJARATNAM - RADHA - Loving daughter of late Mr & Mrs. A. Navaratnarajah of Nallur, Jaffna, daughter-in-law of late Mr & Mrs. Vinayagamorthy of Kondavil, Jaffna - Beloved wife of late Mr.V. Rajaratnam (UK), loving mother of Rathan and Menaka (UK), adoring mother-in-law of Manjunath (UK), precious grandmother of Lucia (UK) and dearest sister of Mrs. Yasodhara Tyagarajah (Australia), Mrs. Subhadra Sivanayagam (Colombo), late Mr. Rudra Navaratnarajah (Colombo), Mr. Sivakumaran Navaratnarajah (Jaffna) and Mrs. Kousalya Thechanamoorthy (Colombo), passed away in UK. Funeral service will take place in London on Monday 24th August 2020. Informant Kousalya (sister). 047832

SENANAYAKE - LALITHA SWARNAPALI BATANGALA. Beloved wife of Wijerathne Senanayake (retired NIE), loving mother of Dr. Mahi Senanayake, Damitha (Australia) and Senaka (Australia), mother-in-law of Dr. Kaumadee, Lalindri (Australia) and Sajini (Australia), daughter of late Dissanayake Batangala and late Latti Kamala Marambe Kumarihami, sister of Dr. Yamuna Rathnayake, Sumith Batangala and Ramani, darling aththamma of Naath, Manula, Jinait and Hiyya. Remains will lie at "The Respect Home", by Jayaratne's until 22nd August 2020 at 10.00 p.m., thereafter will be at Mattegoda residence. Cremation will take place on 23rd August 2020 at Mattegoda Crematorium at 3.00 p.m. **IF/41, 2nd Lane, National Housing Scheme, Mattegoda.** 047858

SENEVIRATNE - DR DAMAYANTHI (nee NANAYAKKARA). Beloved wife of Mohan, loving mother of Milinda and Devinda. Affectionate mother-in-law of Dharshyni and Kelly, doting grandma to Andrew, Sabrina and Whitley. A private funeral was held on July 30th, in Apple Valley, California. In the past 35 years, Dr Damayanthi lived and worked in California, USA. 046942

SIVASUBRAMANIAM - MRS. DHANALAKSHMI - Passed away peacefully on Monday, August 10th in UK - Beloved wife of late Pat Sivasubramaniam - Civil Engineer from Mandoor, Batticaloa (retired Assistant Director, Irrigation Department & retired DGM Construction, Mahaweli Development Board) - Loving oldest daughter of late Ramalingam Murugupillai (retired government land surveyor) and late Annammal Murugupillai & step daughter of late Kamalanayagi Murugupillai, all of Trincomalee, loving mother of Indrani (AUS), Ravikrishnan (USA), late Manoharan & Jayanthi (UK), respected mother-in-law of Sathiamoorthy (AUS), Kathleen (UK) & Doctor Thurairatnam (UK). Affectionate grandmother of Thushyanthan, Nirmalan, Mallika, Lee Andrew, Prashanthan, Doctor Smitha, Janarthan & Lakshmi, great grandmother of Maya, Milan, Ruban and UK Milan, loving oldest sister of late Pathmasani Navaratnam, late Sarogini Thayanantham, late Balakrishnan (retired government land surveyor) and Maheswari Sivasubramaniam (AUS). Cremation according to Hindu rites took place privately in UK on Wednesday, August-19th, 2020 at 9.00 a.m. **Mobile Phones: AUS: + 61 + 4 + 14750234 and USA + 1 + 340 + 9981386.** "Coombe Croft", Howell Hill Grove, Epsom KT17 3ER, United Kingdom. 047471

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Kurunegala's 'Royal Court' to be restored to its pristine glory

—Text & Pix by—
Aanya
Wipulasena



Several project proposals from a number of bidders are currently being evaluated to restore the demolished, historical building site in Kurunegala, Deputy Mayor of Kurunegala Sumith Udawasala said. He added that it was too early to say which proposal will be favoured and given approval.

The Kurunegala Municipal Council recently passed a resolution to set aside over Rs. 2,000,000 of public funds as legal expenses of the Kurunegala Mayor, Thushara Sanjeewa to support the case against him. A case was filed against five others including the mayor accusing them of demolishing the historical building.

The site, believed to have housed the royal court of King Bhuvanakabahu II who ruled over the Kurunegala Kingdom during the period 1293-1302, was demolished for road development, on July 16 under the Mayor's directive. At the time the building which is in the heart of the town was occupied by a private business - Buvaneka Hotel.

This prompted Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to appoint a five-member committee headed by the Director-General of Archaeology, Prof. Senarath Dissanayake to investigate the incident which caused public uproar and hand over a report.

The five-member committee recommended to make use of funds from the persons and institutions involved in the demolition of the site for its re-



The destroyed Royal Court

construction purposes. The committee also said that those responsible for the incident must be penalised. It was found that the building can be rebuilt to its historical, pristine condition. According to the interim report which has been submitted a section of the roof and the windows of the front building have been damaged and it can be rebuilt according to its former pristine glory and preserved. The rear building has been fully damaged and yet the rafters, bricks and other building materials remain there.

The report stated that the building should be taken over by the De-

partment of Archaeology and proposed that the Road Development Authority modifies the place. On July 23, Attorney General Dappula de Livera with an order from the Kurunegala Magistrate's Court prevented access to the site. This was followed by an order by the Kurunegala Magistrate to hand over documents relating to the demolished building.

A Fundamental Rights petition was filed by former JVP parliamentarian Namal Karunaratne on July 28 seeking an order directing the police to arrest the Kurunegala Mayor. The petition which was filed through counsel

Sunil Watagala, named Acting IGP C.D. Wickramaratne, OIC of Headquarters Police Station in Kurunegala Kapila Adikari, Director General of Archaeology Prof. Senarath Dissanayake, the Mayor of Kurunegala, Thushara Sanjeewa, the Kurunegala Municipal Council and the Attorney General as respondents.

A silent protest was held in Kurunegala on August 10 to prevent an order given by the AG to arrest Kurunegala Mayor and four others. Two days later the Court of Appeal issued an order preventing the arrest of the individuals till August 24.

THE SITE, BELIEVED TO HAVE HOUSED THE ROYAL COURT OF KING BHUVENAKABAHU II WHO RULED OVER THE KURUNEGALA KINGDOM DURING THE PERIOD 1293-1302, WAS DEMOLISHED FOR ROAD DEVELOPMENT. ON JULY 16 UNDER THE MAYOR'S DIRECTIVE



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FOR BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
KATUNAYAKE**

This is further to the Paper Advertisements published in the 'Sunday Observer' Newspaper on 15.03.2020, 28.06.2020 and 26.07.2020 regarding the above Bid.

The closing date of the above Bid is extended up to **2.00 p.m. on Wednesday the 26th August 2020.**

Others remain unchanged.

**Chairman
Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited,
Bandaranaike International Airport,
Katunayake.**

World Vision, Citi-Foundation support anti-body testing efforts



Head, Corporate Affairs, Shanaka Waduge handing over the gift to Prof. Neelika Malavige, Director, for Centre for Dengue Research, of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

World Vision and Citi Foundation formed a partnership in May this year, to improve preventive measures among frontline healthcare workers and the most vulnerable families in 16 districts across the country. Supporting the Covid-19 prevention, World Vision has joined hands with Citi Foundation to provide 1,100 ELISA (Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay) antibody testing kits to the Centre for Dengue Research of the Sri Jayewardenepura University.

"These testing kits will help us identify Covid -19 patients who have developed antibodies and facilitate their discharge from hospitals sooner," said Dr. Chandima Jeewandara, Director Operations of the Al-

lergy, Immunology and Cell Biology Unit. "This gift reduces the burden on the healthcare system tremendously.

It means a great deal for us as a nation, to every single person who is infected with the virus, those who are getting a diagnosis for the virus and the loved ones who are awaiting their quick recovery," said Prof. Neelika Malavige, Director for Centre for Dengue Research, of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

World Vision is a development and advocacy organisation and works in 33 locations in 16 districts across Sri Lanka directly impacting nearly 100,000 vulnerable children and their families.

State Minister visits German Tech



Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, State Minister Dr. Seetha Arambepola visited the Ceylon-German Technical Training Institute, Moratuwa recently. She had discussions with Chairman V. Munasinghe and officials on the running of the institution and problems faced by the students. Pic: M.S.M. Munthasir, Panadura Central Gr. Cor.

Indian power plant fire

Nine die in major blaze in Telangana

Nine people have reportedly died after a fire broke out at a hydro-electric power plant in the Indian state of Telangana.

The bodies were found during a search for employees working underground at the Srisailem plant, the state power generation corporation said. Local media reports said the fire broke out late on Thursday night and burned into Friday, trapping workers.

The reports said the fire had been extinguished.

The Telangana State Power Generation Corporation (TSGenco) said in a statement that there were 17 employees inside the building at the time. "Eight of them man-

aged to come out of the station with injuries, nine others remained trapped inside as they were trying their best to put out the fire and save the power plant from being burnt completely," the statement said.

"All of them tried to come out of the escape tunnel, but they did not succeed due to the thick plumes of smoke that engulfed the entire tunnel." Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his condolences on Twitter.

"Fire at the Srisailem hydroelectric plant is deeply unfortunate. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. I hope those injured recover at the earliest," he said.

- Source BBC

Ministry of Trade



Co-operative Wholesale Establishment



Leasing of Negris Building with historical value in the heart of Colombo Fort

Negris Building consisting of an Underground Floor, Ground Floor and Three Floors and having a floor area of 21,326 Sq. Ft situated in York Street, Colombo 01 is available on lease basis.

Accordingly, Application forms consisting of the following :

01. Monthly Rent expected to be paid
02. Value of the anticipated investment for renovation
03. Nature and entitlement (legal personal status) of the business anticipated to be started
04. Amount anticipated to be paid as a deposit
05. Period of anticipated lease of the building
06. Project Proposal

may be obtained from the Procurement Division upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 to the Cashier. A refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 30,000.00 should be paid before 12.00 noon on 14.09.2020.

Tender applications should be deposited in the Tender Box No. 01 before 14.30 hrs on 14.09.2020 and the quotations will be opened immediately thereafter. Applicant or one of his authorized representatives may be present at the time of opening of applications.

Building could be inspected between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. on government working days from 24.08.2020 until 11.09.2020. Tender Board reserves the right to take the final decision.



**Chairman, Procurement Committee, The Co-operative Wholesale Establishment,
No. 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.**

Comments by Government and Opposition members at the tea party hosted by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

President put Sri Lanka on world map for battling Covid-19



Foreign Minister
Dinesh Gunawardena

The President in his Policy Statement to Parliament and the nation commended the confidence and support reposed in him by the electorate. He affirmed that he will deliver on the program he has pledged to the people despite the global setbacks due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The President has put Sri Lanka on the world map. After many years Sri Lanka has been recognised as a success story with our achievements on the Covid-19 front.

He also highlighted the key targets of the government : youth, employment education, agriculture production, fisheries and industries sectors.

He outlined very positive approaches the government

aims at in the coming years and also reforms through state ministries. He explained the desired constitutional and electoral reforms.

He secured an overwhelming majority in November last year for his vision of prosperity which has once again been approved by the people with a two-thirds at the parliamentary election - an overwhelming election victory under the PR system which shows the strength of the people's verdict for change.

He said he will be committed to pursue a non aligned, neutral and friendly foreign policy with all countries which Sri Lanka would benefit. Sri Lanka is respected by all countries irrespective of different political and economic blocks.



Media Minister
Keheliya Rambukwella

I think the latest election result is a unique achievement. Through our manifesto we have given some serious pledges to the public which has given us an unprecedented mandate without any reservations about our capabilities. To secure two-thirds majority in Parliament under the PR system is not an easy task. People have shown us their confidence and we have no excuse to fulfill the promises made to people. We have to deliver. We are confronted with that huge responsibility.

I am confident that we will be able to do it under the leadership of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and with the support of all stake holders. The speech of the President was short but to the point, while it answered some of the criticisms directed at the appointment of the state ministers. He

made clear where the government would be navigating in the next five years.

I read a recent article by a professor from the Sri Jayawardenepura University where he described how the economy could be turned around with clay products. If you look at Indonesia, a significant contribution to their GDP is made by traditional batik products. What they have is printed batiks whereas we have handmade batik which is in high demand. We must think out of the box and I believe that is the president's objective. In Indonesia they have a casual day every week for the state sector where the employees have to wear batik to the workplace as a promotional tactic. We will have to overcome challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. If you have the will nothing is impossible. That will be the motto.



SLPP MP
Premnath Dolawatte

I was the youngest candidate from the Colombo district under the SLPP, and the youngest to be elected from the district. I received nearly 70,000 votes. I am proud to represent the Parliament as a professional.

Parliament will be a university for new comers. Many said the 225 members in Parliament must contract the corona virus.

We will work with dedication to ensure people will not look at this institution as a waste of state funds.

The President's Policy Statement today outlined his vision to take this country and its people towards prosperity. We witnessed his words being put to action, with many firsts in the inaugural session of the 9th parliament, in keep-

ing with his vision. This will be a new normal for this country. Under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa no one will be allowed to waste state resources and public funds.

We clearly saw, how the executive divided the subjects for the Cabinet of ministers.

And even the state ministries have been made an important part of the executive.

He had devolved subjects giving them important responsibilities so that they can perform and serve the people.

I'm certain the Cabinet portfolio hereafter will not be a mere means of accumulating wealth. The changes will pave way for the country to make a giant leap towards economic development and I am proud to be part of that program.



Irrigation Minister and State Minister of Internal Security
Chamal Rajapaksa

The President's Policy Statement has laid emphasis on all vital sectors. It has focused on those who have engaged in self-employment.

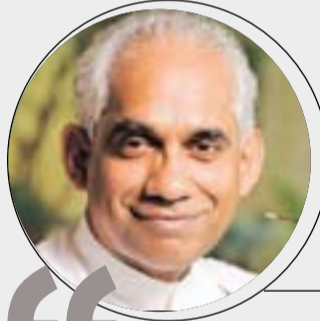
Earlier, such attention had not been given to a large number of people who are depending on various self-employment ventures.

According to the responsibilities entrusted to State Ministers, the Government is committed to help those who are engaged

in self-employment to develop their industries and sort out the issues faced by them.

This would eventually help increase the country's foreign exchange earnings in addition to developing the tourism sector and upgrading the status of those engaged in various self-employment ventures.

As the Government has secured two thirds majority in Parliament, it has its bounden duty to uphold the dignity and decorum of the Parliament.



Samagi Jana Balawegaya MP
Eran Wickremaratne

We will support the government in all their progressive measures. As a responsible Opposition we will also hold them accountable and make sure that the executive acts within the rule of law.

The President's Policy Statement is welcome, but there are things that we agree and disagree. There will be a debate on it in Parliament. The allocation of time for the debate should be in favor of the Opposition, if not, the need does not arise for a debate.

But they have taken the biggest share of the time allocated for the de-

bate. This is not in keeping with the parliamentary traditions in the world.

The Government has a two-thirds majority in parliament but societies don't work only on majority vote. It's true the majority decides but later what is just, what is right and the traditions will get implemented. If everything is decided based on majoritarianism then we don't need a judicial system. The fact that they have the majority power in Parliament will not deter us from upholding what we think is best for the country and its people.



SLMC Leader and SJB MP
Rauf Hakeem

With an overwhelming majority the government may rush through certain legislation that might be ill considered. Our first challenge is to have a healthy pace in bringing constitutional reforms. Any rushed reforms can be counterproductive. We will be focusing on that. Going by the Policy Statement the President made in parliament, he wishes to abolish the 19th Amendment and then look at overall reforms. But getting rid of the 19A totally will be like throwing the baby with the bath water.

We may have to look at certain obnoxious features if at all, and concentrate on changing those anomalies. We should not do away with it completely. As far as reforms are concerned, we are in the dark right now because

only the Cabinet of ministers are discussing the changes envisaged.

Hopefully when the draft is available we will have to scrutinise it and see that some positive reforms are put into place. Of course we are concerned about electoral reforms. The favorable features for a multi ethnic country, should not be repealed. There are certain advantages in the current system. Those should be preserved while the disadvantages can be replaced. Applicability of the system especially the preferential system can be revisited, and certainly we can support such reforms to correct those anomalies.

We will be keen on what the government hopes to propose and then suggest progressive reforms.



Opposition Leader
Sajith Premadasa

I would like to answer comprehensively and I don't want to make passing comments on issues such as what our role would be in the future. We will first have a meeting of SJB parliamentary group members and decide as to how we will proceed in the future as the main Opposition party.



State Minister and SLPP MP
Shasheendra Rajapaksa

The President is clear in his message to uplift the country. I believe the Opposition will back us to develop the country.

The Opposition is not interested on having the 20th Amendment since they are yet to know what involves the amendment. Some of the features of the 19th Amend-

ment such as the president's term and the number of times he could contest will not be changed.

There will not be major alterations to the electoral system. We must speak to the representatives of Tamil and Muslim communities on the new constitution. That is why the President sought two years to complete the process.



NPP MP
Vijitha Herath

The Policy Statement looks attractive but it will be a huge challenge to implement. The President said the 19th Amendment will be abolished but he did not say that the good features of it will be preserved. That is a matter for concern.



ITAK MP
M.A. Sumanthiran

Our party faced a setback in the recently concluded election. There were many reasons for that. We are examining the causes. However, we are still the third largest party in Parliament. Major issues in the country for the past 70 years including the Tamil national question need a political resolution. Although the President hadn't mentioned anything about this in his maiden address in Parliament, he said there will be a new constitution.

We look forward to participat-

ing in the deliberations so that we could settle outstanding issues. The past government tried to bring in a new constitution with the consent of all parties including the party that is in power now. My position is that we don't have to start from scratch. The draft can be the basis to move forward.

The new constitutional draft was presented to Parliament on January 16 last year. But if the government says it has a different mandate, we will agree, but they could consider it as the base to save time and money.

Russian Ambassador meets Health Minister

BY NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Russian Ambassador to Sri Lanka Yury B. Materiy met Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi at the Health Ministry yesterday, a Health Ministry spokesman said.

He said the Russian Ambassador had praised President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the Government and the Health Minister for successfully controlling the Covid-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka. Minister Wanniarachchi told him that the Russian vaccine developed to combat

Covid-19 will be used in Sri Lanka subsequent to WHO's approval and recommendations.

Minister Wanniarachchi thanked the Russian Ambassador for the assistance provided to Sri Lanka to facilitate higher studies for medical students. Responding the Ambassador said that considering the long standing friendship between the two countries, a scholarship program will be launched for Lankan doctors and health staff to continue higher education. Secretary (Political activities) of the Russian Embassy in Sri Lanka, Rostislav Lenchuk was also present.



Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi with the Russian Ambassador Yury B. Materiy.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)



AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) LIMITED

BID NO : 169/T/2018

COMMUNICATION LINK BUILDING AT BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT KATUNAYAKE

Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited (AASL) now invites Sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Construction of Communication Link Building at Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.

Construction Period is 365 Days.

Location of Project - Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.

To be eligible for Contract award, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be registered for Grade C4 (Building Construction) or above, with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) with experience in similar works.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Head of Supply Chain Management, Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake from 25.08.2020 until 22.09.2020 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees Fifteen Thousand (Rs. 15,000.00) in cash. Bidders may inspect the Bidding Documents free of charge at the above address.

All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of Rupees One Million (Rs. 1,000,000.00) in cash or issued by the Institutions listed in Section 05 - Bidding Data.

All Bidders or their authorized representatives are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Meeting on 09.09.2020 at 1030 hrs. at the Conference Room of Civil Engineering (P&D) Division, 4th Floor, New Administration Building Complex, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.

Bids shall be delivered in duplicate either by Registered Post or Hand Delivered to the address of Chairman, Procurement Committee No. 1, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake at or before 1400 hrs on 23.09.2020. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' or their authorized representatives.

For further details, Bidders may contact Head of Civil Engineering (P&D), Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on Telephone Nos. 011-2263502 / 011-2263507 and Facsimile No. 011-2251356.

Chairman

Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited
Bandaranaike International Airport,
Katunayake.

INVITATION FOR BIDS



AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) LIMITED

BID NO. : 134/T/2019

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF CCTV FOR APRON MONITORING AT BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KATUNAYAKE

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited for the Supply and Installation of CCTV for Apron Monitoring at Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.

Bids should be submitted on Documents obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on a cash payment of Rupees Three Thousand (Rs. 3,000.00) being a non-refundable Bidding Document Fee, together with an official letter of request, issued by the Bidder.

Bidding Documents may be purchased between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on any working day from 25.08.2020 up to 21.09.2020 from the Office of Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. The Bidding Documents will be available for inspection free of charge at the above address.

Bids should be deposited in the box provided for this purpose at Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. If Bidders are so desire, they may personally hand over the Sealed Bids to above address.

Bids will be closed at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 22nd September 2020 and will be opened immediately thereafter at the Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. Bidders or their duly authorized representatives may be present at the time of opening of Bids.

An on demand Bid Guarantee equivalent to Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred & Seventy Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty (Rs. 174,920.00) in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Bank approved by the Central Bank and operating in Sri Lanka and payable to Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited should be submitted with the Bid.

Any further information could be obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on Telephone Nos. 011-2264103 / 011-2254106, E-mail : head.scm@airport.lk or by visiting our Website : www.airport.lk

Chairman

Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited
Bandaranaike International Airport,
Katunayake.



LB FINANCE

LB FINANCE PLC Two Gigantic Auction Sales OF

100 Nos. Diesel & Petrol Motor Vehicles,
Three Wheelers & Motor Cycles
On Tuesday 25th August 2020

To Be Held At
Saninro Residencies
No. 07, Ketagewatta Road, Ragama.

Auction #1 : Commencing at 10.00 am

Entrance on the day of auction:- By a non-refundable Ticket of Rs. 2,000.00
& a refundable deposit of Rs. 25,000.00 per person. The gate will be
opened at 8.30am for Registration.

Comprising :

MOTOR CARS

SP CAD-XXXX TOYOTA ZVW30 PRIUS
WP CAW-XXXX SUZUKI WAGON R
SG HP-XXXX NISSAN GH K11
300-XXXX HONDA ACCORD
WP KK-XXXX MARUTI 800
WP KK-XXXX NISSAN BLUE BIRD SYLPHY
WP KR-XXXX TATA NANO
WP HM-XXXX KIA RIO 1.5
WP CAR-XXXX RENAULT KWID
NW CAB-XXXX MERCEDES BENZ E300
SG KN-XXXX TOYOTA DAA
WP JN-XXXX HONDA ACCORD
64-XXXX MITSUBISHI LANCER
CP KV-XXXX HONDA DAA-ZE2
WP KV-XXXX AUDI A4-1.8
NC CAN-XXXX SUZUKI ALTO LXI 800
WP GH-XXXX TOYOTA TERCEL
64-XXXX NISSAN SB13
CP GE-XXXX TOYOTA CARINA
NC CAN-XXXX SUZUKI ALTO LXI 800
SP CAY-XXXX SUZUKI WAGON R
WP CAI-XXXX HONDA FIT GP 05

JEEPS

2013 WP KY-XXXX ZOTYE EXTREME
2017 WP KL-XXXX HYUNDAI TUCSON
2000 SP CAQ-XXXX NISSAN XTRAIL DAA-HT32
1996 WP JP-XXXX TOYOTA LAND CRUISER
2010

VANS

2011 WP PC-XXXX TATA WINGER CARGO
2000 NP HX-XXXX TOYOTA HIACE
2016 SP GH-XXXX TOYOTA HIACE
1999 50 SRI XXXX TOYOTA HIACE
1984

AND 8 LORRIES, 6 SMALL TRUCKS, 01 TRACTORS & FREEZER TRUCK

HYBRID FREEZER TRUCK

HINO Duttro 14.5ft long (-30) dual freezer with auto sliding door. Extra options - A/C, P/S, P/M, P/shutters, 1 air bag, ABS, front suspension & rear upper spring leaf. Engine N04C, CRDI Turbo (HYBRID)



Vehicles to be sold with LB Finance PLC Leasing Facilities :

WP CAW-XXXX MERCEDES BENZ E350E 2017
WP KF-XXXX HUNDAI SANTEFI 2006
WP KG-XXXX SUZUKI ALTO LAFIC (JAPAN) 2004

Auction #2 : Commencing at 2.30 Pm

Entrance on the day of auction:- By a non-refundable Ticket of Rs. 1,000.00
& a refundable deposit of Rs. 10,000.00 per person. The Gate will be
opened at 1.00pm for Registration.

Comprising :- 44 Three Wheelers & 8 Motor Cycles

Bajaj 2 Stroke & 4 Stroke Three Wheelers,
Hero Achiever, Yamaha Ray ZR, Yamaha FZ S, Honda DIO, TVS Scooty Pep+, TVS Jupiter

Viewing - Saturday 22nd August 2020 Onwards at

304, Pahala Karagahamuna, Ragama Road, Kadawatha
(Between 9.00 a.m - 5.00 p.m.) - (Vehicles cannot be inspected on the day of Auction)

Visit our web site www.sandslanka.com for visuals of vehicles

- The Auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COVID 19 protocol.
- On the view days, buyers will be taken in batches for inspection.
- Prospective buyers will be taken to the auction venue on a first come first serve basis & limited for 250 seats as per the Health Ministry guidelines.
- Payment : Non - refundable initial deposit of 25% in Cash at the fall of the Hammer & Balance 75% & Removal latest by 3.00 pm on Friday 28th August 2020 to be paid to LB Finance PLC, No.275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mw, Colombo 7.
- The Management has the right to withdraw any vehicle (s) from the Auction without prior notice.
- The decision of the Auctioneer will be final.

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AUGUST 23, 2020

NEW SPORTS MINISTER ENTERS SHARK-INFESTED POND

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

Sri Lanka's latest Minister of Sports Namal Rajapaksa could be just days away from realizing that finding solutions or cleaning up the rotten set-up that has ruined sports for the past 15 years will be unlike his rough tough playing days when he wore the Sri Lanka jersey on the rugby field.

A former rugby forward who passed from modest college beginnings and went through the mill to become a Tusker, Rajapaksa already made it clear he will not let any sport that needs a clean-up escape his vision and focus.

But it won't be smooth sailing for the youngest Sri Lankan Minister at the age of 34 who last week went surfing the waves in down south Hambantota that he wants to turn into an attractive venue for summer sports.

In his eagerness for a rousing kick-off, Rajapaksa excited and raised curiosity among sports watchers by installing a swashbuckling National Sports Council that has ex-cricket icons Mahela Jayawardena and Kumar Sangakkara, Olympian swimmer Julian Bolling, legal experts, businessmen and corporate superstars among others.

"We are at the crossroads where important decisions have to be made. I expected the new Minister to first take time and study the situation and then bring in the right people to advise him," said Gregory de Silva a Masters holder in Sports and Human Resources Management acquired in the USA.

A former long and triple jump champion, De Silva headed a recent Probe Committee to investigate malpractices, corruption, fixing and misuse of funds at last December's South Asian Games and is not ex-

pecting much to change unless what he calls "attitudes change".

"I wonder how many in the new National Sports Council have the right credentials and the experience to handle this subject full time. Some of them are business minded. They are here today and fly away to England or some other country the next day," said De Silva.

But expectations are also running high among the rugby fraternity which saw Rajapaksa as an influential off-field figure even as a player.

He will now be turning more heads as a Minister than he did as a player and one of the most easily approachable personalities in a country that adores its sports.

"The best writing is on the wall," said Rizly Illyas who will be elected uncontested as the new head of Sri Lanka Rugby next week and is betting heavily on Minister Rajapaksa to do for rugby what his predecessors did not.

"Let me be straight about it. You need politics and rugby to go hand in hand. There will be tremendous energy for us now. He (Minister Rajapaksa) has been a sportsman and he knows it in and out."

But Rajapaksa's biggest challenge is likely to come from sports associations affiliated to the Olympic Committee, some of them roguish in their dealings and tainted by corruption, politics, nepotism, money laundering and inappropriate sexual misconduct.

Analysts argue that Rajapaksa can himself be a victim if he does not look sharp with those who swim alongside him or else end up the same way his predecessors and Sports Ministers of the past as they basked in pompous boasts and did absolutely nothing other than create shark ponds.



Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa comes ashore after surfing the waves in sunny Hambantota (Pic by Sulochana Gamage)

Sri Lanka aims for top 50 badminton ranking

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa wants a Sri Lankan badminton player to end up in the top 50 world rankings and has promised to make arrangements to enlist the services of a foreign coach while at the same time pledging to acquire new facilities and upgrade existing installations.

It follows an inquiry made by Minister Rajapaksa on the importance of hiring a foreign coach when he met officials from Sri Lanka Badminton to discuss the welfare of players and the sport in general.

Badminton officials had requested the Minister to explore the possibility of contracting an Indonesian coach during

the discussion. Earlier Indonesian Tony Wahyudi coached the national players for a period of three years and presently Sri Lankan Badminton has appointed two local coaches to take his place.

Minister Rajapaksa has also told badminton officials that his aim was to have a Sri Lankan champion to occupy a position in the top 50 world badminton rankings and has advised his Ministry officials to formulate a programme to meet the target.

The Minister promised to further develop present facilities for badminton players to improve their skills like having a swimming pool and a pavilion while upgrading the existing training facilities in Bandarawela, Galle and Matara.

Three cycling officials face life ban

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Three former Cycling Federation officials are in danger of facing a life ban after they failed to appear for an inquiry at the Sports Ministry on Wednesday.

The three former officials had received an ultimatum to submit the audited financial accounts Statement to the Sports Ministry which they failed to do according to an official of the Sports Development Department.

The Sports Development Department headed by its Director General Amal Edirisuriya had already announced that all National Sports Associations should present audited financial reports within two months of the fiscal year but the Cycling Federation failed to submit their accounts for the period 2018 and 2019.

According to the Sports Law any office bearer or executive committee member who violates the Regulation is ineligible to submit his or her nomination to contest an election in any of the National Sports Associations. According to an official of the Sports Ministry a letter signed by Assistant Director Sports RB Wickramasinghe to the three former Cycling Federation officials has stated that as per the request made by the three officials, the date of the inquiry had been postponed from August 4 to 19 and if they failed to present themselves the Ministry would take legal action in accordance with the Sports Law.

The Cycling Federation was suspended last July by former Sports Minister Dulas Alahapperuma through an Extraordinary Gazette notification dated July 27, 2019 due to financial irregularities.

Rugby action after thorough check-up through Sevens

Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) is to experiment a return to the sport in the aftermath of the coronavirus through a Sevens tournament but only after they receive the green light that the Sri Lanka Schools Rugby Football Association has been able to adhere to health and safety

regulations that will be monitored by government authorities.

As a first step into looking into the possibility of restarting matches, the new SLR president Rizly Illyas who will take over the reins next week, will submit a document and framework guidelines for schools

and clubs to follow. It will be enforced by Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) who will provide SLR with a feedback.

Illyas said he will be conducting a workshop to educate schools and clubs on the need to adhere to present health requirements that also includes

testing of players in one of the most physical and body contact sports.

"At this moment in time we can only look into the prospects of playing matches somewhere in November and that is also after we get the okay from the Healthy Ministry that will have to enforce the guidelines," said Illyas.



Kusal Mendis celebrates his feat

Kusal Mendis hammers 200

Kusal Mendis hammered an unbeaten double century as Colombo Cricket Club (CCC) overhauled NCC's total of 467 as their Super Eight match ended in a draw at the P Sara Stadium yesterday.

Mendis was unbeaten on seven runs when his team resumed their first innings on the third and final day at 210 for 3. He hammered 24

fours and a six in making 200 not out as CCC reached 480 for 6 in the crucial match with both teams fighting for the top prize and one more match remaining.

NCC 467 (Lahiru Igalagamage 111, Chaturangana de Silva 159, Malinda Pushpakumara 6 for 80)

CCC 480 for 6 (Kusal Mendis 200 not out, Lasith Abeyratne 104) (YK)

Vantage FFSL President's Cup football quarters from today

BY BERNARD PERERA

The quarter finals of the Vantage FFSL President's Cup football tournament get underway from today with table leaders Java Lane SC taking on Defenders SC from Group 'C' at the Sugathadasa stadium at 4.00 p.m.

The second game will be between Group 'E' leaders Blue Eagles SC who clash with New Star SC the Group 'B' leaders.

Blue Eagles was the only team to win all their three games in the first round to gain a tally of nine points to qualify for the quarters. In this group Colombo Football Club which recorded

two wins and a loss had six points to be placed behind Blue Eagles and made their way to the quarters on a higher point aggregate.

Tomorrow Colombo FC is billed to take on Police SC the Group D leaders at 4 pm while the following game will be between Red Star SC and Serendib SC the runners up in Group D at the same venue at 7 pm.

The Championship is considered the first Semi Professional Tourney played in Sri Lanka and all players did well to come out with their best soccer throughout the championship showing their keenness without even their fans to support them.

Plea to offer sports scholarships to village kids

Following the entry of a new Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa who has pledged to take care of all sports, inquiries are being made on the prospects of offering junior scholarships to the youngest of players from the remotest corners of the country to enroll at elite schools in Colombo.

"We talk about Grade Fives scholarships. Why not extend the scheme

to grant passages to those who can excel in sports at Under-15 level and are in village schools without facilities," asked former Royal College junior cricket coach Senarath Alwis.

"From my point of view we have the best academic students entering campus from the villages and in the same way you can find the best sporting products coming from the same areas," added Alwis.

All-island T-10 cricket commences

Several past Sri Lanka cricketers are taking part in an all-island T-10 championship which got underway in Balapitiya yesterday.

As many as 32 teams contest the tournament in eight groups and the Champion side will receive

Rs.200,000 and the runner-up Rs. 100,000 in addition to individual prizes.

The quarter finals will be held on September 5 and the semi finals on the following day along with the final. (YK)

Sri Lanka badminton player Oshadi down with Leukemia

Sri Lanka badminton player Oshadi Kuruppu who won the women's team silver medal at the 12th South Asia Games in India is presently suffering critically from Leukemia or blood cancer at the Apeksha Hospital in Maharagama.



Oshadi Kuruppu

A family spokesman said she would need financial assistance running into many millions of rupees to undergo bone marrow surgery. Oshadi who has been in the Sri Lanka badminton pool since 2015 obtained a Sports Science and Management Honours Degree from the Sabaragamuwa University in 2019.

Her father Wimaladharmasiri Kuruppu said anyone wishing to make a contribution could contact him on his mobile phone bearing number 0714460762.

He said Oshadi's bone marrow surgery has to be done urgently according to doctors and two accounts have been opened at the Commercial Bank Kottawa branch bearing number 8008646015 and People's Bank Maradana branch bearing number 236200113505196 for financial assistance. (DR)

Ragama CC, Army draw

Army SC and Ragama CC drew their Super League match at the CCC ground yesterday.

Ragama batsman Janith Liyanage made at top score of 107.

Ragama CC 501 for 9 declared (Janith Liyanage 107) and 126 for 8 dec (Dushan Vimukthi 5 for 38) **Army SC 189** and 66 for 2

Colts, Marians draw Colts and Chilaw Marians drew their Super League match at the SSC ground yesterday.

Colts 302 and 227 for 5 **Chilaw Marians 399** for 9 dec (Rumesh Buddhika 145)

Dilshad takes 7/42

The Super Eight match between BRC and Saracens ended in a draw at Katunayake yesterday as fast bowler Mohamed Dilshan took 7 for 42)

BRC 392 (Raminda Wijesuriya 109) and 124 (Mohamed Dilshad 7 for 42)

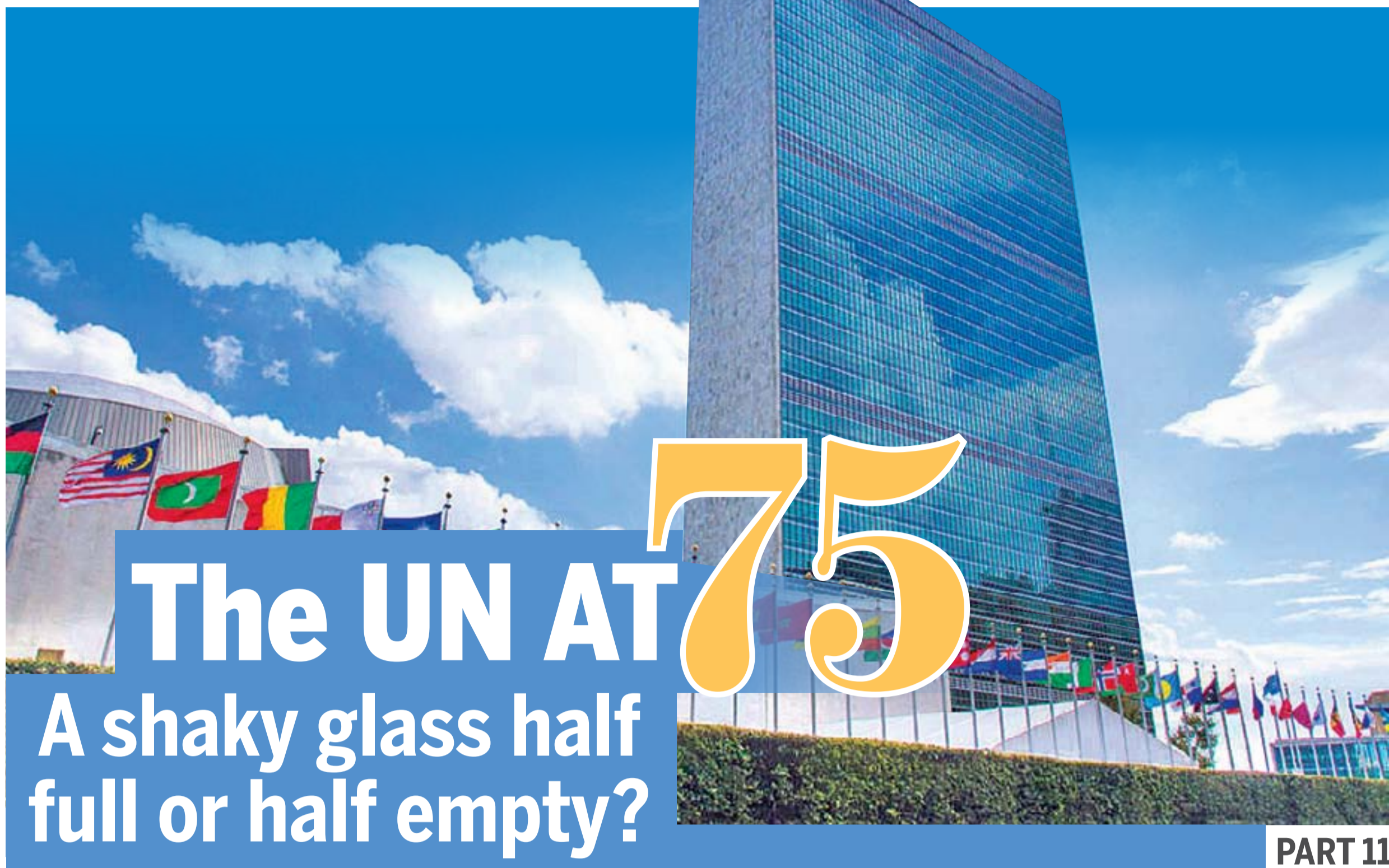
Saracens 262 and 75 for 3 (YK)

More sports on pages 22, 23, 24

IMPACT

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AUGUST 23, 2020



The UN AT 75

A shaky glass half full or half empty?

PART 11

By
Palitha Kohona



The way UN's constitution (The Charter) is formulated ensures that its powers are strictly constrained. At the same time the rights and privileges of those who won the Second World War are well and truly entrenched in a blatantly undemocratic manner in the Charter, causing much disenchantment in a world where the political, economic and social power centres have shifted significantly. The Veto power conferred on the P5 in the Security Council, limits its freedom of action to situations where the Veto wielders agree. The Cold War paralysed the U.N. and its Security Council substantially, hobbling it during those dangerous years of East-West confrontation.

Similarly, North - South relations remain clouded by suspicions traceable to the now distant colonial experience. This constraint continues to influence attitudes and is not helped by an overbearing, "we know best" approach of the West.

The Group of 77, originally intended to be the platform of developing countries on economic and social issues, is no longer 77. Relatively prosperous China (a P5 country), the second biggest economy in the world, works with it and it has grown to 134. Not all of its members are poor developing countries either. The per capita income of Singapore comfortably outstrips many of the developed world.

Non Aligned Movement

Similarly, the Non Aligned Movement, of which Sri Lanka has been a prominent member often punching way above its weight, originally intended to be the group not aligned to the East or the West, has tended to pull in different directions with no cohesive non-aligned focus. Nevertheless, it remains a platform of group strength for the weak and the meek. Some have dropped out of this group. India, an original Non-aligned stalwart, today is participating in military exercises with the US, Japan and Australia (The Quad?) designed to confront and contain China.

The tendency of the Security Council, when the P5 works in unison, to adopt decisions binding on all member states under Chapter 7 of the Charter and which should properly be the legislative responsibility of the General Assembly, has also come in for criticism.

Consistent with the objectives of the Charter, the UN has been seminal in the development of the international rule of law. The Secretary-General's office

is the repository of over 550 multilateral treaties, the vast majority of them negotiated under the auspices of the UN. They cover almost every aspect of human interaction, including the environment, the oceans, aviation, trade, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, organised crime, the outer space, shipping, road rules, etc, and set a complex network of global standards for the conduct of individual states as never before. Sri Lanka played a significant role in advancing the UN's anti terrorist agenda along with other affected countries, and should continue to do so.

The international rule of law thus established, seeps down to national level in many areas influencing the development of the rule of law within countries.

Admittedly, the entry into force of a multilateral treaty or a state becoming party to a treaty does not per se advance the condition of individual persons. But the very existence of these universally accepted standards, raises awareness and creates the incentive to strive for those higher goals. Sometimes, with a little bit of added pressure.

An obligation to settle international disputes by peaceful means was consecrated in the Charter, together with a prohibition on the use of force in international relations. The mission of the International Court of Justice, created by the Charter, is to resolve inter-State disputes peacefully in accordance with international law.

While the judgments and advisory opinions of the ICJ carry tremendous moral pressure, the Court itself has no authority to enforce them.

The UN and its agencies have been successful in mobilising the international community on various issues. As the scourge of terrorism surged across borders and became a threat to many countries, the UN was able to establish treaty based and Security Council sponsored rules and to mobilise states and resources to counter this threat.

Expertise was assembled, resources were mobilised, training was provided to countries that needed it, and awareness was raised to a high level. In the absence of the UN and its agencies, it is doubtful if these advances could have been achieved at a global level. Much more remains to be done. The confrontations of the moment may deny the world of future opportunities to collaborate should such threats raise their heads again.

The global response to health challenges such as the AIDS pandemic, the swine flu and avian flu threats that had the potential to cause havoc and Ebola epidemic were countered due to the existence of the UN, especially the WHO.

And now Covid-19. Despite the criticism piled on the WHO by the US, it is the first and last resort for many a poor country in this crisis. The U.N. has developed an impressive ability to

raise awareness rapidly and mobilise member states to respond quickly to threats of this nature. The WHO dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic in a much more impressive manner than many better resourced countries.

Saved countless lives

The manner that the world body has responded to natural and man-made disasters has saved countless lives and alleviated much misery.

The UN has been successful in restoring normalcy to a number of global situations that threatened to cause untold violence and misery. Cambodia has emerged as a stable and increasingly prosperous country after a decade of conflict largely as a consequence of the Australian initiated and UN brokered peace and the subsequent peacekeeping operation.

Timor-Leste, after a quarter century of conflict, has established itself as a peaceful member of the international community.

South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy and majority rule was painstakingly facilitated by

the UN despite the obstructions posed over many years by some Veto wielding members of the UN.

The role of the world organisation in guiding the former Yugoslavia's successor states to peace, after the initial explosion of violence, was not insignificant. Even the complex legal issues relating to succession were dealt with imaginatively by the world body, especially its Treaty Section and the Office of Legal Affairs. This brings us on to a vital and expanded area of UN activity - peacekeeping. Since its first peacekeeping operations on the borders of Israel and between India and Pakistan, its peacekeeping role has expanded substantially, with peacekeepers being given multidimensional mandates.

Today the UN is actively engaged in peacekeeping operations in 16 countries. It has over 120,000 personnel, performing peacekeeping functions, including civilian, police and military personnel, contributed voluntarily by 122 Member States, mainly by developing countries. Sri Lanka was a significant contributor to the peacekeeping force in Haiti and was gradually expanding its participation.

This effort needs to be revived proactively as contributions to peacekeeping is a means to extending our soft power and generating goodwill, in addition to tapping a source of income for the country. The cost of peacekeeping exceeds seven billion dollars, making it the costliest aspect of UN operations. Now, UN peacekeepers may be permitted to play an offensive role to defend their mandates, including the protection of civilians.

While there are impressive success stories, peacekeeping related criticisms also abound. The UN's peacekeeping efforts may meet with greater success if their mandates are formulated with better information originating at ground level and following more structured consultations, including with host governments, if the mandates are clearly defined and the peacekeeping troops are better briefed, equipped and selected on the basis of experience and training, if operations are regularly reviewed and exit strategies are well defined. Unfortunately, there has been a tendency for some missions to be extended indefinitely.

As the world moves forward there is an increasing clamour to reform the United Nations to reflect contemporary political and economic reality. The most difficult challenge will be to reform the Security Council which substantially reflects the power structures of post-World War II. Two of the P5 are Europeans and members of the EU. Three of the elected members would also be members of the EU.

Security Council

At present, the WEOG group in the Security Council with Belgium, Estonia and Germany (to be replaced by Norway and Ireland) has six members out of 15, which is grossly disproportionate in every sense. Africa has three of the elected members, Latin America and the Caribbean two and Asia two plus the Permanent seat (China).

Asia is underrepresented given that almost half the world population lives in Asia and world economy is dominated by it. Italy, the UN's sixth-largest funder, provided leadership to a movement known as the Uniting for Consensus in opposition to the possible expansion of permanent seats.

Core members of the group include Canada, South Korea, Spain, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Turkey, Argentina and Colombia.

They would like to see the creation of creating a new category of seats, still non-permanent, but elected for an extended duration (semi-permanent seats). The G4 group, India, Germany, Brazil and Japan, have been campaigning to expand the P5 category to 9. While the Security Council, an entity that reflects the privileges of the victors of a war concluded 75 years ago, may not be reformed by another war,

the dramatically altered global socio-economic realities might help to change attitudes.

Making the international civil service of the U.N., of which Sri Lankans have occupied senior positions over the years, truly effective has been another challenge. Constantly criticised by the major contributors, it has chugged along for 75 years.

Achieved much in 75 years

While intermittent efforts have been made under different SGs, especially during the tenures of Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon, to make it more dynamic and responsive to contemporary needs, it is probably the time to approach this task in a comprehensive manner.

Creditably, Ban Ki-moon succeeded in bringing large numbers of women into managerial positions. The ability of the Organisation to deliver on its mandates efficiently to the satisfaction of member states continues to be questioned by its main funder. A former US Permanent Representative, John Bolton, once suggested that the secretariat building could be reduced to 10 floors and the world would not know the difference.

The UN has been described as a private club. Its members decide what the club should do. Although the world at large may have other higher expectations, the UN is able to deliver only what its sovereign membership and the Charter would permit it to do. The most effective results are achieved where a consensus is obtained.

But as Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld so succinctly proclaimed, the UN was not created to send humanity to heaven, simply to stop it from going to hell. Likewise, it has been said that if the UN did not exist we would have had to invent it.

Given the current global suspicions and rivalries, it is unlikely that we would succeed in creating a UN today from scratch. Despite all the criticisms for its failures, it has achieved much in its 75 years of existence. Just that successes do not garner headlines. It could be described as the most successful and truly global political organisation ever created.

In retrospect, one could say that the UN has navigated through the crashing waves of global discord and survived so far. It has also enjoyed moments of euphoric glee of success. On the whole, as was hopefully observed by Georges Bidault, Minister for Foreign Affairs and head of the French delegation to the San Francisco Conference, in the past 75 years, it has performed admirably, "Reconciling the requirements of the ideal with the possibilities of the real".

Dr. Palitha Kohona, Sri Lanka's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Former Foreign Secretary and Head of the UN Treaty Section.

THE MANNER THAT THE WORLD BODY HAS RESPONDED TO NATURAL AND MANMADE DISASTERS HAS SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES AND ALLEVIATED MUCH MISERY. THE UN HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN RESTORING NORMALCY TO A NUMBER OF GLOBAL SITUATIONS THAT THREATENED TO CAUSE UNTOLD VIOLENCE AND MISERY



PICTORIAL



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrives sans the usual escort

OPENING OF NINTH PARLIAMENT

The ceremonial opening of the ninth Parliament of Sri Lanka and the Reading of the Policy Statement of the Government by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa took place on Thursday, August 20, without paraphernalia, pomp and pageant.

These pictures highlight how the President arrived at the Parliament a few minutes before 3.00 p.m. sans the ceremonial horse riders and motorcade, symbolising his desire for simplicity. Members of Parliament new and old had a 'chit-chat' while sipping tea at the tea party organised by the Speaker of the House to host the President, Prime Minister, Ministers and Members of Parliament, their family members and invitees which included Colombo based Heads of Missions. With 81 new faces in the ninth Parliament, the Speaker has arranged two days of training sessions for the new members to get them accustomed to parliamentary traditions and standing orders.

This is the first time that no UNP Member was present at the time of opening a new Parliament as the Party had not decided on the National List Member, the solitary UNP seat in the new Parliament.



Newly appointed Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene welcomes the President



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with Ministers and MPs



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and First Lady Ioma Rajapaksa being led to Parliament



President Rajapaksa flanked by MPs



President Rajapaksa presenting the Policy Statement



Proceedings in Parliament



After the Policy Statement the President meets MPs at the Tea Party



State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana, one of the newly elected MPs and his wife with the President



The President with young students of Devi Balika Vidyalaya



In conversation with the youngest MP Jeevan Thondaman



The President greets a group of students from Vishaka Balika Vidyalaya who sang the Jaya Mangala Gaathaa



Greeting TNA Parliamentarian R. Sambandan



The President with SLMC leader Rauf Hakeem



The President greets State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera



With Dr. Harsha de Silva, the Opposition MP representing SJB



Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara



The President with MPs and visitors



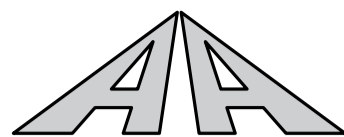
The President greets Minister S. M. Chandrasena



One time Speaker W. J. M. Lokubandara



State Ministers Shasheendra Rajapaksa and Nipuna Ranawaka on their way to Parliament.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
**AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES
(SRI LANKA) LIMITED**
BID NO. : 106/T/2019
**SUPPLY OF 20 NOS. CHAFING DISH WITH GLASS LID AND
10 NOS. INDUCTION HOB WITH TOUCH PANEL TO LOUNGES
OF AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) LIMITED**

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited for the **Supply of 20 Nos. Chafing Dish with Glass Lid and 10 Nos. Induction Hob with Touch Panel to Lounges of Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.**

Bids should be submitted on Documents obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on a **cash payment of Rupees One Thousand (Rs. 1,000.00) being a non-refundable Bidding Document Fee**, together with an official letter of request, issued by the Bidder.

Bidding Documents may be purchased **between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on any working day from 25.08.2020 up to 21.09.2020** from the Office of Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. The Bidding Documents will be available for inspection free of charge at the above address.

Bids should be deposited in the box provided for this purpose at Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. If Bidders are so desire, they may personally hand over the Sealed Bids to above address.

Bids will be closed at **2.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 22nd September 2020** and will be opened immediately thereafter at the Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. Bidders or their duly authorized representatives may be present at the time of opening of Bids.

An on demand **Bid Guarantee** equivalent to **Sri Lankan Rupees Seventy Seven Thousand (Rs. 77,000.00)** in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Bank approved by the Central Bank and operating in Sri Lanka and payable to Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited should be submitted with the Bid.

Any further information could be obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on Telephone Nos. 011-2254103 / 011-2264104, E-mail : head.scm@airport.lk or by visiting our Website : www.airport.lk

Chairman
**Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited
Bandaranaike International Airport,
Katunayake.**
INVITATION FOR BIDS
**AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES
(SRI LANKA) LIMITED**
BID NO. : 040/T/2019
**SUPPLY OF 05 NOS. OF 85" TELEVISION / DISPLAY
AT BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KATUNAYAKE**

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited for the **Supply of 05 Nos. of 85" Television / Display at Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.**

Bids should be submitted on Documents obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on a **cash payment of Rupees Two Thousand (Rs. 2,000.00) being a non-refundable Bidding Document Fee**, together with an official letter of request, issued by the Bidder.

Bidding Documents may be purchased **between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on any working day from 25.08.2020 up to 21.09.2020** from the Office of Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. The Bidding Documents will be available for inspection free of charge at the above address.

Bids should be deposited in the Box provided for this purpose at Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. If Bidders so desire, they may personally hand over the Sealed Bids to above address.

Bids will be closed at **2.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 22nd September 2020** and will be opened immediately thereafter at the Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. Bidders or their duly authorized representatives may be present at the time of opening of Bids.

An on demand **Bid Guarantee** equivalent to **Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred & Thirty Thousand (Rs. 130,000.00)** in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Bank approved by the Central Bank and operating in Sri Lanka and payable to Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited should be submitted with the Bid.

Any further information could be obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on Telephone Nos. 011-2254103 / 011-2264106, E-mail : head.scm@airport.lk or by visiting our Website : www.airport.lk

Chairman
**Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited
Bandaranaike International Airport,
Katunayake.**
INVITATION FOR BIDS
**AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES
(SRI LANKA) LIMITED**
BID NO. : 117/T/2019
**REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PASSENGER ELEVATOR
IN THE NAVIGATION SERVICES COMPLEX
AT BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KATUNAYAKE**

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited for the **Removal & Replacement of existing Passenger Elevator in the Navigation Services Complex** at Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.

Bids should be submitted on Documents obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on a **cash payment of Rupees Six Thousand (Rs. 6,000.00) being a non-refundable Bidding Document Fee**, together with an official letter of request, issued by the Bidder.

Bidding Documents may be purchased **between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on any working day from 25.08.2020 up to 21.09.2020** from the Office of Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. The Bidding Documents will be available for inspection free of charge at the above address.

Bids should be deposited in the box provided for this purpose at Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. If Bidders are so desire, they may personally hand over the Sealed Bids to above address.

Bids will be closed at **2.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 21st September 2020** and will be opened immediately thereafter at the Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. Bidders or their duly authorized representatives may be present at the time of opening of Bids.

An on demand **Bid Guarantee** equivalent to **Sri Lankan Rupees Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand (Rs. 360,000.00)** in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Bank approved by the Central Bank and operating in Sri Lanka and payable to Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited should be submitted with the Bid.

Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **09.09.2020** at 10.00 a.m. at the Conference Room, Mechanical Engineering Maintenance Building, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.

Any further information could be obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on Telephone Nos. 011-2264103 / 011-2254102, E-mail : head.scm@airport.lk or by visiting our Website : www.airport.lk

Chairman
**Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited
Bandaranaike International Airport,
Katunayake.**
INVITATION FOR BIDS
**AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES
(SRI LANKA) LIMITED**
BID NO. : 063/T/2019
**SUPPLY OF 50KW AND 25KW GRID TIE INVERTERS
AT BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KATUNAYAKE**

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited for the **Supply of 50kW and 25kW Grid Tie Inverters** at Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.

Bids should be submitted on Documents obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on a **cash payment of Rupees One Thousand and Five Hundred (Rs. 1,500.00) being a non-refundable Bidding Document Fee**, together with an official letter of request, issued by the Bidder.

Bidding Documents may be purchased **between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on any working day from 25.08.2020 up to 21.09.2020** from the Office of Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. The Bidding Documents will be available for inspection free of charge at the above address.

Bids should be deposited in the box provided for this purpose at Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. If Bidders are so desire, they may personally hand over the Sealed Bids to above address.

Bids will be closed at **2.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 22nd September 2020** and will be opened immediately thereafter at the Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. Bidders or their duly authorized representatives may be present at the time of opening of Bids.

An on demand **Bid Bond** equivalent to **Sri Lankan Rupees Sixty Thousand (Rs. 60,000.00)** in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Bank approved by the Central Bank and operating in Sri Lanka and payable to Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited should be submitted with the Bid.

Any further information could be obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on Telephone Nos. 011-2254103 / 011-2264106, E-mail : head.scm@airport.lk or by visiting our Website : www.airport.lk

Chairman
**Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited
Bandaranaike International Airport,
Katunayake.**

National immunity for Covid-19

By
Frances
Bulathsinghala



Sri Lanka is today akin to a paradise of wellbeing in this Coronavirus plagued times when much of the world, South Asia, including neighbouring India is reeling with a high level of community infections.

In the backdrop where the global Covid-19 pandemic is still a major threat, we focus on Sri Lanka amid fears that there may lurk the possibility of a second wave as in New Zealand and Singapore.

We, therefore, examine in this article the importance of promoting a collective national consciousness for encouraging a strong immunity of the populace. Promoting such an overall national culture will merely be reverting to nature the way our ancestors did, re-assessing our connection with the soil (and not abuse it with chemicals). It will include inculcating in every child and adult the habit of growing at least the basic herbs/vegetables we need in everyday cooking such as turmeric, garlic, onion and *karapinch*. Merely promoting a traditional diet for immunity will not do when the country has to import such basic produce that used to be grown in every household as most of us would remember.

Organic agricultural activist and Ayurveda doctor, Palitha S.G. Arachchige who writes to the Sinhala media on using our native leaves/herbs to prevent, pre-empt and cure illnesses and especially boost immunity, in a conversation last week with this writer was reminiscing our now almost forgotten home garden tradition, where every household had its own mandatory *kaha pathiya* enough to provide around three kilos of turmeric a year for the culinary and medicinal needs of the family.

The *kaha pathiya* was not grown in isolation; it co-habited with many other plants and herbs that grace our kitchen and this carefully nurtured garden patch was a boon to the household. Lacking garden space was never an excuse as we used to cultivate our herbs and even vegetables in every old basin, bucket or vessel. Today, we are



facing a turmeric shortage and have to depend on importing it but the way to reverse such problems is to work systematically with the people to inject back the values we had.

Speaking of these aspects, therefore, is vital and should be interlinked in any discourse on traditional diet for promoting health. Mainstreaming such focus through government ministries, the media, schools and the private sector is especially needed at this time when we are contemplating the opening of our airports through the post Covid-19 phase of opening up tourism.

So far we have handled the pandemic in an exemplary fashion that will baffle some of the so-called advanced countries which have resorted to letting Covid-19 patients die in their homes. The quarantine centres of Lan-

ka adopted a typical normal everyday Lankan traditional diet, replete with kola kanda, ginger tea and coriander.

Given that there is no Allopathic or any other 'cure' for this virus strain, the only silver lining is (as many doctors worldwide and in Sri Lanka; Allopathic and Ayurvedic have asserted) that it is within the individual to build barriers through diet and other practices for the body and mind; such as exercise and meditation, that would ensure a truly wholesome system that resists infection. The question is how we mainstream such practices to ensure that people do it.

Where food is concerned it is likely that there are few other diets in this world to match the nutrition of the Sri Lankan authentic traditional diet which we have deviated from with imported so called 'improved' rice

varieties that depend on chemical agriculture dominating the market. We have great potential to promote as a policy our native rice varieties which have high medicinal value and known to be the base of rice gruel- *kola kenda* and *lunukenda*, the health benefits of which are widely acclaimed.

Serious discourse is needed on protecting and promoting our traditional seed varieties. "The typical Kandyan home garden of yesteryear were well known for being mini pharmacies, because these gardens had many important herbs, leaves and several fruits and vegetables that every house-

hold needs for daily consumption," says Dr. Palitha S.G. Arachchige who has authored books on *Ath Beheth* and traditional lifestyle for health.

In his book *Jana Yahaguna Divi Pawathuma*, in chapter two titled *Ayu Sepa Bala Deru Jeevana Ratawaka Gathi Soba* he highlights a traditional Sinhala lullaby (*DaruNellawilla*) that speaks of a lifestyle inculcated from cradle. It goes as follows:

*AthataWeraluAhinda Gene
Inata Pala nela gene
BataramaDarakada gene
EiAmaWigasakine*

A careful analysis of this lullaby will help us to analyse a lifestyle before concrete structures overtook us euphemistically labelled as development and cemented away our health.

Focusing on the cultivation/consumption tradition of food as medicine that we had, the book touches on a few of the main vegetables/herbs, such as *karawila* and the use of *kurundu*-bee honey combination for immunity.

Sri Lanka does not lack experts on our traditional knowledge/intangible cultural heritage as used for health and if there was ever a time we desperately needed to put such knowledge into everyday use, it is now.

We need to revive it, teach it and practise it. Hence we need to create mechanisms to make it part and parcel of policy and practice. It is up to both the Government and the citizen to do so. If we genuinely do all this with commitment, we are preparing to adequately and systematically shield ourselves in the long run against not only Corona but also other variants of dubious viruses that may invade the world. With a strong immune system equipped population, the Coronavirus will be akin to a simple cold if it manages to attack a healthy body or if the immune system is truly formidable it would never survive. But if we as a populace are ridden with conditions such as diabetes, cancer, heart ailments, kidney issues, obesity and malnutrition, then Covid-19 will be a national menace. In the days and weeks to come it will be crucial for us to keep this in mind. It may be also vital for us to remind ourselves that we are from the lineage of ancestors who built Sigiriya and other engineering marvels that the West cannot fathom and thus that good health, strength and resilience were and still are within our genes and psyche. To see that we do not destroy our soil, our land and be careless with it in how we administer it, is up to us as a nation.

It would be prudent not to rest on our laurels or be complacent that we have done well. With mindful action we need to go well beyond masking and testing to set a national policy that will encourage everyday health as part of promoting our intangible cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

This is the need of the hour for Sri Lanka.



Preschool sinks set up by USAID



Handing over personal protective equipment



School disinfection in Gampaha

Making schools safer for children to return

By
Kathya de
Silva Senarath



As thousands of children returned to school in August following five months of closure, an initiative supported by the United States has helped disinfect schools and ensure a healthy learning environment for Sri Lankan students.

In cooperation with regional health and education directors, medical officers, and school development executive committees, the project disinfected 180 schools in 14 districts in the Southern, Central, Uva, Eastern, North and North Central Provinces. This has enabled nearly 200,000 schoolchildren and teachers to resume their education safely.

"As schools reopen, the United States is working to safeguard the health of students and teachers, while giving parents the confidence to help their children return to school," said U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alaina B. Teplitz. "We recognise the importance of protecting educational gains and the continuity of learning for all."

The U.S. support, through the

AS SCHOOLS REOPEN, THE UNITED STATES IS WORKING TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, WHILE GIVING PARENTS THE CONFIDENCE TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL," SAID U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SRI LANKA ALAINA B. TEPLITZ.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), included power sprayers, Personal Protective Equipment, thermal thermometer scanners, and labour costs for disinfection.

The areas' health authorities provided disinfection liquid to ensure that disinfection standards were maintained. USAID also provided schools with Covid-19 awareness posters for display.

"We had a very short time to complete the disinfection of schools since Grades other than Ordinary



U.S. Ambassador Alaina Teplitz

and Advanced Levels were set to start soon after the elections. We can use the equipment we received for a long period and beyond Covid-19 to control infectious diseases such as dengue and influenza," said Zonal Education Director in Galle, N. U. Priyani Daas.

The Principal of Periyapuli-yankulam School, V. Vikineswaran also commended the U.S. assistance: "Our school is far away from the Mullaitivu town and people come from low income backgrounds. The support has made parents feel safe

to send their children to school," he said.

USAID earlier coordinated with 54 preschools to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in 11 districts.

In addition to donating thermal temperature scanners and disposal bins, the United States funded sinks for hand washing and puppets to all preschools that can be used to educate preschoolers about Covid-19. Teachers attended training programs with guidance from child education specialists on engaging children with the help of the puppets on good hygiene and preventing the spread of Covid-19.

Over 2,000 preschoolers and 172 teachers are learning preventive methods for Covid-19. The support contributed to inculcate long lasting hygiene habits to teachers, preschoolers and their families.

"Moray Estate in Maskeliya, is very rural. They do not have much knowledge about Covid-19 prevention. So the support given by USAID is invaluable to protect our children and their families," said Yogaprakash Harinprakash, 34, a preschool teacher.

These efforts were supported under USAID's Social Cohesion and Reconciliation activity which helps populations in need through a mix of quick impact and long-term interventions.

Mandy causes health complications

- Health authorities

By
Carol Aloysius



A leading Consultant Psychiatrist and former Director of the National Institute of Mental Health Dr Jayan Mendis has warned young persons tempted to experiment with new drugs now entering the country illegally in large quantities, to refrain from doing so as they could lead to dire health implications.

This week, Monday (17), it was reported by our sister paper the *Daily News* that 12 kgs of a new narcotic pill known as Mandy worth Rs 200 million had been found for the first time in a narcotics bust operation by the Dehiwela Police.

It was also reported that other expensive drugs too such as Ecstasy, Dizzle, Brownies, Molly, Beans were also being found at various entertainment hotspots

in the country. "All these drugs contain 3,4 Methylene dioxymethamphetamine. They are targeted towards young persons visiting night clubs and are very costly and addictive," Dr Mendis told the *Sunday Observer*.

He said they were being sold in different forms as powder, pills and gum and very recently in the form of inhalers.

They are all pro active drugs, causing psychological and mental problems such as anxiety, panic attacks, paranoia and physical side effects leading to tingling sensations, dilated pupils, raised body temperatures and faster heartbeat and nausea," he warned.

He said, "Dancing for long periods in a hot atmosphere like a club also increases the chances of overheating and dehydration".

The best solution is to stay away from these new drugs which can only harm your body and result in unwanted health complications, he added.

School heads urged to raise awareness on narcotics

The Education Ministry Secretary, N.H.M Chitrananda has sent a circular to school heads island wide that students should be made more aware of the dangers of narcotics and liquor.

The Ministry urged school heads to conduct seminars on the subject for students and their parents to create a narcotics and liquor free school environment. It also requested them to form coordinating committees at schools with the participation of parents and school teachers.

Parents in most schools have welcomed the circular and pledged their fullest cooperation to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's endeavour to eradicate the narcotics menace in schools.

Sinhala version of Covid-19 prevention handbook launched

The launching of the Sinhala translation of the internationally known book "*Prevention and Control of Covid-19*" edited by Shanghai Medical Treatment Experts Group Head, Prof Zhang Weihong last week, was commended by the Health Ministry. Additional Secretary Health Ministry, Dr Lakshmi Somatunge said that it marked the long term collaboration between the health departments of Sri Lanka and China, and expressed her appreciation of China's continued support, including the donation of medical supplies and sharing of information on the prevention of the Coronavirus.

The Chinese Embassy Charge d' Affaires, Hu Wei said that they would continue to help Sri Lanka fight the pandemic and outlined a new proposal to reprint around 8,000 copies for all medical workers in the island.

The digital version of "*Prevention and Control of COVID-19*" incidentally could be downloaded free via <http://pathfinderfoundation.org/images/pdf/2020book>, sources said.



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400 METRES: THE MOST GLAMOROUS SPRINT EVENT AROUND THE TRACK

WORLD RECORDS - WAYDE VAN NIEKERK AND MARITA KOCH

ICONS - MICHAEL JOHNSON, MARIE-JOSE PEREC, CATHY FREEMAN AND ALBERTO JUANTORENA

By
Rear Admiral
Dr. Shemal
Fernando, PhD



The 400-metre dash is perhaps the most glamorous sprinting event in athletics. It is one of the original events at the Ancient Olympics identified as the 'diaulos', a race around two marks on a course roughly equivalent to the current 400m.

The 400m for men has been in every Olympic Games since Athens 1896 while women first contested the distance at the Tokyo 1964 edition. The men's world record is held by Wayde van Niekerk of South Africa, with a time of 43.03 secs while Marita Koch from East Germany holds the women's world record with a time of 47.60 secs.

On a standard outdoor running track, it is one lap around the track. Runners start in staggered positions and race in separate lanes. In many countries, athletes previously competed in the 440-yard dash (402.336m) which is a quarter of a mile and was referred to as the 'quarter-mile' instead of the 400m (437.445 yards), though this distance is now obsolete. Like other sprints, the 400m involves the use of starting blocks. The runners take up position in the blocks on the 'ready' command, adopt a more efficient starting posture, which preloads their muscles on the 'set' command and stride forwards from the blocks upon hearing the starter's pistol.

The blocks allow the runners to begin more powerfully and thereby contribute to their overall sprint speed capability. Maximum sprint speed capability is a significant contributing factor to success in the event. In addition, athletes require substantial speed endurance and the ability to cope well with high amounts of lactic acid to sustain a fast speed over a whole lap. A reaction time - measured by sensors in the starting pistol and on the blocks - of less than 0.1 is deemed a false start and runners will be recalled with the responsible athlete disqualified. A runner can also be disqualified for stepping out of the designated lane.

Most Successful 400m Athletes

The following seven athletes have succeeded in winning three or more 400m victories at the Olympic Games and World Championships.

Six Gold Medals: Michael Johnson (USA) - Olympic Champion in 1996 and 2000, World Champion in 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999.

Four Gold Medals: Marie-Jose Perec (FRA) - Olympic Champion in 1992 and 1996, World Champion in 1991 and 1995.

Three Gold Medals: Cathy Freeman (AUS) - Olympic Champion in 2000, World Champion in 1997 and 1999; Jeremy Wariner (USA) - Olympic Champion in 2004, World Champion in 2005 and 2007; Christine Ohuruogu (GBR) - Olympic Champion in 2008, World Champion in 2007 and 2013; LaShawn Merritt (USA) - Olympic Champion in 2008, World Champion in 2009 and 2013; Wayde van Niekerk (RSA) - Olympic Champion in 2016, World Champion in 2015 and 2017.

Michael Johnson of the USA

Michael Duane Johnson (185 cm, 79 kg) is considered one of the greatest and most consistent sprinters in the history. Born September 13, 1967, he won four Olympic and eight World Championship gold medals. Michael Johnson is the only male athlete in history to win both the 200m and 400m events at the same Olympics, a feat he accomplished at Atlanta 1996. Johnson is also the only man to successfully defend his Olympic title in the 400m, having done so at Sydney 2000. He is also the greatest one-lap runner.

He held the world and Olympic records in the 200m and 400m, as well as the world record in the indoor 400m. He also once held the world's best time in the 300m.

Aside from his Olympic success, Johnson's eight gold medals at the World Championships is tied with Carl Lewis for the third most gold medals won by an athlete, after Usain Bolt and Allyson Felix. He holds 14 of the top 25 times for the 400m. He broke 44.0 secs for the 400m 22 times, more than twice as many times as any other athlete. The 4 x 400m relay world record was anchored by Johnson.

In 1991 at the World Championships in Tokyo, Johnson earned his first world title by winning the 200m. Two weeks before the 1992 Summer Olympics, Johnson and his agent both contracted food poisoning at a restaurant in Spain. He was the favorite to win the 200m going into the Olympics, but he failed to reach the final by 0.16 secs. Nevertheless, he was able to take part in the 4x400m relay in which they won a gold medal with a new world-record time of 2:55.74.

He won the 1993 US title in the 400m and followed it with world titles in both the 400m and 4x400m relay. His 42.91 secs split time in the 4x400m relay remains the fastest 400m in history. At the 1995 World Championships in Gothenburg, he won his first 200m and 400m "double". No elite-level male track athlete had accomplished this in a major meet in the 20th century. At the end he made it a "triple" by adding another title in the 4x400m relay.

In 1996, Johnson was 29 when he ran the 200m in 19.66 sec at the US Olympic Trials, breaking the record that had stood for 17 years. Johnson entered the 1996 Olympic finals donning a custom-designed pair of golden-colored Nike racing spikes made with Zytel, causing him to be nicknamed "The Man with the Golden Shoes." The manufacturer of the spikes claims they weighed three ounces (85g) each. The left shoe was a US size 10.5 while the right shoe was a US size 11, to account for Johnson's shorter left foot.

On July 29, 1996, Johnson easily captured the 400m Olympic title with an Olympic record time of 43.49 sec. At the 200m final on August 1, he ran the opening 100m in 10.12 and finished the race in a world-record time of 19.32. Johnson won the 400m at the 1997 World Championships in Athens. He won his fourth 400m world title with a new world-record time of 43.18



Wayde van Niekerk
South Africa
400 m:
43.03 WR
(Rio de Janeiro, 2016)



Michael Johnson



Marie-Jose Perec



Cathy Freeman



Alberto Juantorena

secs at the relatively late age of 31 years and 11 months, which stood for nearly 17 years. Johnson ended his career at the Sydney Olympics by winning the gold in 400m at the age of 33 years 12 days, earning the distinction of being the oldest Olympic gold medalist at any track event shorter than 5000m.

Wayde van Niekerk of South Africa

Wayde van Niekerk, born July 15, 1992 is a sprinter who competes in the 200m and 400m. In the 400m, he is the current world and Olympic record holder and Olympic champion. He also holds the world-best time in the 300m. He was the silver medalist in the 400m at the 2014 Commonwealth Games. He also represented South Africa at the 2013 and 2015 Athletics World Championships. At the 2015 World Championships, he won the gold medal in the 400m. He defended his title two years later, in London, where he also won the silver in the 200m.

In the 2016 Olympic Games men's 400m, Van Niekerk won the gold medal with a world record time of 43.03 secs at age 24 years

and 30 days, beating the time of 43.18 secs set by Michael Johnson during the 1999 World Championships in Seville, Spain.

In 2016, Van Niekerk became the first sprinter in history to have run the 100m under 10 secs, 200m under 20 secs and 400m under 44 secs. In 2017, after a 30.81 secs victory in the seldom-run 300m, breaking Michael Johnson's world-best time of 30.85 which was set in 2000, Van Niekerk became the only sprinter in history to have run sub-10, sub-20, sub-31 and sub-44 performances at 100m, 200m, 300m and 400m respectively.

Alberto Juantorena of Cuba

Alberto Juantorena (190 cm, 84 kg), born December 3, 1950 is a Cuban. He is the only athlete to win both the 400m and 800m Olympic titles, which he achieved in 1976. He was ranked as world's best runner in the 400m in 1974 and 1976 -1978 and in the 800m in 1976 -1977 and was chosen as the Athlete of the Year in 1976 and 1977.

He reached the semi-finals of the 400m event at the 1972 Summer Olympics and proceeded to win a

gold medal at the 1973 World University Games in the 400m. He was unbeaten in 1973 and 1974. He only seriously took up running the 800m in 1976, so few thought he was a candidate for the Olympic gold. He made it to the 800m Olympic final and led the field for most of the race, eventually winning in a world record time of 1:43.50. He was the first non-English athlete to win the Olympic gold in this event. Three days later he also won the 400m, setting a low-altitude world record at 44.26.

In 1977 he set another world record in the 800m, running 1:43.44 in Sofia at the World University Games. He also won both the 400m and 800m at the 1977 IAAF World Cup. In 1978 he was unbeaten at the 400m. Injuries hampered his training leading up to the 1980 Olympics where he just missed out on a medal in the 400m, placed fourth. He returned to training with a view to competing in the 1984 Olympics but the boycott ended his last chance of competing at the Olympics.

Marie-Jose Perec of France

Marie-José Pérec, born May 9, 1968 specialized in the 200m and the 400m and is a three-time Olympic gold medalist. She won the 1991 World Championships 400m title in Tokyo and repeated the feat at the 1995 World Championships. She was the 400m champion at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. Four years later she entered the 200m and 400m events at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and won both, thus achieving the second-ever Olympic 200m/400m gold medal double.

Her 400m Olympic victory in 1996 was in an Olympic record time of 48.25 secs and it took 23 years to surpass her mark. In addition to her Olympic and World titles, she also won the 400m title and was apart of the gold medal-winning 4x400m relay at the 1994 European Championships in Helsinki.

Cathy Freeman of Australia

Catherine Astrid Salome Freeman (164 cm, 56 kgs), born February 16, 1973 is a sprinter, who specialized in the 400m. She became the Olympic champion for 400m at Sydney 2000, at which she lit the Olympic Flame. Cathy Freeman be-



Marita Koch
East Germany
400 m:
47.60 WR
(Canberra, 1985)

gan athletics at the age of five and by her early teens she had a collection of national titles in the 100m, 200m, high jump and long jump.

In 1988, she was awarded a scholarship to Fairholme College in Toowoomba. In a competition in 1989, she ran the 100m in 11.67 secs. In 1990, she was chosen as a member of 4x100m relay team for the 1990 Commonwealth Games. The team won the gold, making her the first ever Aboriginal Commonwealth gold medalist as well as one of the youngest at 16. She was then selected for the 1990 World Junior where she reached the semi-finals of the 100m and final of the 400m.

She competed in her second World Junior in Seoul, South Korea and won silver in the 200m. In 1992, she travelled to her first Olympic Games, reaching the second round of her specialty event of the 400m. At the 1993 World Championships, she competed in the 200m, reaching the semi-finals. The year 1994 was her breakthrough season, when she entered into the world's elite, competing at the 1994 Commonwealth Games winning gold in both 200m and 400m. She also competed as a member of the 4x100m, winning the silver. She also set all-time personal bests in the 100m (11.24) and 200m (22.25).

Freeman made more progress during the 1996 season, setting many personal bests. In 1997, she won the 400m at the World Championships in 49.77 secs. Upon her return in 1999, Freeman did not lose a single 400m. At the Sydney 2000 Olympics she took a victory lap, carrying both the Aboriginal and Australian flags. Also she made the final of the 200m. In 2002, she returned to the track to compete as a member of Australia's victorious 4x400m team at the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

Marita Koch of East Germany

Marita Koch, born February 18, 1957, is a German athlete. During her career, she collected 16 world records in outdoor sprints as well as 14 world records in indoor events. Her record of 47.60 in the 400m, set on October 6, 1985, still stands. Koch, running in Lane Two, came out of the blocks at a scorching pace and eliminated the stagger on most of her competitors by the end of the first bend. Her 100m split was 11.3 secs, while her 200m split was 22.4 secs. At the halfway, she had completely destroyed most of a world class field. Her 300m was 34.1 secs, the all-time best performance. During the final stages, the original video footage only captured Koch and one other athlete who was trailing.

By the time she had turned 15, she was training under Wolfgang Meier who coached her entire career. Koch has held world records over several distances from the 50m to the 400m. She ran a 400m quarterfinal at the 1976 Olympics. She set her first world record in 1977 in Milan, when she ran a 400m indoors in 51.8 secs. In 1977, she set her first outdoor record at the 400m in 49.19 secs and topped this with another two world records within a month. In 1979, she became the first woman to run a 200m in under 22 secs. Her time of 21.71 secs stood as the world record for nine years.

At the Moscow 1980 Olympics, Koch won the gold in the 400m. Three weeks before the 1984 Olympic Games, she equalled her own record, but the boycott prevented her from competing. She also won the European Championships in the 400m in 1978, 1982 and 1986. As a member of East Germany's relay teams, Koch also set more world records in the 4x100m in 1979 and 1983. The same team won silver in the 4x400m relay in the 1980 Olympic Games. They also set world records over the same distance in 1980, 1982 and 1984.

(The author possesses a PhD, MPhil and double MSc; his research interests encompass Olympic Education, IOC and Sports; recipient of National and Presidential Accolades for Academic and Sports pursuits; he was a champion athlete who excelled in 400m)

Men's 400m world record progression

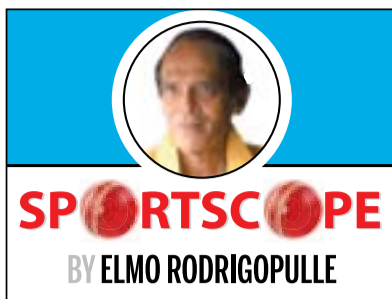
- Last 75 years

Time	Athlete	Nationality	Location	Date
46.0	Herb McKenley	Jamaica	Berkeley	05.06.1948
45.9	Herb McKenley	Jamaica	Milwaukee	02.07.1948
45.8	George Rhoden	Jamaica	Eskilstuna	22.08.1950
45.4	Lou Jones	United States	Mexico City	18.03.1955
45.2	Lou Jones	United States	Los Angeles	30.06.1956
44.9	Otis Davis	United States	Rome	06.09.1960
44.9	Carl Kaufmann	Germany	Rome	06.09.1960
44.9	Adolph Plummer	United States	Tempe	25.05.1963
44.9	Mike Larrabee	United States	Los Angeles	12.09.1964
44.5	Tommie Smith	United States	San Jose	20.05.1967
44.1	Larry James	United States	Echo Summit	14.09.1968
43.8	Lee Evans	United States	Mexico City	18.10.1968
43.29	Butch Reynolds	United States	Zürich	17.08.1988
43.18	Michael Johnson	United States	Seville	26.08.1999
43.03	Wayde van Niekerk	South Africa	Rio de Janeiro	14.08.2016

Women's 400m world record progression

- Last 50 years

Time	Athlete	Nationality	Location	Date
51.0	Marilyn Neufville	Jamaica	Edinburgh	23.07.1970
51.0	Monika Zehrt	East Germany	Paris	04.07.1972
49.9	Irena Szewińska	Poland	Warsaw	22.06.1974
50.14	Riitta Salin	Finland	Rome	04.09.1974
49.77	Christina Brehmer	East Germany	Dresden	09.05.1976
49.75	Irena Szewińska	Poland	Bydgoszcz	22.06.1976
49.29	Irena Szewińska	Poland	Montreal	29.07.1976
49.19	Marita Koch	East Germany	Leipzig	02.07.1978
49.03	Marita Koch	East Germany	Potsdam	19.08.1978
48.94	Marita Koch	East Germany	Prague	31.08.1978
48.89	Marita Koch	East Germany	Potsdam	29.07.1979
48.60	Marita Koch	East Germany	Turin	04.08.1979
48.16	Marita Koch	East Germany	Athens	08.09.1982
47.99	Jarmila Kratochvílová	Czechoslovakia	Helsinki	10.08.1983
47.60	Marita Koch	East Germany	Canberra	06.10.1985



Esto Perpetua Minister Namal

Dear Minister Namal

I've been a sports journalist, columnist and editor for years nearly twice your age. So, you can forgive me if I focus this 'SPORTSCOPE' and write what may seem patronising, in offering some advice. I do so however with the confidence that being a sportsman yourself, having played the game, worn the jersey and taken several crash-tackles you are more than able to take things in the right spirit.

It is an awesome responsibility that you have been asked to carry on your shoulders. Broad and strong as they are from your rugby playing and captaincy days, the duties of Sports and Youth Affairs can be onerous. Challenging and inspiring. Yet, you can make the weight sit lightly on you and enable you to make history by drawing from the lessons one learns from your previous incumbents.

Your rival school's motto of Disce aut Discede—learn or depart—is a primary lesson that should be heeded. Ministers in the past mistook the powers vested in them, to order others around and tell them what should be done. They could not recognize that those who had toiled hard and played the game and risen to recognized status should be counted upon to advice on what is right and what is wrong. And that if the advice given is not consistent with what the Minister is comfortable with the Minister does what he wants regardless.

The news report that you had invited Mahela and Sanga to the Sports Council is a refreshing move and be seen as the powerful "opening over" that will set the tone for the innings to begin. But the outcome of the match will depend on how well the new "captain" takes advice honestly and fearlessly given.

Many Ministers of the past took their responsibilities far too personally to a point that although they had the 'councils and advisory groups', they were used as props to do what the Minister wanted to do, rather than count on the props to do what is best. Being a rugby player you know better than anyone else that the scrum could collapse easily if the 'props' are not used well.

Cricket and rugby have had their share of glory in the spotlight of our country's sporting firmament. But something went radically wrong in the past decade to a point that in the case of cricket especially, we have descended from World Cup winners to World Cup mourners! As with any such demise it is a good time to get the best of our diagnostic cricketing experts and administrators to carry out an honest post-mortem.

The track record has proved that we are not lacking in home-grown talent. Other countries will stake millions of currencies to get our players to play for them. What ails us repeatedly are the diseases that have afflicted successive administrations. So, this is the time to tell the administrators who are not up to it, to apply the Disce aut Discede treatment!

Needless to say, that the same should be applied to rugby as well. Gone are the days when rugby matches were packed to capacity. Yet, the players who emerge from top rugby playing schools are left dispirited when they enter the national scene.

There is no reason that Soccer is unable to be brought into the spotlight. This is a sport that all of us, and I am sure, you Mr. Minister yourself first enjoyed in our respective backyards, in our schools and in our communities. If there is one sport that the millions of families who cast their votes in the elections can easily promote with national encouragement, it would be soccer.

Hundreds and thousands of our girls play netball and compete in athletics. As a sports correspondent who has also covered these sports over five decades, I could count less than two or three Ministers of the past who would have given the time of day to care for female sports. This is an opportunity to breathe fresh air into these activities and promote them.

The administration of sport needs a reawakening. Successive Ministers have made great speeches and declarations of their intentions to bring order, address power-grabs and systemic corruption. But when we look back, these speeches have been no more than outbursts and empty words. It's time, Mr. Minister for some really capable and reliable persons with integrity to be appointed. And once they are appointed to hold them accountable without ministerial interference at every turn. Often it is the interference by the Minister that has discouraged good people from doing an honest job.

Your Alma Mater S. Thomas' College, Mt Lavinia has produced the DS and Dudley Senanayake, SWRD Bandaranaike, the Choksyys, Cassie Chettyes, the GL Peiris' and their ilk, illustrious persons of outstanding caliber. With that class came a host of sportsmen who had their names etched in the minds of the sporting public.

And in my time there are many of the likes of Vernon Prins, who was known as the Prince of captains, CTA Schaffter, Michael Tissera, who I had the privilege of playing with and against, Lareef Idroos, Trevelyn Edwards, Mano Ponniah, PI Peris, Neil Channugam, Anura Tennekoon, Duleep Mendis and Bertie Wijesinha who was my coach who I have played with and against and others who I have covered and many others who do not come to mind.

Of all of them none can match P Saravanamuttu and the family of brothers who gave so much to sports. Today what was the Oval and now aptly renamed P Sara Stadium stands as testament to the contribution of that family, especially to cricket.

In all of these sportsmen, there was one distinguishing credo that has stuck in my mind. They stood solidly to the motto of Esto Perpetua—be Thou forever—and in the words of the Thoman school song—"when the call of duty sounds, we will answer clear."

This, Mr. Minister, is your opportunity to "answer the call clearly" with integrity, trust and empowerment of those who are able to do good for the country, selflessly without gain. If this bit of advice is followed along with the advice of our experts, I submit that the change you bring about in our sporting world will ring true to Esto Perpetua.

DREAM DRAWS NEARER FOR THE BIG DAY

—By—
Dinesh Weerawansa

The heat is on for the 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year as the Mega Show's selection meeting is expected to be held by the end of next month.

The Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA), the Umpires Association, along with the organizers, the Sunday Observer and the sponsors Sri Lanka Mobitel will meet next month to decide the winner of the grand prize winners and the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy and Schoolgirl Cricketers of the Year award winners.

The statistical data provider of the event is the popular cricket website batsman.lk which is playing a notable role under its CEO Kumara Gamhewage.

Going down memory lane of the 42-year-old grand contest, another popular Sri Lanka cricket star who emerged through the Mega Show is former Nalanda College captain Roshan Mahanama, who won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the year title after Ranjan Madugalle (Royal-1979), Arjuna Ranatunga (Ananda - 1980 and 1982) and Rohan Bultjens (St.Peter's College). Mahanama won the mega title twice in 1983 and 1984 to become the first schoolboy to win the glittering prize in successive years as Ranatunga was only the runner up in 1981.

Apart from Ranatunga and Roshan Mahanama, the others to win the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title were Thilan Samarawera (1994 and 1995), Lahiru Peiris (2004 and 2005), Bhanuka Rajapakse (2010 and 2011) and Charith Asalanka (2015 and 2016).

One such star who made his presence felt from school level to the international arena, is former Sri Lanka captain and ex-ICC Match Referee Roshan Mahanama. Having made his mark from his days at Nalanda, he is a classic example to all as a gentleman cricketer.

Mahanama believes that there should be a balance in the number of matches a school team has to play during a season if the quality of the game is to be maintained. "There is no doubt we need to give opportunities to outstation teams. But we have to do that without degrading the quality," Mahanama said in a recent interview.

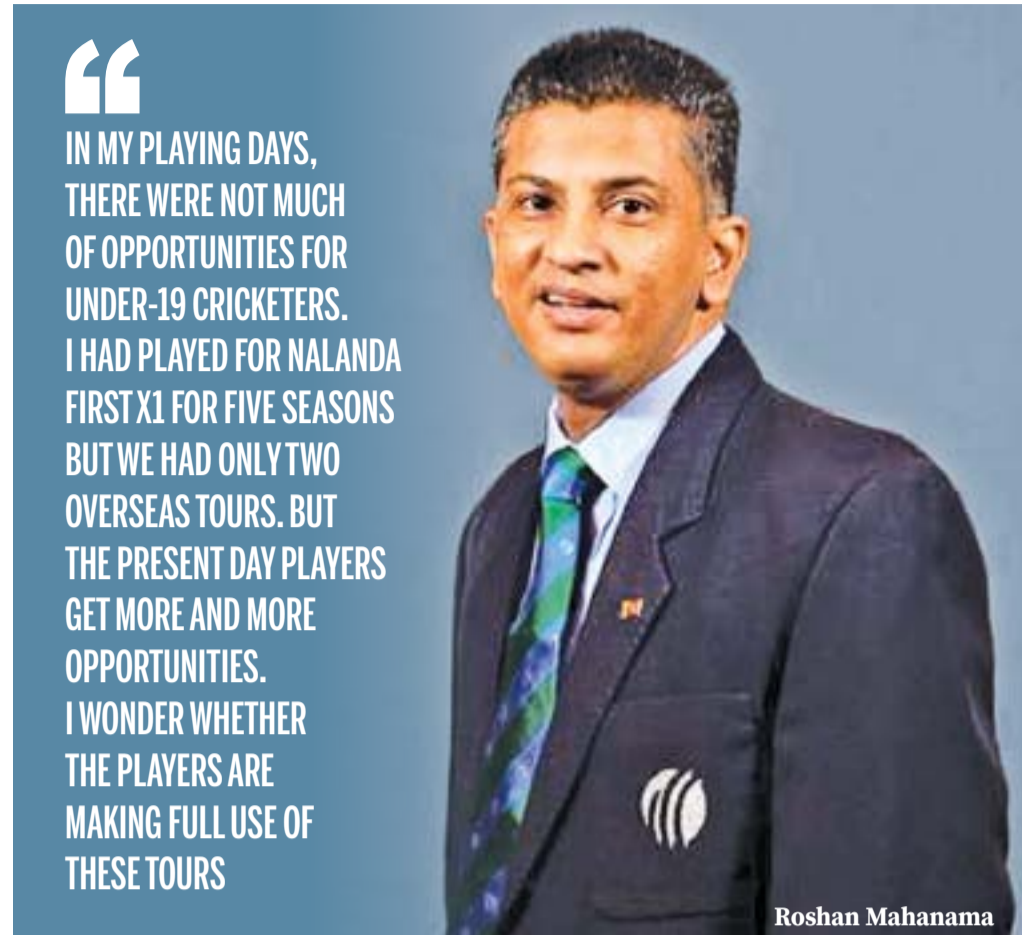
The Ex-Nalanda College captain speaking further said that the country's first and the Premier school cricket award - Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year, has always motivated schoolboy cricketers as they look forward to be rewarded and recognized at the end of each season, for their hard work.

"These events motivated us as emerging cricketers. It is always a great motivation when you know that your achievements are being recognized," he said.

Mahanama feels that his crowning glory as the 'Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year' in successive years (1983 and 1984), was a decisive milestone in his career.

"It was a great encouragement to be adjudged the best schoolboy cricketer and be honored for the hard work during the season.

“**IN MY PLAYING DAYS, THERE WERE NOT MUCH OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDER-19 CRICKETERS. I HAD PLAYED FOR NALANDA FIRST X1 FOR FIVE SEASONS BUT WE HAD ONLY TWO OVERSEAS TOURS. BUT THE PRESENT DAY PLAYERS GET MORE AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES. I WONDER WHETHER THE PLAYERS ARE MAKING FULL USE OF THESE TOURS**”



Roshan Mahanama

I had the privilege of basking in that glory as it was one of my teenage dreams," he said.

"The Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year came my way in successive years and that was a memorable one, showing me the stepping stone to playing for Sri Lanka. Being crowned the best Schoolboy Cricketer made me even more determined to work harder to reach greater heights when I first got the taste of international cricket," he said. "I had watched former Nalanda Bandula Warnapura in action. We had full houses for all those inter-school games and it was a passion. The school authorities too encouraged the boys to watch matches," he added.

Mahanama said that schoolboy cricketers should be willing to make sacrifices and show their commitment, instead of looking for short cuts to success. "Young schoolboy cricketers must have a genuine willingness and desire to work towards their targets with dedication. Remember, there are no short cuts for success", said Mahanama.

"In my playing days, there were not much of opportunities for Under-19 cricketers. I had played for Nalanda First X1 for five seasons but we had only two overseas tours. But the present day players get more and more opportunities. I wonder whether the players are making full use of these tours," he asked.

He urged schoolboy cricketers to work hard to achieve their targets in a disciplined manner, maintaining the high traditions of the game - instead of being 'remote-controlled'.

He paid a glowing tribute to his late father Upali Mahanama who had been a tower of strength behind his success story. "He was a great source of encouragement and inspiration to me. He stressed the importance of adding values and discipline to our lives. Then, I was lucky to come under the watchful eyes of Lionel Sir (Lionel Mendis)".

Meanwhile, the battles for the Observer-Mobitel Most Popular Schoolboy and Schoolgirl Cricketers of the Year 2020 have reached an interesting stage.

Former table leader Anuda

Jayaweera of Ananda, who was in the third place, has once again stormed to the front in the Observer-Mobitel Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 2020. He replaces Lohan de Soysa of Dharmasoka College, Ambalangoda who was in

the lead last week. De Soysa now takes second place.

Shehan Fernando of St. Benedict's College now moves to third position.

The Sunday Observer's great sporting partnership with SLT Mobitel has grown from strength to strength

due to the untiring efforts of its CEO Nalin Perera. Great sports promoter Mobitel who are sponsoring it for the 13th year, provided the ideal financial support for the oldest Cricket Awards Show in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's premier English newspaper - the Sunday Observer, understood the need to recognize the raw talent of the country's schoolboy cricketers at a time when there had been no organized inter-school cricket tournaments apart from traditional First X1 matches of the so-called leading schools.

With the introduction of the Show and its expansion to have a separate segment for outstation schoolboy cricketers it went a long way in inspiring the talented players from remote areas.

The ANCL management has always given its wholehearted support to keep the contest moving.

Its Chairman and CEO W. Dayaratne, President's Counsel, together with the Director Editorial Dharma Sri Kariyawasam, Director Legal and Administration Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana, Director Finance Janaka Ranatunga and Director Operations Canishka Witharana are helping this show to go from strength to strength.

42nd OBSERVER MOBTEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2020
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Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer 2020

Cricketers from schools competing in Division one, two and three of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2019/20 are eligible to be voted.

Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer 2020

Schoolgirl Cricketers from schools competing in all Island school's of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2019/20 are eligible to be voted.

Nominee
Boy :
Divisions for Boy : Division I Division II Division III

All Island Girl :

(Each coupon must contain only one vote)

School :
Sender's Name :
Address :
Mobile No. :

Vote online now: vote.schoolcricketer.lk

One Sunday Observer coupon valid as three votes: Other papers one vote.

Win prizes in the weekly coupon draw:

1st Prize : Mobitel 4G Wi-Fi router 2nd Prize : Rs. 2,500
3rd Prize : Rs. 1,500 4th Prize : Rs. 1,000

The 42nd Most Popular Schoolboy/girl Cricketer Contest is now on. Mail the completed coupon to the **SPORTS EDITOR, SUNDAY OBSERVER, LAKE HOUSE, COLOMBO 10.**

CONDITIONS:

Children of Lake House & Mobitel staff are not eligible to participate in the competition.

Each coupon must contain only one vote for one player and for one contest.

In all matters connected with the contest, the decision of the Sports Editor, SUNDAY OBSERVER is final.

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Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer

1. Anuda Jayaweera (Ananda College)	66,879
2. Lohan de Soysa (Dharmasoka College)	65,358
3. Shehan Fernando (St. Benedict's College)	64,404
4. Sukitha Manoj (St. Sebastian's College)	59,803
5. Thevindu Seneviratne (Royal College)	55,132
6. Ahan Wickramasinghe (Royal College)	51,409
7. Dunith Wellalage (St. Joseph's College)	46,514
8. Kanishka Rantillekege (Ananda College)	42,401
9. Ranudha Somaratne (Trinity College)	38,338
10. Dimuth Sandaruwan (Richmond College)	33,899
11. Nipun Dhananjaya (St. Joseph Vaz College)	27,682
12. Navod Paranavithana (Mahinda College)	23,463
13. Ruchira Adikari (Anuradhapura Central)	20,317
14. Bhanuka Manohara (Richmond College)	19,669
15. Ruwin Peiris (Trinity College)	16,901
16. Pawantha Weerasinghe (Ananda Sastralaya)	16,679
17. Vanuja Kumara (St. Peter's College)	14,537
18. Ashen Daniel (St. Joseph's College)	14,268
19. Savindu Perera (Maris Stella College)	12,115
20. Dilmin Ratnayake (S. Thomas' College)	10,674
21. Matheesha Pathirana (Trinity College)	9,562
22. Nikil Sashmitha (Tissa Central Kalutara)	8,998
23. Abishek Anandakumar (Trinity College)	8,022

Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer

1. Suranja Lakmali (Gonapola BMV)	46,203
2. Renuka Damayanthi (Bandaranayake MV)	45,007
3. Nimesha Wijesundera (Marapola MV)	44,364
4. Sachini Nethmini (Wadduwa Central)	36,778
5. Janadi Anali (Anula Vidyalaya)	35,413
6. Umsha Himeshani (Devapathiraja Vidyalaya)	29,814
7. Kavisha Dilhari (Devapathiraja Vidyalaya)	21,227

SPORT

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AUGUST 23, 2020



The football final in progress (Pix by Sulochana Gamage)



The vast crowd that was starved of sports action witness the Beach Games in Hambantota

HAMBANTOTA BEACH GAMES ATTRACT CROWD FRENZY

SRI LANKA TO TARGET SPORTS TOURISM TO BOOST COUNTRY'S IMAGE AS A TOP NOTCH DESTINATION

By
TB Rahaman
in Hambantota



Beach Boys Football Club of Hambantota deservedly emerged champions in the football tournament after beating Jolly Boys of Kirinda 2-1 in last Sunday's final at the Hambantota Beach Games which marked the re-emergence of organised sports in the country after a break of more than five months.

The event was well-attended by an enthusiastic crowd that stayed on until the finish of the Games that had football, volleyball and surfing events amid a festival atmosphere that prevailed throughout with music.

"We are planning to combine tourism and sports and build up a sports tourism based economy and the success of the Beach Games can be considered as the first step. What we are actually looking at is to organize a couple of beach games around the coastal belt because we believe beach sport is actually an area where we can win medals in the international arena," said new Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa.

"Especially in beach volleyball we have won medals. We have only one facility in the country which won't help. We are looking to build more facilities."

To make it spicier the football tournament was not without incidents of controversies. One incident arose when a goal was not awarded in favour of the attacking team. The ball had edged the right

post and after being entangled to the net deflected to bounce out of the line.

There was a protest after the match with the team that scored the goal showed a video recording.

In another incident, the team that lost, Carlton SC of Tangalle protested that their opponents had fielded a player from another district.

After much deliberation it was discovered that this player was a registered voter in the Hambantota district.

There were also a few incidents of field invasions by supporters that delayed proceedings by long breaks that only delayed the finish at the Games.

Thankfully, the floodlights kept the proceedings alive until the wee hours.

Football that attracted the crowd most, was played on a condensed field and saw four women's teams and 32 men's teams of five players each participate.

The winning Beach Boys FC team consisted of Isuru Siriwardane (Captain), MSF Mohamed (GK), Shahib Yusuf, Riyal Razik and Himas Hameed.

Beach Boys scored first through a goal by Shahib Yusuf while Jolly Boys equalized through a penalty for a handball. The scores were 1-1 at half time.

Beach Boys went ahead early in the second half when they were awarded a penalty and Shahib kicked right.

Jolly Boys had an opportunity to equalize but the penalty kick missed the target.

In the semi-finals Beach Boys beat Marians SC on the penalty shoot-

out while Jolly Boys FC of Kirinda beat Samodya FC in the other semi-final.

Vijeba SC of Hungama won the Volleyball event for men beating Carlton SC by two sets to one in the final that was also played well past 12 midnight.

Vijeba SC was represented by Mahesh Wannigama of the Army and Geethanjana Amarawickrema who are national players and have done well in international tournaments. Even the players who represented Carlton SC, Nishan Ravindu and Ranganana Sampath have also represented the national team.

In the semi-finals Vijeba SC beat Aruna SC of Ranala and Carlton SC beat Pubudu Vijeba SC.

Vijeba SC of Hungama beat Carlton SC by two sets to nil to take the women's volleyball event.

Sanduni Maduwanthi and Jayani Lakshan composed the champion Vi-

jeba National School team from Hungama. Surfing was conducted as a fun event and four top surfers were seen treading the waves which were not frequent.

Sadun Ashan, Uditha Rangana, Nawod Sandakelum and Charith Madushan entertained the small crowd who stood by the shoes.

New Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Namal Rajapaksa also took part in surfing with his coach Stephan Taylor of Australia. Taylor's mother is of Sri Lankan origin who migrated to Australia at the age of five years.

The overall winners of the Hambantota District Beach Games was presented the Namal Rajapaksa Trophy and was well arranged and organized by Nalin Hemakumara, KA Chandana, Janaka Sri Warnasiri from Tangalle and the Hambantota Football League along with Palangasinghe.

Sri Lanka's Asian yachting meet in stormy waters

BY KASUNN
IRUGALBANDARA

The Yachting Association is faced with indecision over the conduct of the IODA Asian and Oceania Sailing Championship which they had planned to conduct in December in Sri Lanka.

The championship was postponed a couple of times due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Originally, it was planned to be held from June 6 to 13 with competitors from 14 nations to take part in Trincomalee. Now with the change of the monsoon in December the event is now likely to be held in Galle Face in Colombo.

Officials of the Yachting Association are hopeful that they can

meet and discuss the matter with Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa next week. Before the coronavirus outbreak the Association had received over 140 entries, but now most of the competitors have pulled out and it is being hoped that they will receive at least 60 entries for the event in December.

The host country can field 20 sailors but the other 40 competitors must be found from other countries.

"If the event is postponed further there is no chance we can hold it next year. The championship will be held in Thailand next year and our chance will come again only in 2022. We must try hard to conduct the event in December," said an official of the Association.

Anti-doping tests delayed

Anti doping tests on sportsmen have been delayed according to Dr. Seevali Jayawickrama the Director General of the Sri Lanka Anti Doping Association.

"We took a few samples a couple of weeks ago but our courier service faced problems to send these sam-

ples to Qatar laboratories. That was the reason for this delay," Dr. Jayawickrama said.

More than Rs.40,000 is needed to test each sample according to Dr. Jayawickrama.

"But we must do more random tests annually," he said. (KI)



Saabir Cader flanked by Guy Thompson of the Leicester Tigers (left) and Tom Varndell (England, Leicester and Wasps)

Sri Lanka rugby commentator Saabir lands top job with international stars

Sri Lanka rugby commentator Saabir Cader is in line to join a cast of top world stars at a company called Elite Player Management (EPM) as its Media and Commercial Consultant.

Cader was one of the pioneers of live streaming school and club rugby in Sri Lanka at the ThePapare.com website. He is a former captain of the Zahir College Sevens team and was in the panel that live streamed the Asia U20 Sevens series 2016 that Sri Lanka won.

Cader also kept Sri Lankan sports fans glued to updates during the Youth Olympic Games 2018 from Buenos Aires, Argentina when 2000m steeple chaser Parami Wasanthi made history with the bronze medal.

Saabir studied BA (Hons) Sports Management and Rugby Studies at Buckinghamshire New University (UK) from 2009-2013 where he had tremendous exposure with the London Wasps and England Rugby from community coaching to working at the Six Nations and London Sevens at Twickenham which is the home of English rugby.

He recently completed an International Business (Top-up) degree at Coventry University where he was nominated as the Student of the Year while winning the Leadership Gold Award.

At EPM Cader will work with rugby legends like David Campese and several others.

Sri Lankan athletes to train at peak level

Athletes in Sri Lanka will get a rare opportunity to train on high altitude in preparation for international events in the future as Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa has pledged to build a track in Nuwara Eliya on a request made by the president of Sri Lanka Athletics, Major General Palitha Fernando.

The proposed track will be on a land near Pidurutalagala which

is Sri Lanka's highest mountain rising over 7000 feet. The track will be 600 metres long and will be made of gravel. "We have been successful at the Asian Junior, South Asian Games, Youth Olympics and World Junior Games and on hearing this the Sports Minister has promised to offer his fullest support to develop the sport," said an official of Sri Lanka Athletics. (KI)

Bolling, Mahanama to arouse awareness in life-saving

BY KASUN IRUGALBANDARA

Gold-medal winning swimmer Julian Bolling and former cricket World Cup champion Roshan Mahanama will grace a life-saving awareness event conducted at the Kinross Swimming Club in Wellawatte today at 8 am organized by the My Friend Foundation in association with the Sri Lanka Life Saving Association and Rainbow Swimming Club.

Although Sri Lanka is an island nation most people cannot swim which is the main cause for an in-

crease in the number of deaths by drowning.

According to statistics, three people die by drowning in the country daily and the Life Saving Association and their affiliated clubs have been trying to educate the people on the importance of learning to swim.

They have been conducting life saving events occasionally island-wide and will continue the campaign on a proposal made by Fouzul Hameed the Managing Director of Hameedia to the My Friend Foundation.

LATEST SPORTS NEWS ON PAGE 16

Gamini Fernando: A man of great club loyalty and still a follower

By
Hafiz Marikar



There have been many greats in rugby from Kandy and one of the stars of yesteryear was Gamini Fernando who is now 60 years with his favourite club Havelock Sports Club that he joined straight from school.

Gamini was one of the finest forwards the country has seen on the rugby field during his playing days and had the unique achievement of being a member of a Clifford Cup

wining team on his debut in club rugby, as the captain and later as coach of the club.

Known in the rugby circle as Gamma, he was an outstanding flank forward and had the rare distinction of refereeing a match between the French University and London RF in 1979, the first time two European teams played in Sri Lanka.

Gamma is a product of Trinity College where he excelled in rugby and also played cricket. He played rugby in 1958 with Ken de Joodt as captain and 1959 with Denzil Kobbekaduwa as captain. In 1956, when Trinity introduced junior U-17 rugby, Gamini

was in that first team and also played in the following year 1957. He won his rugby Colours in 1959 and at that time only five schools played the game and standards were of high quality.

In 1961 he went down to Colombo along with his friend YC Chang and both turned out for Havelocks. He led the club in 1967 and prematurely hung up his boots in 1969.

Gamma represented Low-Country and All-Ceylon in the All India Tournament in 1966 and 1967 and also played for the country against the English Defence Services team.

He was also a fine team man, a fearless tackler and a gentleman

player. As a coach, he always taught the players to enjoy themselves and play good, clean, hard rugby and was the national coach in 1978.

Gamma always instilled the principle that if a player can say after a match: "I had a nice time on the field", that was enough.

But his biggest disappointment was in 1969 when he had to come to grips after being selected to play in the All India Tournament but was disqualified subsequently on medical grounds, though the Rugby Union doctor LPD Gunawardena passed him fit. The irony of it all was that they took a hooker as his

replacement. Gamma now keeps a low profile for health reasons but is still a great follower who was rarely blown or guilty of infringing on the rules and in 1995/96 reached the pinnacle of rugby administration when he became the President of the Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union.

In 1978 he was the national coach and a 22-member squad was selected for the Asiad.

But being a man of self respect and high integrity Gamma withdrew from the tour party over the dropping of a key player without any justification.



Gamini Fernando

BUSINESS

business.suo@lakehouse.lk

AUGUST 23, 2020



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CAREER PROGRESSION



DEALING WITH ECONOMIC CONTAGION PAGE 27



ONLINE LEARNING PAGE 28



CUSTOMERS AND RETAIL BUSINESS PAGE 31

Potential for spiritual tourism immense - Expert

'Spiritual tourism is an area that the tourism industry should focus on in the next few years to reach high end clients, said Dr. Vipula Wanigasekera who has been conducting spiritual sessions for the past decade for tourists from the Western hemisphere.



Dr. Vipula Wanigasekera

However, he said that to attract high end discerning travellers there has to be the right program offered to tourists seeking inner peace and meaning to life.

"Prior to the lockdown we conducted programs at Amanwella Cape Weligama and Villa De Soysa (Yogis Ashram), Vil Uyana where one could imagine the profile of the clients whom we cater to in this program, said Dr. Wanigasekera, adding that it took him time to develop a tailor-made program for Western tourists.

He said that he provides a simple discourse followed by guided meditation for one hour. The program calls for almost zero investment. All that is needed is a quiet place and high cushions for participants to take a sitting posture.

"It is now heartening to see the enthusiasm ...

TO PAGE 30

FOLLOWING RESERVATIONS ON 1Q PERFORMANCE

CB TO DISCUSS WITH DCS BEFORE DATA RELEASE

By Lalin Fernandopulle



The Central Bank will hold discussions and continuous dialogue with the Department of Census and Statistics before data on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is released for each quarter, said Central Bank Governor W.D. Lakshman in response to a query on the low GDP growth recorded in the first quarter this year when barely 10 days of the global pandemic had affected the economy.

"Henceforth the Central Bank will engage in discussions with the statistical body before the release of the quarterly results of the economy," the Governor said, adding that it is also the task of the media to probe and debate on the data.

The release of the first quarter results of the performance of the



Central Bank Governor W.D. Lakshman addresses the media flanked by senior officials of the bank. Pic: Chinthaka Kumarasinghe

economy was delayed due to the situation in the country. It was speculated that the delay was due to negative growth recorded in the first quarter. The economy contracted by 1.6 per cent in the first quarter this year

contrary to the expectations of the Central Bank. As per the indicators, the adverse impact of the pandemic on economic activity during the second quarter is likely to be substantial. "It is too early to predict

the overall GDP growth for the year as all depends on the third and fourth quarter performance which is likely to improve with imports declining, an up-tick in exports and an improvement in foreign remittances," Central Bank Senior Deputy Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe said.

However, the regulator noted that a faster rebound of economic activity could be expected, especially in the fourth quarter of the year supported by improved political stability, the resultant improvement in business confidence, and the lagged impact of monetary and fiscal stimulus.

"The expected rebound in the fourth quarter is essential for the country to record a positive growth rate during this year," Dr. Weerasinghe said. Economic growth in most economies including those of advanced countries has contracted sharply recording negative growth so far this year while forecast for the rest of the year is bleak. TO PAGE 30

Fall army worm rises again

STEPS TO ELIMINATE THE MENACE CONTINUES

Sri Lanka has felt the impact of invasive alien animals and plants affecting agriculture over several decades.

The introduction of water hyacinth (1905), Salvinia (1939) and Parthenium (1999) are some invasive alien plants that have affected our water bodies and land. Steps are being taken to overcome the threat from these species by even using biological control methods, said Senior Professor, Weed Science, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya and President, Weed Science Society of Sri Lanka, Prof. Buddh Marambe.

However, he said the battle to get rid of the menace continues despite the challenge to completely eradicate the threat to crops.

The Fall Army Worm (FAW; *Spodoptera frugiperda*) hit the headlines of news reports and took the country by surprise in late 2018. Early warnings reached Sri Lanka from India since mid-2018 regarding the potential invasion of this pest. TO PAGE 30



CB sets up Financial Consumer Relations Department

The Central Bank (CB) set up the Financial Consumer Relations Department (FCRD) recently to serve as the single point of contact to handle all external complaints and grievances directed to CBSL on entities regulated by CBSL under the provisions of Section 33 of the Monetary Law Act No. 58 of 1949, as amended.

Addressing complaints and grievances of financial consumers is an objective of financial market regulation and long term financial system stability. With the increasing competition among Financial Service Providers (FSPs) in providing financial services, the need arises for a suitable mechanism to safeguard the interests of the users of financial services and thereby to ensure the stability and integrity of the financial system.

Recent reports on financial consumer experience in the Sri Lankan financial markets show that even the most financially...

TO PAGE 30



Work on mega development projects resume emerging from an economic setback caused by the global pandemic. Here construction work on hotels and apartment projects in Colombo in progress.

Pic: Hirantha Gunathilaka

President says firm no to oil palm cultivation

The cultivation of oil palm in the country will be brought to a halt completely while giving assistance to grow coconut in new areas, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said in his address to the newly elected parliament on Thursday. The cultivation of the crop had come under severe criticism from eco activists due to its alleged adverse impacts on the environment. TO PAGE 28

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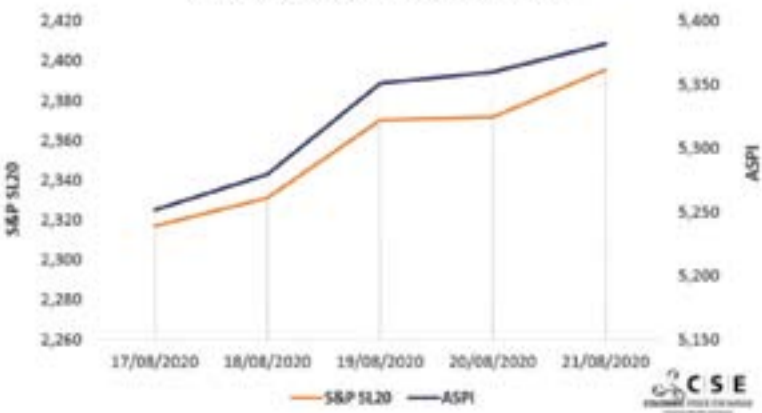
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EXCHANGE RATES

Aug 17 - Aug 21	US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
Monday	185.45	221.01	1.7581	244.06	27.243
Tuesday	185.79	222.16	1.7758	245.15	27.284
Wednesday	184.44	223.86	1.7857	248.15	27.427
Thursday	188.48	224.66	1.795	248.18	27.694
Friday	186.79	223.00	1.785	242.83	27.422

Performance of ASPI and S&P SL20 Indices



Astoria Colombo is ready

Astoria, Colombo provides a mix of residential, commercial, and retail space, all set in an outside landscaped area of unprecedented and innovative design.

If you are seeking family accommodation, or an investment opportunity, then the two, three and four bedroom apartments are what you are looking for. All are designed to high standards with a variety of floor layouts to suit every need. Apartments with additional space for maid's quarters or a study/work

area are also available. Each room is fitted to design perfection, using only world-leading branded fixtures and fittings.

With its prime location within the city, Astoria, Colombo will quickly become a magnet to those who live and work around it. The varied commercial space offers considerable opportunity to create and grow your business, whether it be in retail or services - your customer base is assured, a spokesman for the developers said. TO PAGE 30



Business

Career progression, a journey or a destination?

The environment has dramatically changed since Covid-19 hit the world. Businesses have shifted impacting career paths. Taking a step back, it is worth putting a framework around how to think about the experiences you built over time and if your experience and expertise are worth the same value still. Check if you are still competitive and along the right path?

For some, a professional career is a destination. From the very start, the goal is to achieve some level of proficiency or level in a chosen field of work. The destination can be a role, a company, a level of achievement, or other specific and measurable goal. IT is a good example.

For others, a professional career is a journey. From the very start, the goal is to experience work from a variety of perspectives in your field and adjacent field. The journey can be different companies or organisations, job types, geographies, or other varied aspects of your profession. Destination and journey are different ways to look at career progression.

Many start careers with the goal of working their way up the ladder. Generally gaining rank defines progress. This might be exactly right for you. Setting your sights on specific and measurable milestones fits with how many view career progression. Progression up the corporate ladder is not the only way to your destination.

A destination goal is a long term play and means that during your path you will have periods that make you feel that you are not moving up, but that should not stop you from moving forward. You may need to take a step left or right sometimes to keep moving up.

Most of all, never think that for you to move up, someone needs to move down. Most of the time with a destination oriented career your next steps are visible to you and the organisation, and patience and timing play important parts in progression.

As an organisation leader you are ultimately accountable for large projects or budgets, and the people that



You might find a stage in your career where another journey or destination becomes your new goal. Resetting your approach can be a part of the journey of life

deliver on those commitments. Sometimes things don't go as hoped for and as an organisation leader you have to step up and accept responsibility.

These become the key learning periods in your career progression. As a domain expert, technologies change and paradigms change. The long-term domain experts are expert not in the specifics but in the solutions. As an amazing programmer you want to reinvent yourself as new languages and tools emerge.

Many people start their careers knowing that the world is a big place waiting to be explored. They see the world through the lens of an adventurer or explorer. Going thoughtfully from one role to another or one organisation to another fills your expectations of progressing through your career, or life. Setting your sites on a collection of experiences that you wish to have is the measurable way of managing your career.

Difference between variety and job hopping

Variety is not easy to measure and there is a fine line between variety and job-hopping. If the journey is your goal you want to have a clear understanding of how you plan to assemble a collection of experiences. You will move thoughtfully through these experiences and time your moves based on achieving some level of proficiency, satisfaction, and success. When you choose your next step, you need to be prepared for much change. You will work for new people, work with new people, and have different processes. You will need to adapt and conform. Things you thought you knew might not be right in the new context.

On the other hand, you will meet all sorts of new people and experience new ways of approaching the problems and challenges of business. Down the road when you have to



BIZ TALK with Kishu Gomes

define a process to a group, you have all your experience and context to draw from to avoid repeating mistakes you might have experienced.

You might reach a stage in your career where you want to settle down after many journeys. Similarly, you might reach a stage where it is time to explore new domains, new organisations, or simply different perspectives. In other words, you might find a stage in your career where another journey or destination becomes your new goal. Resetting your approach can be a part of the journey of life.

Of course both paths – destination and journey have room to grow your salary and responsibility. While destination roles have high visibility in terms of material benefits, most organisations strive to have material benefits available for a broad array of people and assignments. Keeping in mind your path and where you see the moves in your career, will help you to have much more informed discussions with your managers and mentors. As a manager (or mentor), helping the members of the team to see their own desires and wishes will assist in coaching them through transitions.

If there is one piece of advice that transcends the description of your path, it is that no matter where you plan to go, the most important thing is to be best at what you are currently doing. When you do your best, you create alternatives for yourself and open doors to new opportunities and paths.

NCE hails mandate for pro-growth policy framework

The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE), welcomes the strong mandate given by the people at the general election, for a pro-growth government, a media release from the Chamber stated.

The NCE congratulating the new Government expressed its fullest support for the development of a strong and pro-growth policy framework by the new administration which will create a conducive environment for socio-economic development.

The Chamber appreciates that certain industries have been considered favourably under the new regime which will support the development of the country. Being an Export Chamber, it will collate concerns by its members and submit proposals to line ministries to facilitate exports.

The special setting for women entrepreneurs was set up in 2018 to

encourage and motivate women-owned and women-led businesses to contribute to the economy through the empowerment of women entrepreneurs and exporters.

The Chamber played a pivotal role together with other stakeholders during the height of the The NCE set up two help desks with Ernest & Young and the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka (CMA) to support the SME sector businesses affected by the pandemic.

The release added that they strongly believe that exporters should play a pivotal role with the support of the government to reach the height of exports for wealth generation and foreign exchange income and the NCE looks forward to working in partnership with ministries, government agencies and market intermediaries to actively support the government's vision of development.

NCE teams up with Bureau Veritas Provides 'Cove-Safe' Certification



NCE and Bureau Veritas officials after signing the MoU.

The NCE has partnered with Bureau Veritas Lanka (Pvt) Ltd to provide 'Cov-Safe Certification' which has international recognition. The NCE being a strong advocate for sustainable and ethical trading practices, which also includes ensuring employee safety of exporting industries, safety of the clients and continuous hygienic practices, states that Sri Lankan companies should be geared with the right tools to protect both their Employees and Clients, to fight against Covid-19.

The local arm of the internationally recognised Bureau Veritas

Group has developed a special certification named "Cov-Safe hygiene assessment" certification to ensure the Sri Lankan companies will be audited to ensure best practices to fight Covid 19. /

Bureau Veritas Lanka (Pvt) Ltd Certification offers a comprehensive range of global or Sector specific standards, Certifications, Customised Assessments and Training Services in the Quality, Health and Safety, Environment, Supply Chain and Corporate Responsibility fields to small, medium and large companies in 140 countries.

Uber relaunches safety helpline

Uber has relaunched its on-trip 24x7 Safety Helpline in Sri Lanka to ensure the safety of riders and to provide them greater peace of mind.

Riders can access the helpline at any time during a trip and directly speak to a member of the trained safety team.

The Safety Helpline can be accessed in case of an urgent or non-

emergency issue. For example, to report a dispute with a driver, a car break-down or other such issues. The 24x7 Uber Safety Helpline is available under the safety toolkit banner on the Uber app. Head of Central Operations, South Asia, Pavan Vaish said, "Safety is our biggest priority at Uber and we constantly evaluate our measures to raise the bar by integrating the feed-

back we receive from our riders. The 24x7 Safety Helpline was launched in February based on consistent customer feedback. It can be accessed by riders at any time of the day or night, should they need urgent assistance during a trip. This additional level of security reiterates our commitment to doing everything we can to help keep everyone safer on our platform."

DFCC launches enhanced Virtual Wallet

DFCC launched the enhanced version of the Virtual Wallet application for all Sri Lankans on the theme 'You don't need to touch cash to do your financial transactions' recently.

The application can be used in either Sinhala, Tamil or English. Around fifteen new groundbreaking features have been included, all aimed at creating a seamless customer experience.

The DFCC virtual wallet gives customers the functionality of performing fund transfers between their own accounts and to other bank accounts settling other bank credit cards using the Common Electronic Fund Transfer Switch (CEFTS) technology, all transfers are performed in real time, allowing for immediate credit.

From checking balances across a

customer's entire portfolio including savings and current accounts, fixed deposits and loans, customers may also add their DFCC primary and supplementary credit card to the wallet. DFCC Bank, CEO, Lakshman Silva said that DFCC Bank is a pioneer in the digital payment space through the DFCC Virtual Wallet which is now upgraded with a host of benefits for customers of DFCC Bank.

Uga Chena Huts wins Tripadvisor award

Travel platform TripAdvisor has picked a Sri Lankan hotel brand to reward in its latest 'world's top 25 boutique luxury hotel' awards.

Uga Chena Huts was acclaimed as one of the 'Best of the Best Hotels' around the world by securing third place among the world's Top 25 Boutique Luxury Hotels.

Managing Director, Uga Escapes Management (Pvt) Ltd., Priyanjith Weerasooria said, "We are extremely delighted by these awards. To have been recognised by the world's largest travel platform TripAdvisor as the third best boutique luxury hotel in the world is no less than a triumph for Uga Chena Huts.

This achievement is a testament to the fact that we have prioritised customer satisfaction and above all, provided them a unique eco-retreat among one of the most scenic destinations in Sri Lanka."

Situated in the picturesque surroundings of Yala, Uga Chena Huts consists of 14 luxurious cabins in a



Uga Chena Huts

seven-acre block of land accommodated by individual plunge pools in each cabin.

These cabins pack spacious living areas, cozy bedrooms, private bathrooms and modern amenities such as twin vanity controls, shaded outdoor decks with built-in private 5m plunge pools. The huts are enveloped in nat-

ural surroundings, entertaining the travellers to a tranquil, eco-accommodation experience. Travellers can also experience leading travel destinations close-by such as Great Bassetts Reefs, Bundala sanctuary, Kataragama temple premises and many more.

Uga Escapes is owned by the Finco Group.

Everybody knows HR

'Adherence to safety practices and procedures should be every employee's concern. Safety consciousness among our workforce is low compared to developed economies.'



Our new expatriate CEO was surprised to see the contractors working on top of the roof without helmets.

But sometimes for a local CEO, it would be the other way around.

HEALTH & SAFETY

By Janaka Kumarasinghe

MiHCM secures client in Indonesia

MiHCM, a Cloud HR solution provider, has secured its first finance sector client in Indonesia through its new partnership with PT Mastersystem Infotama (MSI).

Mastersystem Infotama is a system integrator, representing HP, Microsoft, Cisco and other main principals. MiHCM wutg Mastersystem Infotama has secured the opportunity to deploy MiHCM HR platform to Askrindo (PT Asuransi Kredit Indonesia (Persero), a financial services and insurance provider to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Indonesia.

Head of Partnerships of MiHCM, Himashie Perera said, "Our partnership with Mastersystem was first formed at the start of the year prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since then we have been pursuing a number of potential prospects together with Mastersystem and we are delighted to now add this prestigious client to our portfolio."

Business Development Manager of Mastersystem Infotama Cecilia Tan said, "With MiHCM's Cloud HR



From left: Ramlee Abdhulla, Sales Director of ORESTI Group, Harsha Purasinghe, Founder/ CEO of MiHCM, Eddy Anthony, President and Director of PT. Mastersystem Infotama, Cecilia Tan, Business Development Manager of PT. Mastersystem Infotama, Thio Eng Hok, Sales Director of PT. Mastersystem Infotama after signing the MoU.

solution as part of our technology portfolio, we can offer the flexibility, functionality and employee engagement tools required by today's forward-thinking enterprises.

We are delighted to have

secured our first win and we are working closely with Askrindo to roll-out the MiHCM HR platform as they make the transition from legacy to digital."

MiHCM's digital HR cloud solution is an enterprise-grade HR

platform delivered with a modern consumer-grade user experience.

It uses advanced analytics and natural language query functionalities to provide talent insights for timely and accurate decision-making.

Dealing with Covid-19 economic contagion

A wake-up call for science-based approach

By
Dr. Nihal
Pitigala



The ongoing novel coronavirus has created an unprecedented challenge to public health on a global scale. The resulting extreme mitigation measures to contain Covid-19 have in turn produced substantial supply and demand reductions which will be slow to recover.

Even when the crisis bottoms out, unprecedented high unemployment caused by widespread bankruptcies and a depressed investment climate across much of Sri Lanka's major trading partners would result in limited trade, remittance, and tourism income opportunities. Such unique circumstances call for creative and innovative approaches to turn the challenge into new opportunities.

This brings to the forefront collaborative science-based approaches that can be adapted to benefit the society at large. Such a collaborative strategy could lay the foundation for policy and decision-makers to navigate out of the economic morass.

Replicating the containment success

The hallmarks of Sri Lanka's successful management of the pandemic and its unwavering political leadership fundamentally guided by public health and a science-based approach at the inception of the pandemic has prevented a potential catastrophe.

The pandemic thus demonstrated that cooperation and well-functioning collaboration at the science-policy-society interface space was the inherent strength needed to face off unprecedented events.

These efforts included instituting knowledge in diagnostics, strengthening national capacities for science-based decision making, building human-resource capacity, enhancing public trust in science, and more importantly institutionalising positions of science advisors in ministries acting with greater urgency.

This same systematic scientific rigour needs to be extended to other spheres, most importantly to the other side of the pandemic — the approach to economic recovery and transition to a New Normal in the global economy.

This includes a science-based approach to industrial policy, trade policy, FDI policy, entrepreneurship policy, fiscal policy, regional development, and planning, as well as education and training policy. They also extend to specific sector policies such as agriculture, health, energy, etc., which often include R&D programs, as well as sets of regulations favorable to innovation.

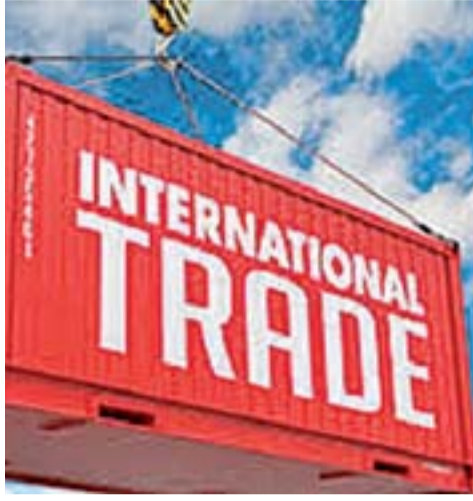
Areas for consideration

This brings to the forefront of the efficacy of adopting alternative growth strategies to replace depleted international markets. The innovative and creative strategy would need to weigh the options of incentivising domestic industries, employment generation considerations, and minimum wage guarantees to sustain the social fabric.

If in the long-run, the transition to exports is an objective, technology and innovation will be crucial to long-term survival and income ascendance. In this context, co-opting the R&D strength of the private sector and pooling of public sector resources with the private sector creativity needs to be explored. The policymakers shall have to contemplate incentives such as making access to affordable capital, tax breaks, and subsidised vocational training.

The government deems exports as a priority. If growth is to be sustained (diversifying away risks), pooling resources and access to larger growing markets is critical. The few options available for Sri Lanka can be viewed from pure economic, strategic, and/or security perspectives. Stronger neighborhood markets, with India and the sub-continent, is an example of the latter.

Combined with it, the technological dividend calls for an approach to wider Asian integration. ASEAN countries did manage the



health crisis relatively better than the west and remain poised to grow into the consumer markets of the future, making a region-wide agreement with ASEAN a far superior option to individual bilateral relationships.

This does not have to compromise on the existing import substitution model but complement it by reaping efficiencies, which can, in turn, stimulate FDI to further upgrading and diversification. The significant positive spillover is a boost to Sri Lanka's logistic hub aspirations, its primary comparative advantage.

Digital economy

Covid-19 has dramatically surfaced the vital role that information and communication technologies (ICTs) played. Digital government technologies either through information sharing or online services have kept governments and people connected during the outbreak including delivering food and other services during the lockdown likely remain relevant in shopping behavior.

Digital technologies are now enabling governments to make rapid policy decisions based on real-time data and analytics, to enhance the capacities of local authorities for better coordination and to deploy evidence-based services to those who need them most.

As the new government seeks an agriculture sector-led growth platform, digital technologies can help farmers make more informed decisions on resource management by providing, processing, and analysing an increasing amount of data faster; digital technologies can significantly reduce the costs of linking sellers and buyers; reduce inequalities in access to information (which is endemic in Sri Lanka), knowledge, technologies, and markets; and potentially reduce scale economies in agriculture, thereby making small-scale producers more competitive.

Platforms for contactless services will increase demand — from mobile money to e-government services to e-commerce. The latter can be a key mechanism to link smaller producers to markets, both at home and abroad. Covid-19 has only accentuated the need to have an unencumbered internet.

Building on the expansion of digital services such as telemedicine, mobile banking and digital business platforms using Artificial Intelligence can produce sustained development at lower costs and high efficiency. This elevates the importance to accelerate digitisation and automation of government services to increase public sector efficiencies and ease the burden on private sector actors.

Other measures

Investments in other backbone infrastructure and accompanying policies can position Sri Lanka for the future of work and the digital age. As working from home becomes more accepted, there will be a higher demand for internet bandwidth, but also higher concerns around cybersecurity, which ultimately could push the government to boost the speed and resilience of digital infrastructure. This will need to be combined with labor market reforms that formalise flexible work options.

Value chains: Think regional

There will be disruptions to global value chains as we know it, especially if the ongoing US-China trade dispute exacerbates. Some reshoring can be expected to ensure supply chain resiliency, and the tendency to regionalise GVCs closer to final demand, as observed

from the automotive value chain. That would put further pressure on those that are still outside or on the fringes of GVCs, such as Sri Lanka. The options for exports, therefore, depend on offering a distinct product or capability — expanding e.g. high-end branded apparel through existing relationships, leveraging unique agriculture segments to market differentiated products and quality features (such as in tea, spices, and other selected agricultural commodities), as well as services, such knowledge-process outsourcing or hub-based logistics and other services.

The latter can serve new GVCs that will emerge from Asia-centric growth. Differentiation takes time, resources, and diligence, but preparation can begin now.

On the supply side, even as some aspects of GVCs may be permanently dislocated, supply-chain risks will remain for Sri Lanka in the short-term. The crisis has put into the stark light of the day the risks associated with the over-reliance on one region or country that can compromise operations.

To mitigate supply chain risks, three parallel initiatives that are not mutually exclusive. First, Sri Lankan producers should identify opportunities to diversify their supply base to enable rapid shifts, as needed, to address future shocks — including the likelihood of

near-future Covid-19 related lockdowns. Second, for example, as high-end brands and retailers in the US and EU are likely to demand less frequent changes in styles, producers may identify opportunities to increase supply

inventories. Third, as a medium to longer-term strategy, Sri Lanka may identify opportunities to onshore selected suppliers through FDI to promote greater vertical supply chain capacity.

Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Response proposals will be received by Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd for the below requirement;

• Device Outsourcing Model for Mobitel Handset and Device Business (MOB/MKT/RFI/23/08/2020-003)

• RFI documents can be downloaded from www.mobitel.lk/RFI, from 23rd August 2020 to 14th September 2020.

• Response proposals should be sent via e-mails to mobitelrfp@mobitel.lk on or before the closing date and time stipulated in the RFI document available in the above link. Late submissions will not be accepted and Mobitel reserves the right to reject any submitted proposal if requested documents, NDA and other details are incomplete.

MANAGER - PROCUREMENT
PROCUREMENT DIVISION,
MOBITEL (PVT) LTD,



Funding Opportunity Notice: Innovative Concepts for COVID-19 Economic Relief and Adaptation

Background

The USAID/Sri Lanka Private Sector Development (PSD) activity is a 5-year, \$19.5 million activity that will drive increased competitiveness, financing, and economic opportunity of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The activity will focus on expanding employment and entrepreneurship of women within target sectors and supply chains. The activity will provide technical assistance to SMEs, both directly and through business advisory service (BAS) providers, to strengthen the pipeline of bankable deals. In parallel the activity will create market-based incentives and provide technical assistance that enable financiers to expand into new markets and geographies. As opportunities present, PSD will work with local institutions to provide transaction advisory services to facilitate large inbound investment. The PSD activity, through local partners, will address second-order economic impacts of COVID-19.

Funding Opportunity Notice (FON)

In order to counter COVID-19's effects on Sri Lankan livelihoods, rapid response is essential given the deteriorating financial positions of SMEs and the difficult decisions they face on retaining their employees and adapting their value chains.

PSD will rapidly review and disburse direct grants and/or subcontracts to Sri Lankan companies and organizations focused on bolstering resilience to the secondary economic impacts of COVID-19 and adapting to a new economic landscape and market opportunities.

The purpose of this FON is to solicit applications/proposals from interested parties, wishing to receive funding from the PSD activity. The process will comprise of two stages:

Phase 1: Initial Review of Concept Papers and Evaluating Against Initial Phase 1 Criteria

Phase 2: Request for Full Proposals and/or Applications and Evaluation Against Phase 2 Criteria and Final Source Selection for award of a subcontract or grant.

Concept Papers in response to this FON may be submitted during the twelve-month period ("on-ramp period"), and will be reviewed in four rounds, in accordance with the schedule for Concept Paper Submissions below:

	Concept Paper Submission Deadlines:	Deadlines for Questions:
Round One	Sep 15, 2020, 5:00 PM Sri Lanka Time	Sep 1, 2020, 5:00 PM Sri Lanka Time
Round Two	Nov 15, 2020, 5:00 PM Sri Lanka Time	Nov 1, 2020, 5:00 PM Sri Lanka Time
Round Three	Feb 15, 2021, 5:00 PM Sri Lanka Time	Feb 1, 2021, 5:00 PM Sri Lanka Time
Round Four	May 15, 2021, 5:00 PM Sri Lanka Time	May 1, 2021, 5:00 PM Sri Lanka Time

Complete application instructions and requirements can be found here:

<https://thepalladiumgroup.com/tender/Funding-Opportunity-Notice-Innovative-Concepts-for-COVID-19-Economic-Relief-and-Adaptation-in-Sri-Lanka>

Kamrudeen re-elected FITIS chairman

Abbas Kamrudeen was re-elected as the Chairman of the Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) for the second term, at the first virtual AGM recently.

Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe, Managing Director of Lanka Bell was elected as the Senior Vice Chairman of FITIS and Prof. Gihan Dias, CEO of LK Domain Registry as Vice Chairman of FITIS for the second term.

Kamrudeen said, "On a long term point of view we would like to see implementation of a digital economy where effective use of technology within every element of the economy, be it public sector, private sector, exporters, SMEs or the general pub-

lic, will result in a contribution of 7% growth to our GDP over the next three years.

"This is the industry that is going to drive every other industry forward. We have a very big responsibility. And it is time that we looked beyond and play a role in digital transformation. We need to help organisations to transform.

"Our first key mandate is to lead and drive digital transformation in Sri Lanka moving towards a digital economy and encouraging the private sector, public sector, and citizens towards digitisation.

"Our second key mandate is to help, develop and foster creation of intellectual property within Sri Lanka and

assist companies in expansion to build global brands for these Intellectual Properties (IPs).

"To achieve our key mandates, we need to develop our Digital Ecosystem by encouraging digital adoption within key industries. Create a platform to recognise digital initiatives, Increase ICT literacy levels within all section of the population, Support to expedite e-govt initiatives, digital advisory consultancy for export companies, link tech companies with exporters, Work with government to Increase smartphone and internet penetration and develop infrastructure to drive a vibrant, world class startup and innovation ecosystem within Sri Lanka.

Business

Whither online learning: Promises and pitfalls



STRATEGIC STRIDES
by
Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

schedule and at their own pace. On one hand, it offers far greater flexibility. On the other hand, there are serious concerns about the overall effectiveness.

Effectiveness

Effectiveness is all about achieving the desired results. This can be approached in many ways. Let me attempt a structured way of doing so by using McKinsey's Seven S framework, involving strategy, structure, systems, shared values, style, staff and skills. Some fundamental questions that need to be raised and answered in each of the above Ss will shed clarity in terms of how effective online learning is.

Strategy:

Is there a clear game plan to use online learning as a core mode of delivery?

What specific objectives are to be achieved through online learning?

How online learning is connected to the long-term plans of the host institution?

Structure:

Is there an assigned team with clear responsibilities to take care of online learning facilitation?

Is there flexible decision making in the institution to ensure smooth functioning of online learning facilitation?

Is there a satisfactory level of presence of the needed technology and infrastructure to ensure online learning facilitation?

Systems:

Is there a robust Learning Management System (LMS) that is linked to online learning facilitation?

Is the online learning assessment through LMS adequately supported by the other systems (such as human resources and administration) in the institution?

Are there adequate controls to ensure the consistency of online learning facilitation?

Shared Values:

Are there clearly identified sets of core values that support initiatives such as online learning facilitation?

Are there key behaviour patterns stemming from the core values that support the commitment needed for online learning?

Are there reviews to assess the level of demonstration of the core values by the team members involved in online learning facilitation?

Style:

How participative is the overall management/leadership style of the institution?

How adaptable the organisation is, particularly its resource personnel in embracing new technology?

Is there an engaging and encour-



aging style towards online learners being demonstrated?

Skills:

Are there information communication and technology (ICT) skills within the organisation for online learning facilitation?

Is there a process to strengthen the skills of the learners in getting the best out of online learning sessions?

Is there a mechanism to develop the skills of the facilitators to offer the best using the available online learning platform? What is needed is an overall satisfactory level for the questions in solidly supporting an online learning initiative with strategy, structure, systems, shared values, style, staff and skills. On the other hand, from the learner's perspective, the availability of affordable technology such as broadband facilities could be a challenge in some cases with regards to the Sri Lankan scenario. One may argue that the digital divide between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' may prevail here as well. I earnestly hope that it will not be a case of *Kolambata Kiri and Apita Kakiri*.

Blended approach

Let me share some interesting material I received from my academic colleague, Dr. Mark Morvant, the Vice Provost of Instruction and Student Success and also a Professor in Biochemistry at the University of Oklahoma, USA. He shares a few concepts in this communication around the creative formats that some have adopted to address the needs of the students.

Blended:

In general, this model is one

where students have some in-person time and some online time. The normal structure can be 50/50 with half of the time in-person and the other half as asynchronous online content and engagement. Other divisions are possible, as long as the content and learning objectives of the course are equivalent to that of a three-hour in-person course.

For example, during the upcoming Autumn (Fall) season, there are a good number of courses that are shifting to blended with half of the students attending on one day and the other half attending the next day in the week. This format could be implemented by recording the lectures using Zoom on your laptop for the first lecture in the week to share with the online students and then doing the same for the second day for the other half of the students. This will provide the content to both groups of students and allow both to engage in-person. It will also provide an accommodation for any student who may need to self-isolate during the semester.

Traditional blended practice of teaching (pedagogy) moves direct instruction to the asynchronous online portion and uses the in-person for high impact engagement.

Flipped:

This model moves direct instruction to an online format (video or reading) and uses class time for dynamic engagement and problem solving. A discussion based course with prior reading assignments is a pre-video version of a flipped classroom that goes back centuries. For some disciplines with more graphical or dynamic content, videos of the instruction

two audiences at the same time, it is recommended that instructors consider using a blended model with recorded lectures for those that are not in-person. The students could watch a synchronous Zoom session, but recording video provides flexibility without the expectation that the instructor will be fully engaged with both groups of students. Again, this is possible, but very difficult to pull off well.

HyFlex:

This model is a complex pedagogy to pull off well, but gives the most flexibility to the students. It can, based on student choice, be a majority in-person, a majority online, or a hybrid of both. Although sometimes associated with dual delivery, it is a more advanced concept with student engagement that spans in-person and online within the same structure, an integration of in-person and online pedagogy.

The main feature of the HyFlex model is the choice for a student to choose in-person or online. Although accommodations may be necessary for students who need to self-isolate in upcoming semesters, they do not have the choice to attend any course either in-person or online. Those courses that are blended to enable in-person engagement will require students to either attend or not attend based on the day of the week. The HyFlex model also presumes that all courses would be taught in-person to provide students with the option of in-person or online.

With regards to what Dr. Mark Morvant described as blended, flipped, dual delivery or HI flex, the relevance to Sri Lanka is worth discussing. I am involved with all the above four in the Sri Lankan context. For example the Master of Public Administration (MPA) offered by the PIM in blended learning reaching out to the North and the East with study groups in Jaffna, Trincomalee, Vavuniya together with the Colombo group. The overseas study groups of PIM's MBA program in Dubai, Doha, Muscat, Kuwait City, Bahrain and Dhaka also have a blended learning experience.

Way forward

While exploiting the opportunities offered by online learning solutions, a blended approach is recommended in terms of overall effectiveness. The post-Covid-19 era will have ample opportunities for such a combination to ensure not only flexibility but also focused results.

Such an endeavour should be a vital aspect of a holistic approach towards overall enhancement of education in Sri Lanka.

Much was talked about online learning during the Covid-19 lockdown. Some schoolchildren and some university students experienced the flavour of it as a sheer necessity. There are bouquets and brickbats for online learning worldwide.

How was the Sri Lankan experience? I myself completed one whole term of online lecturing at the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM). Today, we have shifted to a hybrid method with a sample of students in the class while the others are simultaneously following the session online. How is the overall effectiveness? It in fact is a mixed bag of results.

Overview

Learning involves the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes in discovering one's surrounding. It is a life-long journey, from the womb to the tomb. Online learning may mean many things to many people. It is essentially different to physical gathering where the learners assemble to one place to learn.

The terms online learning and e-learning are interchangeably used. The term distance learning is an umbrella term where online learning can be one mode within its broad categories. There can be distance learning with the use of a Learning Management System (LMS) with much less interaction with the learners. While the intention of reaching out to the learners remains the same, the intensity of involvement of the teacher and the learner significantly differ in both cases.

Online learning gives educators an opportunity to reach students who may not enroll in a traditional classroom course and supports students who need to work on their own

TAMAP workshop on digital solutions for farmers

The European Union-funded 'Technical Assistance to the Modernisation of Agriculture Programme' (TAMAP) conducted a workshop on e-Agriculture and Digital Market Platforms in Colombo to provide stakeholders a platform to gain a further understanding of current applications and initiatives of e-agriculture systems.

TAMAP in collaboration with the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) brought together private and public sector entities to discuss digital solutions for farmers. Participants were provided with information regarding new agricultural technology applications to expand markets and market opportunities. The current Covid-19 crisis also underscored the need to harness e-agriculture solutions.

TAMAP Team Leader Dr. Christof Batzlen said, "TAMAP has started to analyse the demand for e-agriculture solutions in Sri Lanka."

TAMAP and HARTI launched this discussion to take stock of who is doing what and to examine the nature of the long term plans. The workshop is an entry point for further discussions, regarding the facilitation of e-agriculture and to provide direction and recommendations for e-agriculture and digital market platforms in Sri Lanka."

Joining the workshop via Zoom, Sebastian Balcerak of TAMAP provided a market perspective on 'What is e-Agriculture? Overview on Various e-Agriculture Systems and Appli-

cations in the Global World'. He elaborated on the EU's existing support for e-agriculture, current players, large and small, and interactions between buyers and sellers.

Outlining FAO's 'Digital Agriculture Strategy, Approach and Plan for e-Agriculture in Sri Lanka', FAO Representative in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Dr. Xuebing Sun said, "e-Agriculture is one of the major strategies used by the FAO to promote transformational change in the agricultural sector."

FAO is committed to assist the government and its partners to support an emerging digital society."

As the agency responsible for dissemination of appropriate agriculture technologies to farming communities, the National Agriculture Information and Communication Centre, Department of Agriculture's representative at the workshop, Director, S. Periyasamy spoke on 'What are GoSL's requirements for an e-agriculture system in Sri Lanka'.

He said that although NAICC encountered challenges to engage stakeholders in an action plan, several ICT initiatives designed by the Department of Agriculture are being successfully implemented.

Director and CEO, HARTI, Prof. Ranjith Premalal De Silva, outlining his views on 'Digital Market Platforms - Issues and Expectations', asked if farmers are prepared to undertake this change and move towards virtual interaction. He said, "From farm-gate to food plate, the length of the supply chain can be



Prof. Ranjith Premalal De Silva speaking at the workshop.

minimised through digital market platforms." Several representatives of digital market platform providers in the agriculture sector such as the HARTI platform, Croptonix's Govipola, Epic's Helaviru and Dialog's Govi Mithuru provided information about their platforms and product offerings.

This was followed by a panel discussion. Prof. Buddhi Marambe of Peradeniya University of Agriculture facilitated the workshop and the panel discussions.

Program Manager at the EU Delegation, Dr. Olaf Heidelbach said, "My main recommendation for the future - on the country's e-agriculture strategy - is to identify the comparative advantages of different stakeholders by establishing who is doing what, best."

The development of e-Agriculture in Sri Lanka depends to a large extent on private sector initiatives."

External sector stabilised further in June

The trade deficit declined in June 2020 (year-on-year), with a more than expected rebound in merchandise exports and notable reduction in merchandise imports on account of restrictions on non essential imports. Workers' remittances recorded a growth in June, for the first time since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government securities market and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) recorded some outflows. Supported by the reduction in the trade deficit, the Sri Lankan rupee recorded a marginal appreciation during June 2020.

The deficit in the trade account narrowed in June 2020 to US dollars 161 million, from US dollars 316 million in June 2019, recording the lowest monthly deficit since August 2009. Also, on a cumulative basis, the trade deficit narrowed by US dollars 335 million to US dollars 3,262 million during the first six months of 2020 from US dollars 3,597 million in the corresponding period of 2019. Meanwhile, terms of trade, i.e., the ratio of the price of exports to the price of imports, declined by 7.3 per cent (year-on-year) in June 2020 with prices of exports declining at a faster pace than those of imports.

Earnings from merchandise exports rebounded sharply, recording US dollars 894 million in June 2020 compared to US dollars 587 million recorded in May 2020.

The gradual resumption of economic activities of the country as well as the recovery of both domestic and global supply and demand chains to some extent contributed to this improvement.

The earnings from textiles and garments exports led the increase from May 2020 to June 2020, followed by rubber products, food beverages and tobacco, seafood and spices. However, compared to June 2019, earnings from merchandise exports declined significantly by 17.5 per cent in June 2020. The year-on-year decline in earnings from exports was led by industrial exports.

Earnings from textiles and garments contributed the most to the decline in June 2020, on a year-on-year basis, despite the increase in earnings from personal protective equipment (PPE) such as face masks and protective suits, categorised under other made up articles.

Earnings from most subcategories of industrial exports including transport equipment, petroleum products, gems, diamonds and jewellery and animal fodder declined, year-on-year, during the month. Despite the increase of surgical and other gloves exports, earnings from rubber products declined, mainly driven by lower exports of tyres.

However, earnings from food, beverages and tobacco (led by liq-

uid coconut milk, coconut cream and manufactured tobacco), plastics and articles thereof (led by plastic clothing articles) and chemical products (led by activated carbon) exports increased in June 2020 compared to June 2019.

Earnings from agricultural exports grew considerably by 12.0 per cent on a year-on-year basis in June 2020, for the first time since May 2019.

This increase was led by all subcategories of agriculture exports except for unmanufactured tobacco. Earnings from tea recorded a growth after 10 months in June 2020 driven by higher average export prices of tea although the volume exported recorded a minor decline.

Higher earnings were recorded in minor agricultural products led by higher exports of aracanats, fruits and betel leaves.

Earnings from spices increased with higher export volumes of cinnamon and pepper, while earnings from coconut increased as a result of higher average export prices of kernel products and higher export volumes of non kernel products. However, on a month-on-month basis, the improvement of the export volume index was substantially high at 61.7 percent while the deterioration of the unit value index was relatively low at 5.7 per cent, in June 2020 compared to May 2020.



Ministry of Tourism

Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR GOODS, SERVICES AND WORKS - 2020 & 2021



Applications are hereby invited from suppliers/service providers who wish to register themselves to supply the under mentioned goods, services and works including IT for Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management for the year 2020 & 2021.

SLITHM has eight provincial colleges (Other than Colombo Head Office) in the locations given below. Hence, suppliers/service providers who are in close proximity to these locations are encouraged to apply indicating the preferred location(s).

- Kundasale, Kandy.
- Sri Maha Bodhi Mawatha, Anuradhapura.
- Habaraduwa, Koggala.
- National Holiday Resort Premises, Golf Link Road, Bandarawela.
- New Town, Colombo Road, Ratnapura.
- Maguruoya Watta, Boyagane, Kurunegala.
- Main street, Valachchenai, Pasikudah.
- Main street, Chundikul, Jaffna.

1. Goods

Item code	Items
1.1.	Stationery - All kinds of Stationary (Photocopy papers, Duplication Papers, Book binding materials, File covers, Pencils, Writing Instrument, Erasers, etc.)
1.1.1.	Printer related items Toner Cartridges, Ribbons, Empty CD's & DVD's, Rubber Seals, etc.
1.2.	Publications - (Books, Newspapers, Magazine)
1.3.	Furniture - All kinds of Furniture (Wooden, Plastic, Fiberglass, Melamine, Steel) (Office Furniture, Restaurant Furniture, Class Room Furniture, Kitchen Furniture, etc.)
1.4.	IT Equipment & Accessories - All kinds of IT Equipment & Accessories (Desktops, Laptops, Printers, Scanners, UPS, Hard Disks, Pen Drives, Mouse, Keyboards, Network switches/accessories/wiring, CCTV cameras & accessories, Other Accessories, etc.)
1.5.	Office Equipment
1.5.1.	Photocopy machine, Binding machine, Fax Machine and other related equipment
1.5.2.	TV & other related items
1.5.3.	Telephone System
1.5.4.	Camera, Lenses
1.6.	Air Conditioners - All kinds of Air Conditioners and spare parts
1.7.	Motor spare parts - Tires and Tubes, Battery, etc (supply & fixing)
1.8.	Linen / Textiles Products
1.8.1.	Uniform materials, Ties, etc.
1.8.2.	Bed Sheets, Pillows, Pillow Cases, Linen Items, Curtains etc.
1.9.	Shoes (Staff Shoes, Kitchen Shoes, etc.)
1.10.	Kitchen Equipment / Food & Beverage Equipment - All kinds of Kitchen / F & B Equipment (Kitchen Utensils, Crockery, Cutlery, Glassware, Pastry & Bakery, etc.)
1.11.	House Keeping Equipment - All kinds of House Keeping Equipment
1.12.	Laundry Equipment / Chemicals & laundry related items.
1.12.1.	All kinds of Laundry Equipment / Chemicals/related items.
1.12.2.	Spare Parts & Related Items
1.13.	Foods Items - Fruits, Fish, Meat, Dry Foods items, Vegetables, Herbs, Grocery Items, Imported Food Items, Cake/Bakery ingredients etc.
1.14.	Cleaning Materials - All kinds of Cleaning Material & Chemicals
1.15.	Generators - All kinds of Generators & Spare parts.
1.16.	Liquor - All kinds of Wines & Spirits
1.17.	Light Fittings & Consumables - All kinds of Light Fixtures, Fittings, Accessories etc.
1.18.	Pipes & Fittings - All kinds of Pipes & Fittings (Water Pumps, Tanks, Taps, Bathroom Fittings, Pipes, Fittings etc.)
1.19.	Hardware Items (Garbage bags, Brooms, Mops, Dustbins, Nuts & Bolts, Polythene material, Wax & Polish items, etc.)
1.20.	Flower arrangements (Fresh flowers, flower bouquets, Etc.)
1.21.	Water filters, Dispensers & Mineral water bottles (Water filter systems, Mineral water bottles of all sizes including 19L, 21L large bottles)
1.22.	Fire detection systems, Fire extinguishers & related items
1.23.	LPG gas supplies

The applications should be sent as per specimen given below, accompanied by a receipt obtained by paying a non-refundable registration fee of Rs.300.00 (Three Hundred Rupees) in cash to the Cashier of the SLITHM or Corporate branch of Bank of Ceylon Account Number 7120156 in favor of "Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management" for each Item Code Number under each category of supply or services indicated above. Having Previous experience in the same field will be an added advantage during the selection process.

A certified photocopy of Business Registration certificate and other documentary evidence on proof of past performance should be submitted along with the application. The registration fees of ineligible applicants will not be refunded. The Government Departments, Boards, Corporations or Semi-Government institutions which apply for registration need not submit the business registration certificate. The registration fee is payable to the Cashier on any working date between 9.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon and from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. at SLITHM. Please note that no money orders or cheques will be accepted.

Applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the "Director Finance", Procurement Division, Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management, No.78, Galle Road, Colombo 03 on or before 15th September 2020 to above mentioned address and the words "Registration of Suppliers - 2020 & 2021" and item number/s applied should be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. If registration is sought for more than one item code of supply, service or work, the applicant must pay (Rs.300 X Number of item codes applied) and attach the cash receipt or certified/original Bank receipt with the application. The validity of the provided evidence/supporting documents will be checked by an appointed committee and the selection will be done accordingly.

The suppliers who fail to submit quotations when called for or who fail to supply goods or provide services on time or not in conformity with the stipulated specifications will be removed from the register without prior notice. Although quotations will usually be called from registered suppliers/contractors, the SLITHM reserves the right to call for quotations from other suppliers/contractors if sufficient number of suppliers/qualified suppliers are not available in a given category.

Generally, Quotation will be called from the registered suppliers under shopping procedure specified in Procurement Guideline 3.4 of 2006 and after evaluation the substantive responsive lowest bidder will be selected. Further details can be obtained from the Assistant Director - Finance, Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management, No.78, Galle Road, Colombo 03. T.P.011-2208341.

If you failed to submit following copies your registration will be rejected

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 01. Business Registration Copy | 02. Article of Association (If Limited Liability & Public Companies) | 03. VAT Registration (If Applicable) |
| 04. ICTAD/CIDA Registration (If Applicable) | 05. Receipt or Original Bank Slip | |

The specimen supplier registration form can be downloaded from the SLITHM official website using the link <http://slithm.edu.lk/notice/> or by visiting the nearest location.

SUPPLIER REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE YEAR 2020 & 2021

GENERAL COMPANY INFORMATION

01. Name of the Company (Legal Name)	.....
02. Business Address	.....
03. Name of Owner/Authorized Officer	.....
04. Telephone Number/Mobile Number	.....
05. Fax Number	.....
06. E-Mail Address	.....
07. Web Address	.....
08. Business Registration Number (Copies)	.....
09. VAT Registration Number (to be)	.....
10. ICTAD Registration Number attached) (If Applicable)	.....
11. Article of Association	.....
12. Previous Experience	: YES/NO
13. Whether Copy of Cash Deposit receipt or Copy of certified / original Bank Deposit Receipt attached here with	: YES/NO
14. Any dealer ship or Agency ship should be mentioned	: YES/NO
14.1. If "Yes" please attach a certified copy of dealership	
15. Payment Receipt is attached	: YES/NO
16. Original Bank Deposit Slip is attached	: YES/NO
17. Receipt Number	.....

2. Services

- 2.1 Repair & Maintenance services
 - 2.1.1 IT Equipment (Computer Networks, Desktop Computers, Laptop Computers, Printers, Scanners, UPSs, Etc.)
 - 2.1.2 Office Equipment (Fax machines, Electrical & Electronic Equipment, Photocopiers, fans, telephones, Cameras, Communication Equipment, Telephone Systems, Lighting Items)
 - 2.1.3 Furniture (Office furniture polishing, repairing, Etc.)
 - 2.1.4 Vehicle Repairing (Vehicle cushioning, tinkering & Painting, Interior Cleaning, Exterior Cleaning, Engine and all other vehicle repairs and other relevant services)
- 2.1.5 Building Maintenance
 - 2.1.5.1. Electrical work (Wiring, Light fittings and consumables, Illuminating the premises, Etc.)
 - 2.1.5.2. Water supply system (Fixing of water leakages, breakdowns, repairs, Etc.)
 - 2.1.5.3. Air condition services (Regular services related to all types of air conditioners)
 - 2.1.5.4. Fire extinguisher & Fire systems (Regular services of fire systems, refilling of fire extinguishers, Etc.)
 - 2.1.5.5. General office Maintenance (Painting, Supply & fixing windows, doors, Etc.)
 - 2.1.5.6. Minor Maintenance (Minor partitioning, Painting, Floor repairing, Etc.)
- 2.2. Garden Maintenance (Supply of potted Plants, Landscaping, Indoor Plants & Fresh Flowers)
- 2.3. Events Management & Related Items (Digital display boards, hoardings, illuminated sign boards, Name boards, Neon signs, Signage, Pull ups, Exponents, A Boards, wind Sockets, Dancing troupes, Disk Jockeys, Trucks, Musical Groups and Entertainment activities, Marquees, Generator providers, stalls, stages, site illumination & sound system, Etc.)
- 2.4. Printing/offset
 - 2.4.1. Books - Printing, Binding, Brochures, Booklet, Visiting cards, Forms, Reports, Magazines, Letter Heads, Envelopes etc.
 - 2.4.2. Banners, Certificates, Trophies, Planks, Identify Cards & Polythene Printing etc.
- 2.5. DVD's, CD's, Image DVD's with Dockets
- 2.6. Photographers, Videographers & Video Editor
- 2.7. Hiring of Vehicles and Transportation of Goods Cars, Vans, Lorries, Buses, (45 Seated Bus, AC with microphone PA System), etc.
- 2.8. Courier Services
- 2.9. Hiring of Cutlery, Crockery, Buffet items, Etc.
- 2.10. Promotional Services
 - 2.10.1. Advertising, Artworks, Etc.
 - 2.10.2. E-marketing, Social media partners, Etc.
- 2.11. Hotel Accommodation - Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kandy, Sigiriya, Etc.
- 2.12. Lunch Suppliers - Mathale, Dambulla, Kandy, Galle, Etc.
- 2.13. Security Services
- 2.14. Janitorial Services
- 2.15. Insurance Services - Vehicle, Building, Fire, Etc.
- 2.16. Delivery of refreshments at short notice
- 2.17. Tailoring of Uniform / Suits etc.
- 2.18. Interior Decorators
- 2.19. Hiring/Service/Maintenance of Generators
- 2.20. Servicing/Maintenance of Elevators
- 2.21. Servicing/Maintenance of Food & Beverage equipment, Commercial Bakery/Kitchen equipment's (Cool rooms, Freezers, Chillers, Mixers, Bain mares, Salamanders, Blenders, Ice cube machines & all types of F & B and Kitchen/Bakery equipment's)

3. Works

- 3.1. Building Construction (Relevant ICTAD/CIDA registration required) (Building Construction/ Improvements/ Plumbing/ Wiring/ Carpentry/ Aluminum works & cladding/ Color Washing etc.)
- 3.2. Interior Decorative Works, Partitioning, Refurbishment
- 3.3. Decorations for Promotional events (Building of stalls, stage lighting, display panels, flower arrangements, Etc.)

Preferred location(s) - (tick in relevant box below)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colombo | <input type="checkbox"/> Kandy | <input type="checkbox"/> Ratnapura |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandarawela | <input type="checkbox"/> Anuradhapura | <input type="checkbox"/> Koggala |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kurunegala | <input type="checkbox"/> Pasikudha | <input type="checkbox"/> Jaffna |

List of Goods / Services / Works Offered Category Number(s)-(tick in relevant box below)

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.1.1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.5.1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.5.2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.5.3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.5.4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.8.1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.8.2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.12.1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.12.2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.22 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.23 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.5.1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.5.2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.5.3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.5.4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.5.5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1.5.6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2.3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.4.1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.4.2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2.7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.10.1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.10.2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2.11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2.16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2.21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.3 | |

Chairman Procurement Committee

Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management

No. 78, Galle Road, Colombo 3.

General Inquiries 011 220 8300 Ext : 318/319/341

Business

Sri Lanka-Malaysia Business Council's 26th AGM

Malaysia to expand investments in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka-Malaysia Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce held its 26th Annual General Meeting in Colombo recently.

The High Commissioner for Malaysia in Sri Lanka, Tan Yang Thai was the chief guest.

Ambassador Yang Thai said that in the past there had been many visitors from Malaysia who were keen to invest in Sri Lanka and there were a number of visits by trade delegations. One of Malaysia's Leading lubricant oil pro-

ducers Hyrax Oil opened a blending plant in Sri Lanka last year and SLMBC has established a good link with Malaysian counterparts.

Malaysia, the gateway to ASEAN-welcomes greater participation from Sri Lankan businesses and investments that offer huge market opportunities for more than 630m consumers.

Bilateral trade between the two nations have been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, Sri Lanka remains as an important

trade and investment partner in the South Asian region for Malaysia. Malaysia's total bilateral trade with Sri Lanka was and all time high with USD 929.1M last year with a 19.3 percent growth which is the highest in South Asia. In terms of investment Malaysia remains committed to invest in Sri Lanka.

Keerthi Jayasuriya, Chairman/CEO of International Scholar Educational Services was re-elected as the President of the Council while Khalid

Farouk, Director, Ilham Inspiration and Mohamed Hameez of Spillburg Holdings were elected as Vice Presidents. CEO and Managing Director, Aitken Spence Shipping Ltd., Iqram Cuttilan will serve the Committee as the immediate past president. Committee Members of the council for 2020-2021: Amana Bank, Dialog Telekom, Hemas Air Services, Public Bank BERHAD, Mansoor Gems, World Express CMB, Zam Gems were elected.



Sri Lanka-Malaysia Business Council - Executive Committee 2020-2021

Potential... Continued from page 25

...of some inbound tour operators to introduce this program in their itineraries where I could share my experience, having conducted nearly 500 programs so far," he said.

Academics and tourism professionals have defined spiritual tourism in many ways and the simplest description is 'travel to find purpose and meaning to one's life as it elevates travellers' physical, mental, and emotional energies and develops, maintains, and improves body, mind, and spirit'.

Other definitions encompass religious, pilgrim, faith, wellness based travel implying a wider spectrum of spiritual tourism as a terminology.

The destination promoters are constantly in a search to identify a target market and what product to offer in spiritual tourism programs. For instance, Ramayanaya tours are clearly focused on Ramayana devotees especially in India and it is easy to reach out to them through religious institutions such as Chinmaya, and Ramakrishna Mission.

On the other hand, only two or three operators have been successful in getting yoga teachers to bring their online students residing across Europe and Scandinavia during an arranged period.

There is a need to locate them with an understanding as to which facilities are needed to cater to the needs of Yogis.

Sri Lanka has made some inroads into pilgrim tourism such as visits to the Temple of Sacred Tooth Relic and Sri Pada. Hindus from South India worship the Temple at Kataragama and lately Hindus from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh were visiting Ramayana sites in Sri Lanka. These could be promoted in the future.

One important segment of spiritual tourism involves people who are desirous of seeking inner peace during their vacation and gaining spiritual development within.

This segment is said to be growing fast worldwide and needs to be viewed in relation to its potential for Sri Lanka, and is worth studying further.

Over 40 million tourists belong to this category of 300 million overall spiritual seekers including faith and religion based. Seekers of inner peace, freedom from psychological suffering are directly addressed by yoga and meditation.

Before Covid 19 - Yoga was a main attraction in Bali and more hotels were offering yoga classes attracting the tourists looking to intensify their level of spirituality. Bali held an international yoga festival which turned into an annual event.

It was only last year that the Buddhist Tripitaka was presented to the UN to make them a world heritage. Obviously, Sri Lanka had made an

effective move to share the teachings of the Buddha with the rest of the world. The question arises as to what Sri Lanka could now offer in terms of practise.

Yoga is primarily a teaching from Hindu traditions. Meditation is taught in several traditions and this takes pride of place in Buddhist philosophy. There are 40 types of meditation techniques in *Samatha* while Insight meditation (Vipassana) takes the practitioners towards seeing the true nature of life and existence.

Monasteries such as Plum Village in France, Amarawathi in the UK and Wat Pah Nanachat in Thailand offer Buddhist meditation practices. A large number of visitors benefit from these places either by listening to sermons or taking retreats. Except for a very few places, Sri Lanka has not advocated meditation as a tourist attraction until now.

There are several reasons for this. First is the language barrier to conduct guided meditation. Second is the misperceived location where the participants are pushed into a forest or remote locations with uncomfortable stay. The third revolves around what the teachers communicate in meditation practices.

This is the most crucial part of meditation depending on the audience. Western audiences are somewhat skeptical of rituals and beliefs hence the preference to seek experiential meditation.

Fall army... Continued from page 25

However, the insect landed in the country later, mainly affecting the maize crop. Crop losses were calculated to be in the range of 5-25 percent depending on the location.

The Department of Agriculture, Faculties of the Agriculture of universities, Provincial Department of Agriculture, private sector and the farming community joined forces to control the spread of the alien pest, mainly by using pesticides to bring down the population densities. The drop of pest population densities will always help any natural enemy and other potential techniques to take over the control in the long run. "We succeeded in these efforts to a great extent," Prof. Marambe said. A team of scientists led by Drs. Suranga Kodithuwakku and Dimanthi Jayatilake of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya supported the Department of Agriculture (DOA) by using molecular techniques to identify the insect accurately. Scientists from the Plant Protection Service

(PPS) of the DOA and elsewhere confirmed the life cycle of the pests and identified the sensitive growth stages of the pest (early instars of the caterpillar) to impose control measures effectively. These efforts immensely supported the DOA, other agencies and farming community to effectively embark on control programs. Despite these, after about 18 months, we now hear again of the resurgence of the pest during the Yala season 2020, especially from the Badulla area.

All scientists knew that the FAW has come to stay. In a previous interview with the *Sunday Observer* in 2019, the author of this article clearly stated the same. This has been the case in almost all countries the pest has invaded. The message was for everyone to be vigilant, monitor the situation, and not to be complacent that the pest has vanished after the initial success of its control. Resurgence of such invasive pests need immediate and site-specific treatment to bring down their popula-

tion. Careful selection and effective use of pesticides will support the exercise during the early stages. If the observed population density is low, manual collection of the caterpillars and destroying them would help reduce economic losses. Revival of invasive alien pests can take place due to many reasons. On a global scale, changes in the climate are considered as one of the major causes for pest resurgence. Loss of natural enemies in an ecosystem is also a favourable situation for an insect-pest to re-emerge.

However, FAW is an alien, and considering its patterns of invasion, it is less likely that we have strong natural enemies to reduce the number of pests. Scientists are still not certain what made the pest re-appear in higher densities in certain parts of the country. Destroying the pest alone will not help, but there is a need to understand what alternate hosts (e.g. weeds) the insect-pest would use to survive in the environment.

CB to discuss... Continued from page 25

Global think tanks have warned things would get worse before it could get better for all economies. The regulator said that it has a comprehensive program to help ailing financial institutions which have been a burden to the economy.

"Our plan is to consolidate and have mergers between stronger and weak entities to ensure financial stability in the sector," a Deputy Governor of the Central Bank said, adding that a new Act replacing the old will be in force to regulate the microcredit sector in the country. The Central Bank maintained the Standing Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR) and the Standing Lending Facility Rate (SLFR) at their current levels of 4.50 percent and 5.50 percent, having recognised the need to continue the accommodative monetary policy stance, particularly as market lending rates are yet to reflect the full pass through of policy easing measures implemented thus far.

The trade deficit has narrowed during the first half of 2020, as the contrac-

tion of imports outpaced the contraction of exports, supported by import restrictions and subdued global petroleum prices. Some improvement in workers' remittances was observed in June, in contrast to the declining trend observed since March 2020. Depreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee against the US dollar has been limited to 1.3 percent thus far during the year, following a significant depreciation recorded during March-April 2020. With the Central Bank buttressing its reserves through foreign currency purchases from the market and foreign currency swaps with the Reserve Bank of India and licensed banks, gross official reserves were estimated at US dollars 7.1 billion by end July 2020, providing an import cover of 4.7 months. No demand driven inflationary pressure is expected during the forecast horizon.

Growth of credit extended to the private sector by commercial banks decelerated in June 2020, year-on-year, while the outstanding volume of credit contracted during June 2020 for the

second consecutive month, in spite of the large surplus liquidity in the market. However, a gradual recovery in credit extended to the private sector is expected in the period ahead, driven by increased economic activity, improving business sentiment with enhanced political stability, declining market lending rates and rising credit disbursement on account of concessional credit schemes for businesses affected by the pandemic. Considering bank lending rates of certain financial products which continue to remain high, the Board decided to revise downward the caps on interest rates on credit cards to 18 per cent per annum, on pre-arranged temporary overdrafts to 16 per cent per annum and on pawning facilities to 10 per cent per annum.

A spokesman for the Board said that penal interest rates need to be capped at 2 percentage points over the regular interest rates charged on the relevant credit facility. Directions to effect these regulated interest rates will be issued shortly.

President says... Continued from page 25

However, the plantation industry notes that the industry needs a clear and consistent policy direction to develop the perennial and lucrative industry which has to incur colossal losses due to short sighted and hoc policy measures in the past, said plantation company officials and industry experts. Planters' Association of Ceylon Past Chairman and Managing Director, Hayleys Plantations, Dr. Roshan Rajadurai said had there been a clear stance and direction with regard to the cultivation of oil palm that have been in nurseries for a considerable time, the industry would not have to suffer such a major loss which could have been used for the growth of the other crops.

Plantation companies will sustain a cumulative loss of over Rs. 500 million within months due to policy inconsistencies and vacillation by the authorities on a well-regulated expansion of Sri Lanka's oil palm cultivation, the sector's apex industry association said. The Palm Oil Industry Association (POIA) said 356,000 oil palm plants imported on the strength of an earlier government decision to expand cultivation have been maturing in nurseries for over three years, due to the failure

of the authorities to address concerns arising from falsehoods and disinformation spread by misled activists and lobbyists with vested interests. "About 40 percent of these trees may already be non-viable and we fear that the entire stock may have to be destroyed within the next two months, unless the government resolves this matter expeditiously," POIA President Dr. Rohan Fernando said.

The Palm Oil Industry Association represents cultivators as well as refiners, processors, manufacturers, marketers and sellers of palm oil and other products of the oil palm, who have cumulatively invested Rs. 26 billion in the industry. Sri Lanka has less than 11,000 hectares under oil palm - over 1 percent of the extents under tea, rubber and coconut - and plantation companies had been mandated to increase the total area under oil palm to 20,000 hectares under strictly-enforced guidelines that ensure the industry is environmentally non-invasive, before the government back-pedalled on the plan.

Dr. Fernando said the industry's appeal to the government for permission to plant whatever viable trees are left in the nurseries, would enable the plantation companies to reduce the

losses they are faced with and help increase local production of palm oil at a time when imports are being restricted to conserve foreign exchange. He said even if the entire stock of trees had been planted, the country's extent under oil palm would only have increased by about 2,750 hectares. "There is also concern that coconut oil production is more costly and needs more land than oil palm." He said that baseless vilification of the local palm oil industry had resulted in the country producing a mere 23,000 tonnes of palm oil per annum and the import of a staggering 220,000 tonnes of crude palm oil each year, at a cost of approximately Rs. 22 billion.

An earlier Government decision to encourage cultivation of oil palm and to increase the country's extent under the crop to 20,000 hectares was backed by comprehensive conditions and guidelines, Dr. Fernando said.

However, lobbyists had used the haphazard, unregulated and rapacious early expansion of oil palm cultivation in countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia to create a baseless fear psychosis about the industry, disregarding the fact that Sri Lanka has cultivated less than 11,000 hectares in 50 years.

CB sets up ... Continued from page 25

... literate consumers have become victims to inappropriate market conduct by some FSPs regulated by CBSL as well as Informal Financial Service Providers (IFSPs).

Initially, FCRD will focus on finan-

cial consumer complaints and grievances on FSPs regulated by CBSL. At a later stage, it is expected to expand the scope to cover areas such as monitoring of market conduct, consumer empowerment, financial consumer

education, monitoring of unfair competition among FSPs. The ultimate objective of this initiative is to establish an independent authority to safeguard the rights of consumers and investors in the financial industry in Sri Lanka.

Astoria... Continued from page 25

"As a resident, you will also be entitled to use the leisure facilities that are part of the development. For the active, we offer a swimming pool, squash courts, a gym-

nasium and yoga. For the more laidback, a sauna, snooker rooms and beautiful gardens to relax in.

"To reserve your space now, and to take advantage of our spe-

cial offers. You will not be disappointed, and we can guarantee that you will be surprised what level of luxurious living you can afford," he said.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)



AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) LIMITED

BID NO. : 183/T/2019

SUPPLY OF LABOURERS TO MATTALA - RAJAPAKSA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MATTALA

Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited now invites Sealed Bids from Labour Suppliers for Supply of Labour to Mattala - Rajapaksa International Airport. Initially contract will be awarded for a period of one year and it will be extended for further one year considering the satisfactory performance. The work to be carried out in Mattala - Rajapaksa International Airport as per the items given in the Bill of Quantities.

To be eligible for Contract Award, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Chairman, Procurement Committee No. 02, Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaika International Airport, Katunayake from **25.08.2020** until **21.09.2020** from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 4,500.00** (Four Thousand Five Hundred Rupees). The method of payment will be by cash.

Bidding Documents may be inspected at the Supply Chain Management Division (Telephone Nos. 011-2264103 / 011-2264102), Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaika International Airport, Katunayake from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs on weekdays from **25.08.2020 to 21.09.2020**.

Sealed Bids shall be delivered to the address - The Secretary, Procurement Committee No. 02, Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaika International Airport, Katunayake at or before **1400 hrs on 22.09.2020. Late Bids will be rejected.** Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security (on demand Bid Bond) in the amount of **Rs. 150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Rupees)** issued by Institutions listed in the Bid Document or a Cash Deposit should be submitted with the Bid.

All Bidders and their designated representatives are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Meeting on **09.09.2020 at 1000 hrs.** at the Conference Room of Civil Engineering Building, Mattala - Rajapaksa International Airport, Mattala.

Further information may be obtained from the Head of Civil Engineering (Maintenance), Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaika International Airport, Katunayake on Telephone Nos. 011-2264700 / 011-2264704.

Chairman

**Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited
Bandaranaika International Airport,
Katunayake.**

Business

Customer engagement in retail business

by
Hemantha
Kulatunga



Customer engagement is an essential element in sales that emotionally connects customers and the buying process, common to any type of selling situation. It is about encouraging customers to work together and share the experiences created as a business.

If executed well, the strategy will bring growth and success to a business. If the staff, from top to bottom, understand this well, a retail store can prosper as this strategy is probably one of the best tools for customer satisfaction.

Customer engagement is a process that focuses on value creation rather than actual revenue generation. Organisations that practise customer engagement always try to offer something more meaningful beyond the sales pitch. They offer maximum customer experience, valuable content, and interactive on the spot customer support. If, as an owner, you concentrate on customer engagement more, your staff members will transform from a mere order getter to a friend, associate, or advisor to your customer. The customer is ready to pay more if the experience in the store is friendlier than that of your competitors.

If the salespeople on the floor effectively interact, customers will involuntarily be encouraged enough to buy the products available in the store. If the sales team members cannot get

the customer emotionally involved, the product knowledge or usual selling skills will not be sufficient to persuade the prospect to make a tangible purchase. Chances that the prospect will walk out without buying can be high in such a situation.

There are a few elements of effective engagement. Physical touching, trying on, or holding an item to demonstrate can be considered as a tentative purchase. Encouraging the customer to ask more questions and answering them in a cordial and friendly manner will make the interaction easier than usual. The questions centered on the customer's own experience in use of the product concerned and how it would help them personally will provide amazing results. Also, more questions from the customer will create better value in terms of relationships.

With the availability of the internet, customers are more informed and knowledgeable. Hence, unlike before, the customer who walks into the store should be managed more cautiously. As a result of social media and other communication channels, the art of being friendly must be practiced genuinely and with care today. When this writer was a retail store salesman in the early 80s, the situation was much easier and uncomplicated with less competition, less training, absence of television and social media, and those facts made the job much more convenient.

Connect emotionally

If the sales staff on the floor is not fully engaged in taking time to connect emotionally with the customer, they will possibly drive them away never to



It is a known fact that almost every buyer likes to be treated well. This is a key factor that differentiates the success and failure of a retail business. Retail businesses mainly fail due to an unfriendly approach by untrained and unskilled staff

return. Repeating customer visits is an important factor in retail sales. This is why many large brands make an extra effort to practise customer engagement and improve brand loyalty. However, smaller retail store owners do not consider this as an important tool, mainly due to unawareness of its potential. Most of them are happy with the mediocre friendly attitude of the staff toward customers.

By providing an awesome experience in the store through the sales staff, you probably may prevent them

from walking into your competitors. It will also ensure their repeat visits, most probably even when you are not competitive. When your customer knows someone from your store on a personal level, their relationship with your store will move from merely a transaction to a more meaningful bond. How important is customer engagement in a retail store? Customers visit retail stores for the human experience. Customers who develop a human feeling about the store will buy more. The chance of repetition will also be more. Therefore, the retailer needs to train staff to provide such an experience. A retail store staff member must always try to offer customers something they cannot get from other places.

Creating a general customer profile and conveying it to the staff is a good first step when you decide to focus on the customer engagement

process. Understanding the common characteristics and the behaviour of patronising customers is helpful. An analysis of lost sales that is done periodically, though complicated, can produce positive results. It is also helpful to prepare a list of the common questions they ask before purchasing or rejecting is useful to prepare your staff for more effective interaction.

Repeat customer

Making an extra effort to know your customers before reaching out to them is essential. Hence, you have to treat the customer feedback as a gift. To encourage the retail customers to offer their opinion to determine the reason to drive value to them, a simple survey with short questions, probably coupled with a promotion, could be conducted. This information will be immensely valuable when you train frontline staff.

Research, experience, and expert opinion reveal that the vast majority of repeat customer visits to retail stores take place mainly because of the friendly and helpful floor staff. It is a known fact that almost every buyer likes to be treated well. This is a key factor that differentiates the success and failure of a retail business. Retail businesses mainly fail due to an unfriendly approach by untrained and unskilled staff. Therefore, paying attention to staff behaviour is a salient factor in retail trade.

Improving customer engagement rate is a customer-centric model in this digital era as customers are well informed and understand competition more than in the pre-internet period. Most customers know what they need before they set foot in a showroom. The sales team must be trained to emotionally connect with the customer without focusing on selling mechanically.

Your customer-facing team should be equipped with emotional intelligence and positive attitude training to deliver the best possible customer experience. Managing the interpersonal relationship with the customer empathically must be the goal of the training.

Entrepreneurs who run retail businesses must adopt customer retention strategies such as customer engagement. The most vital factor is to understand that selling in any situation is centered on people. Therefore, the owners must notice them genuinely and share experiences with them to build positive customer satisfaction. Customer loyalty is one of the most important factors in business that pays off big.

Hayleys posts Rs. 1.17 b PBT in 1Q, 2020

The Hayleys Group remained resilient amidst unprecedented challenges to record a pre-tax profit of Rs.1.17 billion in the first quarter of the financial year compared to a profit of Rs.285.26 million in the corresponding quarter of last year.

The improvement in profitability reflects the strong performance of the Group's export-oriented businesses and ongoing focus on driving cost efficiencies. As restrictions were gradually eased and the country emerged from the lockdown, the Group rapidly adapted to the new conditions, with operations returning to normalcy.

The Group's ability to navigate the unprecedented complexities arising from Covid-19, particularly given the depth and breadth of its operations is a testament to its agility and resil-



Mohan Pandithage

ience. The quick resumption of the Group's business operations was amply supported by the swift and stringent measures implemented by the Government to curtail the spread of the virus.

The Group's turnover declined by

8% to Rs. 48.23 billion during the quarter, mainly due to subdued conditions in the Leisure and Transportation and Logistics sectors as these industries were significantly affected by the pandemic. Relentless focus on driving cost rationalisation and process efficiencies through the Group's 'Haysmart' initiatives enabled a 10% reduction in administrative expenses, which in turn supported the 18% growth in EBITDA and 11% in EBIT during the period. Continued losses in the Leisure Sector were offset by strong core performance in export-oriented businesses. The Group's pre-tax profit increased to Rs. 1.17 billion while profit-after-tax for the period amounted to Rs.561.76 million, compared to a loss of Rs.73.45 million last year.

"While challenges are likely to

prevail in the short-term, our medium to long-term growth plans are solid and we are confident of delivering strong earnings in the ensuing quarters" said Chairman and Chief Executive of Hayleys PLC, Mohan Pandithage.

"The Purification and Hand Protection Sectors have a strong pipeline of orders while the Plantation Sector is expected to benefit from the sustained improvement in tea prices. On the other hand, the Leisure Sector continues to grapple with the disastrous consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we urge the Government to continue to extend its fullest support to the sector in these challenging times, which in turn will ensure continued value creation to all stakeholders across the hospitality value chain," he said.

HNB Group posts Rs. 5.5b PAT, 1H

HNB posted resilient financial results during 1H 2020 amid the unprecedented disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic with Group PAT for 1H increasing by 6.8 % YoY to Rs 5.5 bn while Bank level PAT declined by 7% YoY to Rs 4.5 bn.

As a consequence of the low interest rate regime, the prime lending rate (AWPLR) reduced by 130 bps from December 2019, compounded by low demand for credit. This in turn impacted 1H interest income which declined 8.8% YoY to Rs 53.8 bn. Interest expenses also declined by 5.2% YoY to Rs 31.4 bn leading to a drop in Net Interest Income (NII) by 13.3% YoY to Rs 22.4 bn.

The restrictions on non-essential imports, overall decline in exports and marked drop in Card spends due to lifestyle changes resulting from the pandemic, drove Net Fee Income down by 22.2% YoY to Rs 3.5 bn. However, a strong surge in demand for digital banking services enabled an increase in fees from digital channels.

Exchange rate movements during the year in tandem with a decline in swap volumes and premiums facilitated an exchange gain of Rs 1.5 bn as opposed to a loss of Rs 577.2 Mn recorded during 1H 2019.

"During the lockdown, we supported customers and merchants to carry out transactions through our digital payment channels including SOLO, MoMo and IPG. We moved a further step forward by launching AppiGo in May 2020 to support businesses to rapidly set up their own e-commerce presence. Our breakthrough Payments App, HNB SOLO was enhanced with added features and this continues to be an ongoing process. In August, we also



Jonathan Alles

upgraded our core-banking system to the latest version of Finacle, enabling us to provide a far superior experience to our customers," HNB MD and CEO Jonathan Alles said.

The non-performing loans ratio increased to 6.4% compared to 5.9% in December 2019. Impairment charges mirrored the NPA increase, rising by 45.3% YoY to Rs 9.1bn for 1H 2020.

The Bank was successful in recording a decline of 6% YoY in Total Operating Expenses to Rs 11.2 bn in 1H 2020. Total tax charge for 1H 2020 declined by 57.1% YoY to Rs 3.1 bn while the Bank recorded a PAT of Rs 4.5 bn, representing a decline of 7% YoY.

HNB's total deposits grew by Rs 55.3 bn to Rs 865.3 bn while the low cost CASA base grew by Rs 34.4 bn.

The Liquid Asset Ratio for the Bank stood at 34%. Total Assets of the Bank grew by 4% to Rs 1.17 trillion.

HNB Group recorded a PAT of Rs 5.5 bn for the period. The YoY growth of 6.8% in Group profits was driven largely by the robust performance of the primary dealership arm of the investment bank, Acuity Partners and HNB Assurance PLC.

Piramal Glass records Rs. 44m loss in 1Q - F21

The financial year of Piramal Glass Ceylon PLC commenced at the time when the country was passing through a complete lockdown. All production lines came to a standstill from March 20, 2020.

The Company resumed partial operations on April 17, following approval by the Central Covid Committee. The Company commenced operations in a phased out manner and was back to 100% operations by the third week of May, resulting in a loss of sales revenue of Rs. 700 million.

Piramal Glass ended the first Quarter of FY 2020-21 with Rs. 1,330 million in revenue and a loss of Rs. 44 million, as against the revenue of Rs 1585 million and profit of Rs. 21 mil-

lion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

Domestic Market: During April and May 2020, sales were subdued as customers who were manufacturing only essential products were functioning and that too at just 50% capacity. From June 2020, the domestic market demand stabilised and international markets opened up for business.

The Domestic sale stood at Rs. 938 million as against Rs. 1,162 million of the similar quarter of the previous year, reflecting a de-growth of 19%.

Exports: Non-availability of vessels to India, USA and East Africa impacted export performance, but at the same time a spurt in demand

for food jars from Australia and New Zealand helped to compensate. The export sales for the quarter were almost at par at Rs. 393 million as against Rs. 396 million during the corresponding quarter of last year.

Gross profit for the period under review is Rs. 110 million as against Rs. 240 million in the corresponding period of the previous year. Even though production was stopped from March 20, the company continued to incur fixed energy and labour costs to keep the furnaces alive during the period under review.

The management firmly believes that with the new product development and inroads into new markets such as Mexico, Angola and Indone-

sia and the increased demand from Australia, PGC will sustain the ongoing operations profitably.

"We are facing the most unprecedented times in the history of mankind and perhaps definitely in our life times with the onset of the worst global pandemic.

It has affected all countries and communities in the world with no concrete solution in sight as either a vaccine or medication," said CEO, Piramal Glass, Sanjay Jain.

"We are witnessing a global surge in demand for glass containers in the Food and Pharmaceutical category; due to which PGC is poised to retain the volumes in domestic and international markets and continue the growth trajectory," he said.

JAT Holdings unveils 'Sayerlack Sathkaraya'

JAT Holdings has launched 'Sayerlack Sathkaraya' - a thematic campaign which assures overall protection and care for wooden furniture with the range of JAT Sayerlack wood care products.

By acknowledging the importance of preserving wooden surfaces for interior and exterior designing, JAT Holdings helps protect valuable furniture and wood items for generations to come.

While furniture plays an integral role in the lives of many families, it is important to take care of and understand wood - which lives and breathes as a part of Mother Nature. Understanding that wood deteriorates with age, 'Sayerlack Sathkaraya' entails an array of products which could be used from the initial stage of timber selection, right up to the completed stage of

finishing. This allows wooden furniture and surfaces to maintain a consistent look throughout the years.

By choosing quality wood coating products, consumers are able to avoid unnecessary maintenance costs in the long run, due to the long-lasting protection of wood finishes and furniture.

The JAT Sayerlack Waterbased and JAT Sayerlack PU (polyurethane lacquer) coatings were designed to fit the market's need to obtain long lasting effects for the preservation of wooden surfaces.

Sayerlack Waterbased wood coatings are used on exterior wooden furniture such as pool decks, lawn chairs, doors and windows exposed to the elements. Sayerlack PU also has a wide range of products available, offering a selection of pigmented colours and effects.

ComBank's assets cross Rs 1.5T in 1H 2020

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon Group has reported mixed results for the first half of 2020, with top line growth negated by a combination of factors including pressure on interest margins due to reduced credit demand and interest concessions granted as pandemic relief to borrowers, increasing impairment provisions and low yields on surplus liquidity. Comprising Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, its subsidiaries and associates, the Group's assets grew by 11.19% over the six months to cross the milestone Rs 1.5 trillion mark in the second quarter of the year, and gross income improve by 2.15% to Rs 75.167 billion in the review period.

However, with interest income declining by 5% to Rs. 61.393 billion for the six months ending June 30, 2020 and by 11.05% in the second quarter alone, mainly due to recognition of a day one/modification loss on interest concessions offered to customers affected by the Covid-19 pan-

dem under the special concessions mandated by the Central Bank and the Bank's own concessionary payment schemes, net interest income for the period reviewed reduced by 5.71% to Rs 22.767 billion and by 16.98% to Rs 9.984 billion in the second quarter, adding pressure on net interest margins, the Bank disclosed in a filing with the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE).

The Bank's ability to limit the decline in net interest income for the six months to 5.71% was due to its success in reducing interest expenses by 4.57% to Rs 38.626 billion. The Bank contained operating expenses for the six months to Rs 12.986 billion, a growth of just 2.72% over the corresponding period in 2019.

The Group recorded profit before income tax of Rs 11.117 billion, an improvement of 7.40% over the first half of 2019. Income tax expenses reduced by a marginal 0.24% to Rs 3.669 billion due to tax concessions on



Dharma Dheerasinghe

the Bank's Sri Lanka Development Bonds portfolio that were not available in the corresponding period of last year, enabling the Group to report profit after tax of Rs 7.448 billion, a growth of 11.61%.

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon generated a profit before taxes on financial services of Rs 12.511 billion, a decline of 8.17%. Mirroring the Group trend the Bank achieved profit



S. Renganathan

after tax of Rs 6.961 billion, an improvement of 7.65%.

Total assets of the Group grew by Rs 158 billion or 11.19% to Rs 1.567 trillion. Gross loans and advances grew by Rs 10.829 billion or 1.16% from end 2019 to Rs 941.567 billion. Total deposits recorded a growth of Rs 86.237 billion or 8.07% over the six months to reach Rs 1.155 trillion as at June 30, 2020.

Advertorial

RDB Bank launches *Punarjeevana* loan scheme

During recent times, people of Sri Lanka faced various disasters. Not only the Covid 19 Pandemic that has put the whole world on hold, the terrorist attack on the Easter Sunday in 2019 also halted country's economy in many fronts, while the severe drought experienced in several recent years, natural disasters such as floods that handicapped the day to day lives of people weakened the economic activities of all walks of people. Not only the local entrepreneurs, even the farmers, employees of the agricultural, production and services sectors were affected. Because of that, many customers who have taken financial assistance from banks for their business and other requirements were embarrassed unable to pay back the loans.

Regional Development Bank (RDB Bank) which has a proud history of 35 years is known to be a bank that has shared the difficulties and grievances of especially the customers and generally all people from its inception.

RDB Bank that has maintained very close relations with its customers is a bank that has provided assistance to its customers many a times in its bank history.



Therefore, while implementing the relief support programmes introduced by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to provide relief to the bank customers under the present socio economic situation, RDB Bank has launched the *RDB Punarjeevana* a loan scheme to provide financial facilities to its customers at this time of need to strengthen them.

Under this loan program, steps have been taken to provide relief to customers as a remedy for the problems such as collapse of their businesses, working capital deficiencies, problems faced in the payment of salaries to employees, non availability of funds or financial facilities to shift to any other business.

This loan program will also provide various reliefs as a remedy to the pressure on interest cost faced by the customers under an economy with low interest rate against the financial facilities they obtained at higher rates of interest and the inconveniences in loan servicing.

Customers who faced problems will be able to enjoy various benefits such as provision of a low interest rate, providing a concession period to repay the loan until income generation of the project becomes satisfactory, extension of the loan repayment period, provision of additional financial required for the stabilization of the project.

As the banks have the responsibility to activate the present economy of the country with new energy RDB Bank has taken steps to implement many relief loan programs to new customers as well, simultaneously. Accordingly, while applying

remedies for the problems of the present customers, new customers will be able to obtain financial facilities and various benefits for them and for their businesses at low interest rate.

Therefore, the RDB Bank invites, not only the customers of the RDB Bank who are facing various difficulties but also other people with various financial requirements to join hands with RDB Bank to provide your contribution to build a prosperous country.

This effort of the RDB Bank will assist the rejuvenation of the economy becoming a strength to the efforts taken by the government and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to generate the economy with new energy applying remedies for the halts to the economy owing to the fall of the economy during the last few years and the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and as fulfillment of the social responsibility entrusted to the bank during the difficult times and the bank expects that their rejuvenation in the lives of people by minimizing the economic pressure on them.

They can even set up and manage scheduled transactions and request cheque books and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) without having to visit the bank. Customers can also perform fund transfers and bill payments whilst passing it through the approval process without having to visit the bank or the merchant.

They can even set up and manage scheduled transactions and request cheque books and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) without having to visit the bank.

Senior Deputy General Manager Pan Asia Bank, Naleen Edirisinghe



Senior Deputy General Manager Pan Asia Bank, Naleen Edirisinghe

utility bill payments; set up standing order online; secured messaging option; RTGS request; cheque book request and view account balance/history. Mr. Naleen Edirisinghe added, "Saving customer's valuable time, the new Business Internet Banking allows them to be in touch with the bank with an in-built secure messaging option. Most of all, this service is free of charge for all customers as there is no annual or joining fee."

Business owners can download the Business Internet Banking application from the Pan Asia Bank website and hand over the required documents to their nearest Pan Asia Bank branch.

They can also directly contact Pan Asia Bank Business Internet Banking Unit via (011) 4667703 for any inquiries. The new Pan Asia Business Internet Banking solution is ideal for the Bank's corporate clientele consisting of sole proprietorships, partnerships, clubs and societies.

CEAT to save the country Rs. 11 billion in foreign exchange via import substitution

CEAT Kelani Holdings has in response to the Government's policies to develop domestic industry, stepped up capacity utilisation across all its manufacturing plants to supply the full domestic requirement of truck and bus tyres, thereby helping to conserve much-needed foreign currency for the country.

Rising to the challenge of the temporary import restrictions in place, the Company which already manufactures the majority of Sri Lanka's tyre requirements said it could supply 100 per cent of the passenger bus and goods transport sectors' tyre needs through domestic production.

This would represent a saving of Rs 11 billion a year in foreign exchange through import substitution, the Company said.

"The role of local industry is primarily to supply domestic needs and export surplus production, which CEAT Kelani Holdings has done very successfully for many years," the Company's Managing Director Ravi Dadlani said.

"We have periodically invested in expanding capacity and product range and now export to 16 countries. However, although we can supply 100% of the Truck and Bus tyre



requirement with current production, we also have the option if the need arises, to shift some of our export volumes of markets that have not yet opened up to cater to the domestic market and support the government's effort to reduce foreign exchange outflows."

Elaborating on the Company's capacity to meet additional domestic demand created by the restriction of imports, Dadlani disclosed that CEAT Kelani can currently produce two million tyres annually in many categories with an imminent addition within next few weeks of a further 200,000 Car and Van Radial tyres since new machinery is being installed pending the arrival of foreign technologists to commission the new capacity.

"It is also our opinion that in many applications it is cost-beneficial and a viable alternative to replace imported 10.00 R20 Radial Truck and Bus tyres with locally produced 10.00-20 Heavy Duty 18 PR Bias-ply tyres," Dadlani said, adding that with its ability to be re-treaded multiple times in a lifespan due to its robust heavy duty nylon construction, users can enjoy a lower cost per km from CEAT Truck and Bus tyres.

He said this alternative, in addition to saving much-needed foreign exchange to the country, would also support the local tyre re-treading industry which currently is in need of more good quality nylon tyre casings for its growth.

Truck Bus tyres that fit 20-inch rims are among those that have been categorised as restricted for import at present, along with Car radial tyres that fit rims of 12, 13 and 14 inches.

CEAT Kelani has kept the prices of its tyres unchanged since December 2019 to support customers and the economy.

In July, the Company launched 'CEAT LYFMAX' - a heavy-duty 10.00 R-20 size Bias-ply tyre for trucks, engineered and built specifically for users who consider heavy load-carrying capability with higher mileage a priority. Each tyre weighs 52 kgs (115 pounds) and has been extensively tested and benchmarked against two of the top imported brands attributed with load-carrying credentials in the local market.

NDBIB crowned 'Sri Lanka's Best Investment Bank'

NDB Investment Bank was adjudged as 'Sri Lanka's Best Investment Bank' at the Awards for Excellence 2020 by Euromoney Magazine. This marks the ninth consecutive year NDBIB has been bestowed with this prestigious award in recognition of its leading position in equity raisings, debt capital markets and mergers and acquisitions (M&A) transactions in the country.

Darshan Perera, Chief Executive Officer of NDBIB, said, "It is a great achievement to be awarded as the best by Euromoney and we take pride in being able to consistently maintain our winning traits for nine consecutive years".



Kaushini Lakshman, Chief Operating Officer of NDBIB said, "We were successful in exploring opportunities in raising dollar denominated debt and more structured debt options to move away from highly competitive plain vanilla local currency fund

raising." Nilendra Weerasinghe, Chief Corporate Advisory Officer said, "We managed to demonstrate two important factors in 2019; first is our strength as a financial services group being able to offer a total solution to our clients.

Seylan teams up with Western Union

Western Union will collaborate with Seylan Bank, enabling receivers in Sri Lanka to connect to their loved ones around the world. Customers in Sri Lanka can now receive money at over 172 Seylan Bank locations across the country.

"At Western Union, we have adopted a truly global and inclusive perspective by considering the needs of customers in markets across the world," said Sohini Rajola, Head of Network, Middle East and Asia Pacific, Western Union. "We are excited about our collaboration with Seylan Bank, providing customers with additional locations to receive money.



The common vision we share to facilitate customers in the country to connect to their loved ones in over 200 countries and territories across the globe, is what drives us to provide high service levels."

"Over the years, Sri Lankan's living and working overseas have continued to support their loved ones back home" said Kapila Ariyaratne, Director /CEO, Seylan

Bank. "When receiving money from abroad, abroad, customers look for convenience, speed and reliability.

We are glad to provide that in partnership with Western Union - reaching not just the city, but also rural areas.

Throughout our history we have placed customer aspirations at the heart of everything we do, and we will continue to do so."

Union Assurance's TV ad

Union Assurance premiered its TV commercial for Sismaga+ on Sunday (August 9), created by Sarva Colombo featuring Kamal Addara Arachchi, Sheoli Jayarathne, Nethmi Hettiarachchi and Sandali Pathirana.

The two-minute TV spot shows the emotional interaction between a blind father (played by Kamal Addara Arachchi) and his daughter through the phases of her life from a child to a young graduate culminating in the girl's discovery of her father's sacrifice. The emotionally stirring commercial dramatically communicates the uncertainty that life can bring, and Union Assurance's ethos in their product, which echoes the sentiment of parental sacrifice for a child's



future. "To us this is more than a campaign. It is really about our reason for existence - to provide Protection. When parents plan for their

child's future Union Assurance should be at the top of the list because we are about protecting those dreams and aspirations.

Keells awarded SLS Covid-19 Safety Management Certification

The Keells Supermarket Chain has been awarded the SLS Covid-19 Safety Management Certification.

Currently, 10 stores have received certification and more stores in the pipeline to obtain the certificate with all store complying to the SLS safety protocols.

Charitha Subasinghe President Retail - John Keells Group, said that we understand that as a responsible retailer during these challenging times safety is of utmost importance to our customers as well as our team members. We wish to reassure our customers that we have taken every measure possible to ensure a safe shopping experience and to our team members that we are safe place to work at."



Charitha Subasinghe President Retail, John Keells Group (third from left) receives the Certificate from Dr. Siddhika G. Senaratne, Director General, Sri Lanka Standard Institution (fourth from left).

SPECTRUM

Features: 020 2464018, 011 2464012, 020 228 4284, 011 2464012

AUGUST 23, 2020

POLICE KENNEL AUCTION

PARTING AFTER YEARS OF SERVICE

New families for ex police canines

BY ASELA KURULUWANSHA

It is always difficult to bid goodbye to the ones you love. This holds true even in a close bond between a human and a canine. As auction goes shouted out their bids on a sunny Saturday at the Police Kennels in Kandy, it was evident that the Police handlers holding on to the collars of their dogs found it difficult to rein in their emotions. As tears welled up in the eyes of some handlers, the dogs sensing that something unusual was about to take place, were seen moving closer to the only master and friend they had known since birth.



Dharmika Weddikara who purchased Breathe, petting him

This was a prime example of the bond they both shared. But auction goes unaware of this special connection, were seen shouting out their bids to gain ownership of the dogs. Going once, going twice and gone! the auctioneer said, not once but twenty-five times on the day, bringing an end to the almost ten year relationship between the handler and his canine friend.

Dog auction

As some handlers now cried openly, the dogs had to be handed over to their new owners who had paid good money to purchase them. These were the emotional scenes on August 15, where 25 dogs belonging to the Police Kennel Division in Kandy were auctioned after being deemed unsuitable to continue in the Police service. While auctioning of Police service dogs has been a common practice over the years the auction of 25 dogs attached to the division this year



was much discussed among the public for two different reasons.

One is the open public sentiments on social media about the separation of these animals from their owners and the auction of these animals who have made a significant contribution to the Police Department in curbing crime. The other is that one dog was sold at possibly the highest price at an auction since the Police Kennel Division was established in 1948. A Labrador dog with an average market value of around Rs. 40,000 was sold at this auction for a whopping Rs. 101,000.

This dog named Breathe was received by the Police Official Dog Division about six months ago as a public donation. Breathe who is about two years old, had to be auctioned because it had proven difficult to train the fun loving dog for Police duty. A Labrador dog named Simba was auctioned for Rs. 50,000, a Belgian Malinois dog named Rex for Rs.

Breathe, who was auctioned for the highest price on the day



23,000, a Rottweiler named Reggie for Rs. 17,500 and a Dalmatian dog named Lily for Rs. 16,000.

The lowest bid was for a dog named Rosy. As she was over 10 years old the price was set at Rs. 1,100. The Police made Rs. 315,800.00 from the auction of 25 dogs on the day.

Hero and Alvin

The dogs auctioned on the day, Hero was a special one for the Sri Lanka Police. Hero, a Beglian Malinois that was put up for auction, had been attached to the Anuradhapura Police Official Kennel Unit for about 10 years. Heros had helped in over 400 drug investigations as well as drug busts.

Alvin too was known to be a talented dog who carried out his duties efficiently. Working in the Horana Police Official Kennel Unit, Alvin has assisted in solving about 200 criminal cases. Betka had served in the Slave Island Police Kennel Unit. She too had contributed to around 110 criminal investigations. Among the



Dogs lined up for the auction



there were several policemen who bid for their dogs even as the bids went higher in a desperate move to hold onto their loved animals. Four such officers were able to keep their dogs after competitively bidding for them. "Some dogs can't be trained. They don't listen. Some are suffering from illnesses. We cannot tire them. There are also those who have worked hard for more than 10 years but cannot do so anymore due to poor health. The veterinarian of the Police Kennel Division inspects these dogs and recommends that they be removed from service. We then forward this list to the Inspector General of Police.

The names of the dogs to be auctioned by the Property Management Division established at the Police Headquarters are then gazetted. Only then will the auction date be set. About an hour before the auction, we show the dogs to those who come to buy them. The open auction is held after explaining all the factors such as their breed, illness and age. An auction board is appointed by the Police Department.

State property

This time the supervising officer was ASP Palahawadana. Dogs have been auctioned in this manner since the establishment of the Police Kennel Division. This is the second auction held this year. Animals that we receive as public donations are considered state property. Therefore, it is not possible to return the animal to the person who donated the dog. If he wants he can buy the dog at auction" OIC of the Kandy Police Official Dog Division, Chief Inspector Priyantha Kulasekara said.

At present there are about 280 official dogs attached to the Kandy Police Kennel Division. They are engaged in VIP security operations as well as attached to 58 Police kennel units island wide and provide their service to various crime prevention activities. According to the Police Department, maintaining one dog costs around Rs. 80,000.00 per month along with the salary of the officer handling the animal. The amount



OIC of the Police Kennel Division CIPriyantha Kulasekara

spent per day on dog food alone is close to Rs. 1000. In the event of an accidental death while on duty, the dog's funeral will be conducted with police honours. But if they reach old age they are often auctioned off without being given any honours.

While the public can often be heard criticising the Police, claiming 'it has gone to the dogs', what must be noted is that more often than not the Police have managed to shine bright due to their service dogs. Unbowed and unafraid in the face of power and money, the dogs that go in search for clues to uphold the law and justice are truly some of the most respected members of Sri Lanka's Police force. Therefore, it should be considered how justified it is to make these canines provide a dignified service to the country and live with new owners away from their masters in the last years of their lives.

Dharmika Weddikara of Kandy, who bought Breathe the Labrador for Rs. 101,000 said, "I had two German Shepherd dogs that lived for about 14 years. The kids always said they wanted a dog. That's why we came to this auction to get a trained dog. As soon as the children saw this dog they said they wanted him. Initially, a minimum bid of Rs. 5,000 was put up. But later people began to place higher bids on him. The children said we would take it somehow."

So, I also increased the price and asked for the dog. Eventually the price went over Rs. 100 000. It was only later that I found out that this was the first time a dog had been sold for such a high price at an auction at the Police Kennel".

Translated by Manesha Borham
Pix: Ruwan Meegammana

List of Police Service Dogs Auctioned on the day

Breed	Name	Sex	Birthday
1. Ridgeback	Gerard	Male	2018-05-18
2. English Springer Spaniel	Laddy	Male	2010-05-19
3. German Shepard	Betka	Female	2010-10-19
4. Terrier	Nick	Male	2017-10-22
5. Labrador Retriever	Breathe	Male	2018-06-16
6. Labrador Retriever	Clevo	Female	2010-11-20
7. Labrador Retriever	Simba	Male	2016-01-07
8. Labrador Retriever	Rosy	Female	2010-05-26
9. Rottweiler	Brando	Female	2019-03-29
10. Rottweiler	Reggy	Male	2011-12-15
11. Rottweiler	Bellie	Female	2010-06-28
12. Dalmatian	Emma	Female	2019-04-02
13. Dalmatian	Lilly	Female	2019-05-10
14. Belgian Malinois	Shadow	Female	2010-07-10
15. Belgian Malinois	Rex	Male	2010-08-09
16. Belgian Malinois	Lana	Female	2010-09-28
17. Belgian Malinois	Jessy	Female	2010-10-14
18. Belgian Malinois	Sissy	Female	2010-06-11
19. Belgian Malinois	Jari	Female	2010-07-19
20. Belgian Malinois	Zuro	Male	2010-08-10
21. Belgian Malinois	Bumper	Male	2010-07-24
22. Belgian Malinois	Aja	Female	2010-07-12
23. Belgian Malinois	Hero	Male	2010-10-28
24. Belgian Malinois	Tessa	Female	2010-09-28
25. Belgian Malinois	Alvin	Male	2010-06-13

Features



The flexibility of religion in Japan

BY BHANU WIJESINGHE

Religion, has and always will be, intrinsically linked to culture. Historically, this can be seen reflected in the ways that the unifying effect of religion affects and forms the cultures that it spreads to. But also, it can be understood how over time, differing cultures observing the same religions have diverging beliefs, practices and observances. It has been said that the way of life, or the culture, of a people influences the approach to religions and that in turn, religion and the people's attitudes towards it influences their culture. This cannot be clearer than with the flexible, almost random approach to religion that Japan has relative to everywhere else.

At the centre of Japan's religious system is Shintoism. While most who have only a peripheral knowledge of Japan might think of it as an entirely Buddhist nation, what they believe to be a more extravagant form Buddhism is actually Japan's very own indigenous religion, Shinto. While in modern times they refer to Shintoism as a religion for simplicity's sake, historically it is a little too complex to be so easily categorised.

As a polytheistic nature religion, Shintoism is almost like a catch all category for the Japanese belief of gods, or Kami, which inhabit all things. With no single creator or doctrine, Shintoism varies greatly in differing parts of Japan, though it has become more homogenised in recent times. Unlike other, more traditional religions like Buddhism or Christianity, there is no moral code to follow beyond reverence for the Kami and rituals that express this reverence.

As a hazardous mountain country subject to great many natural calamities like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and typhoons, Shintoism rationalises these disasters as the acts of vengeful Kami and rituals are performed to appease these gods. Other, more benevo-



lent Kami were worshipped for the prospects of good fortunes. Together, it is said that Shintoism believes in the existence of at least eight million of these Kami and the practice of worshipping this massive pantheon is in fact a reflection of the inherent pragmatism of the Japanese, focusing on adapting to the sometimes harsh requirements of life.

Core tenets

On the other hand, Buddhism, the other major religion in Japan, emphasises the idea of transcending beyond life. While the core tenets of these two religions ways seem contradictory, Buddhism is actually practised quite commonly alongside Shintoism in almost perfect harmony. Japanese religion is highly pluralistic in practice and it is normal to practice multiple religions simultaneously. When Buddhism was first introduced to Japan from China in the sixth century, its popularity exploded, Bhikkus were explaining that the Kami were also trapped in Samsara needing enlightenment to escape it. This explanation would often be challenged by Shinto

priests, who instead of rejecting Buddhism, said that the Kami were Buddhas who protected and propagated Buddhism, an explanation that actually fit well into the Mahayana sect of Buddhism that came to Japan.

Eventually, a compromise was reached with some Kami being integrated into Buddhism while others were explicitly separate from it. This was more a political rift than a religious one, built up over centuries of resentment, the disastrous result of which was the haibutsukishaku, the abolishment of Buddhism, during the Meiji Restoration during the late 1800s. This led to the destruction of over 40,000 Buddhist temples and the complete separation of Buddhism from Shintoism, before which, the two were so linked that most were not even aware of the difference. However, Buddhism survived and continues to be followed alongside Shintoism, though many areas of Japan do not as a result of the abolishment.

This flexibility in beliefs might not be immediately problematic and even quite beneficial but historically, politics and authority has taken advantage of this flexibility to manipulate the people



and gain power. The most egregious example being that of the public being led to believe that the Emperors were descendants of the Creator God, Amaterasu, something that was taken full advantage of during World War 2.

Fanatism

Showa Era Emperor Hirohito was touted as divine and that fighting to the death in his name was the duty of the Japanese. This fanaticism led to the atrocious and tragic lengths every citizen and soldier were willing to go for their God Emperor. After Japan's defeat, the Emperor delivered the Ningen-sengen, or the Declaration of Humanity, in which he denied being a living god.

In modern times, Japan is more secular than ever with a majority of people being either non-religious or only casually religious. After the war, there was a mass abandonment of traditions of Japan in favour of modernising. While Shintoism gave reasons for many things in the past, it was its relationship with Buddhism that gave the Japanese much of its spiritual identity. After the abolishment of Buddhism, though it still remains today, religion did not quite recover from the consequences. As things are, religion is fractured in Japan, and is in need of immediate reform.



Say no to instant gratification



By
R.S. Karunaratne



erating. The drive for immediate gratification became so strong that resistance was futile. That's the way these things work."

Truism

Gratification simply means satisfying a desire or need. It has two segments: Instant gratification and delayed or long-term gratification.

In a remarkable study, four-year-olds were told: "If you wait until after I run an errand, you can have two marshmallows for a treat. If you cannot wait until then, you can have only one marshmallow right now. Psychologist Walter Mischel's marshmallow test proved that some four-year-olds were prepared to wait so that they could enjoy two marshmallows. But others who were more impulsive grabbed the single marshmallow.

The diagnostic power of how this moment of impulse was handled became clear 14 years later when the same children were tracked down as adolescents. Those who had resisted temptation at four were now, as adolescents, more socially competent. They were personally effective, self-assertive, and better able to cope with the frustrations of life. Those who grabbed the single marshmallow, however, tended to have fewer of such qualities.

We all find ourselves distracted from meeting more long-term goals by more enjoyable short-term activities. Each of us likely struggles with these urges to procrastinate every day with varying degrees of success. Why is it so hard to stay the course on our long-term projects, even when we are certain that advantages of sticking to it will far outweigh the more immediate benefits of putting them off? The answer is instant gratification.

Temptation

Many examples can be given for instant gratification. For instance, we have an urge to indulge in a high-calorie treat instead of a snack that will contribute to good health. Sometimes we are tempted to go out with friends instead of finishing our homework. Anyway, a little instant gratification is harmless. However, if you always choose instant gratification, you have a serious problem.

As humans we are unable to say no to instant gratification, but there are more benefits to be derived from long-term gratification. When there is a choice, think of your future. If you make some important decisions, you will be able to avoid instant gratification to a great extent. When you have a long-term goal, break it into smaller segments and pay attention to them.

Those who go for instant gratification neglecting their long-term goals are procrastinators. Tim Urban explores why procrastinators procrastinate. According to him, the Instant Gratification Monkey is a troublesome creature who lives in the brain of procrastinators. He thinks only about the present and ignores lessons from the past. He has no sense of the future. He enjoys the pleasure of the present moment. He thinks humans are crazy animals. However, you do not find this monkey in steady people who plan their future events with meticulous care.

Robert Wright in "Why Buddhism is True" says, "If you have an addiction to anything, ranging from heroin to pornography or chocolate, there has probably been at least one occasion when you deliberated at length over whether to indulge in this form of gratification. Maybe it was back when, having tried it a few times, you recognised the allure and, at some level, realised that it might eventually become your master."

In any event, the deliberations must have at some point gone in favour of short-term gratification. And as time wore on and opportunities for gratification kept arising, you spent less and less time delib-

Self-discipline is like a muscle. If you use it, it gets stronger, and if you don't use it, it gets weaker. This truism seems to capture the broad pattern. Spending time at porn sites leads to immediate gratification. There is a technique to get rid of this gratification. This technique has an acronym: RAIN. First you Recognise the feeling. Then you Accept the feeling. Then you Investigate the feeling and its relationship to your body. Finally the N stands for Nonidentification, or equivalently, Nonattachment. Judson Brewer who did a study at Yale Medical School, described this therapy as being about not 'feeding' the urge to smoke or instant sexual gratification. He said, "If you don't feed a stray cat, it quits coming to your door." According to this metaphor, there is an animal somewhere within you that needs taming. Fighting the urge is like chasing the stray cat away every time it comes to your door. If you do not feed it, it will not come again.

Wherever men and women work together, sexual attraction comes with the territory. The workplace is where men and women get to know one another intimately. Helen Fisher of Rutgers University, author of "Anatomy of Love" says deep barriers and taboos make the atmosphere even more exciting and stimulating. What is a man supposed to think when a female worker leans over his shoulder to touch a keyboard and her hair brushes his cheek? Similarly, how should a woman react when she enters a meeting and a male colleague's eyes flit down to her legs? Is flirting forbidden in workplaces?

Although answers to such questions are clear, many companies are scrambling to spell out guidelines for proper behaviour. Although sexual feelings exist everywhere, acting on them is another matter. Most co-workers may not wish to have a lasting relationship except gratifying their sexual needs. As workers come from different backgrounds, management will find it difficult to discipline them. However, experts have given many tips to prevent sensitive situations from turning into full-blown problems.

Sexual gratification

Men's craze for sexual gratification can be curtailed by women by being feminine and not flaunting sexuality. They should avoid wearing short skirts and see-through blouses. Workplace clothing should not be provocative. When a man says, "You look great in red" he means that females in the workplace are potential sex partners first, women second and co-workers third. According to experts in nonverbal communication, men consider certain female gestures provocative. Some of them are tossing hair, staring straight into a man's eyes, glancing sideways and then demurely dropping her eyes, rubbing her arm, smiling, touching and repeatedly crossing and uncrossing her legs.

Wendy Reid Crisp, director of the U.S. National Association for Female Executives says, "When you're operating on all cylinders, adrenaline hits every part of your body. It is not necessarily love, though." Many affairs that do ignite in the red-hot intensity of the workplace can quickly cool. They can wreck not just a marriage but a career as well. The healthiest workplace is one in which men and women respect one another and learn to work together as members of the same team.

In order to pay less attention to immediate gratification and concentrate on long-term gratification you need patience which is considered a very high virtue.

Enchanting Mahiyanganaya

Mahiyanganaya dotted with valleys, rivers, reservoirs, Buddhist shrines and the Adivasi community

—Text & Pix by—
Mahil Wijesinghe



Perhaps it is because I grew up in a village surrounded by mountains, that I am enticed by them. I visited Mahiyanganaya for the first time four decades ago with my mother on a pilgrimage. I had a camera and I was fascinated by the Adivasi Aththo (Veddhas), especially, the elders with long white cotton beards who flocked to Mahiyanganaya Temple to entertain the pilgrims, performing ritual and reciting stanzas.

Although the picture was not clear, I still remember the shot I captured of an elderly Vedda with a long beard performing his ritual moving his small axe and singing their customary melodious song.

Charming beauty

Recently I visited Mahiyanganaya again with my wife and two sons after the lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We left Ratnapura early in the morning along the Bandarawela-Badulla-Migahakivla highway. Reaching Mahiyanganaya, we spotted the placid reservoir, the serene Loggal Oya displaying its charming beauty. It was a smooth drive now as it was 40 years ago. A new, wider carpeted road has been built and is used by travellers and heavy truck drivers to transport goods and fuel.

Our first stop, the historic Mahiyanganaya dagoba on the banks of the Mahaweli Ganga, is one of the classic Buddhist shrines in Sri Lanka, held in great veneration, as it was sanctified by a visit of the Buddha. The dagoba is built over a hair relic of the Buddha given to God Saman, a guardian deity of Sri Lanka whose shrine is also located here.

Mahiyanganaya is among the most important places of veneration for the Buddhists. Its significance is illustrated by the fact that it ranks number one among the 16 places believed to have been hallowed by the visits of the Buddha.

A serene forest hermitage in a rocky outcrop called Mawaragala

lies in the vicinity of Dambana, 20 kilometres from the Mahiyanganaya town. It is haven to a small group of Samanera bhikkhus who practise meditation and live a monastic life. Children from Vedda families too have been ordained. For alms, they called *Pindapatha* every day. The rocky caves and its fascinating landscape were portrayed in *Suriya Arana* a popular children's film which was shot in Mawaragala.

Mahaweli program

A must place to visit in Mahiyanganaya is Kotabakiniya in Dambana, an ancestral village of the Adivasi community, about 20 kilometres from Mahiyanganaya. Under the Mahaweli Development Program, the Adivasi community were evacuated from their ancestral villages and given farming lands in and around Dambana, where they make their living as farmers, having given up the traditional hunting.

In the deep forest of Dambana, is a cluster of buildings built with clay, one of which houses a proud historical monument of the Adhiwasi people and its chieftain Tissahamy. It contains rare photographs of the ancient Adhiwasi people and the items they used in the past which are exhibited to visitors.

The Mahaweli Ganga rises from the Horton Plains and drops down to the Hatton plateau. It gathers its strength from many tributaries and rivulets as it rolls down the mountains. From Minipe, the river flows into the plain beside the historic Mahiyanganaya dagoba. The river having taken a straight course from Minipe now swerves to the right. Just beyond the turn, the river encircles the island of Kalinga.

Engineering masterpiece

Beyond Minipe, along the main river, is Mahiyanganaya and to the North of Mahiyanganaya is the ancient Sorabora Wewa, a unique en-



A magnificent view of the Mahiyanganaya dagoba

gineering masterpiece built by a giant called Bulatha during the reign of King Dutugemunu. The Wewa was created by damming a small tributary of the Mahaweli. A few people from the village make their



A view of Ulhitiya reservoir

livelihood on the bank of the Sorabora Wewa rowing visitors around the Wewa by canoe.

About half an hour's drive from the Mahiyanganaya town is the Sorabora Wewa, a popular pit stop among pilgrims, and travellers. The place had been deserted due to the Covid-19 pandemic and some vendors had now returned to their spots to engage in their usual businesses. But the holidaymakers' absence was still felt.

The Department of Archaeology dates this ancient engineering feat to 120 BC and adds a note on its

folklore. Bulatha, a name derived or inspired from betel chewing, is said to be a giant during the time of King Dutugemunu who built the original dam to harness water along with a rock hewn anicut that incidentally is still preserved and in use today. A fact-list signpost revealed its many stupendous dimensions including that it feeds 3,000 acres of cultivation lands.

Settlements

The Ulhitiya-Ratkinda reservoir was constructed under the Ma-

MAHIYANGANA IS AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACES OF VENERATION FOR THE BUDDHISTS. ITS SIGNIFICANCE IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT IT RANKS NUMBER ONE AMONG THE 16 PLACES BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN HALLOWED BY THE VISITS OF THE BUDDHA

haweli Development Program in Henanigala at System-C, 30 kilometres from Mahiyanganaya where most of the Adhiwasi community have been given settlements. The trans-basin canal has conveyed the Mahaweli waters to the Ulhitiya reservoir and then to the Maduru Oya reservoir via a link tunnel.

This reservoir benefits settlers in Henanigala in their agriculture and fishing industry.

From ancient times the entire Mahaweli plain from Mahiyanganaya to the mouth of the sea at Trincomalee was irrigated by the waters of the Mahaweli Ganga which flows across Mahiyanganaya.

A part of the North Central Province called System-C, under the Mahaweli Program, has already been supplied with the Mahaweli waters. Extents of 71,000 acres of lands around Mahiyanganaya have been made available for paddy cultivation.

As we approached a reservoir built in a wide valley, the sunlight at dusk turned the mountains behind the reservoir into beige and brown. Standing on the bank of the reservoir, I saw the sun set aflame the trough formed by the slopes of two mountains. I tried to capture it but it was too grand a spectacle for a digital device to do justice to it.

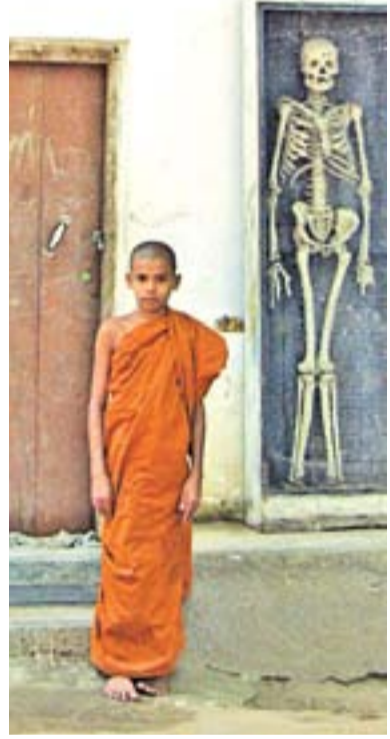
Mahiyanganaya which includes Bintenna is a popular place of Buddhist worship and a tourist site, devotees and visitors making it a regular spot in their trip or *van-danagamana*.



An Adivasi home at Kotabakiniya



Adivasi Aththo chief in his home at Kotabakiniya in Dambana



A Samanera bhikkhu stands in front of a human skeleton in the Mawaragala forest hermitage at Dambana



A boatman on the embankment of the Sorabora Wewa



People bathe in the Mahaweli Ganga at Mahiyanganaya

Arise Sri Lanka, a Telethon on August 29

"Arise Sri Lanka", a Telethon aiming to portray Sri Lanka's success in combating Covid-19 and to raise funds for frontline health workers, will be telecast and live streamed to the world on August 29.

X'Periments, Mirage and Aquarius will back the artistes including Damien, Bonnie, RaniAmirthiah, Bonnie of Crossroads,

Rukshan and MelanthaPerera, Umara, Corrinne Almeida, Shiyam and Shamistar, April Shockman, Jackie and IshiniFonseka, Marlon, Shafi and Sherriden, Rajitha of Misty, Treshelle and Mariazelle.

The organising team includes Richard de Zoysa, SohanWeerasinghe, BenjyRanabahu, Ivan Alvis together with NoelineHontler and

ThushiWeerasinghe.

The primary individual sponsor of the musical entertainment is Dr. Walter Jasinghe, the renowned, iconic personality who resides in California. A few others in the corporate sector have also come forward to support the event. Sohan and Noeline will comper the concert limited to 100 invitees.



The artistes performing Arise Sri Lanka, which has been specially composed for the event



Sohan

Marlon

Dr. Nilanka

April Schokman

The creative art of Anula de Silva

A great legacy for future generations

Excerpts of the interview:

Q. What is this literary endeavour?

A. There are two new Sinhala translations *Hiri Othap* and *Adaraneeya Wiyaruwa*, and a new novel *Api Mahalu Wayasē* (When we are old) and an adolescent novel *Histhenala Sita* (From a blank Place are to be launched next month.

Hiri Othap is a Sinhala translation of *The Best Laid Plans* by Sydney Sheldon, which is about an American President's love affair while *Adaraneeya Wiyaruwa* is a Sinhala translation of *Some Inner Fury* by Kamala Markandaya which is about a love affair between a Hindu woman and a White man during the time of the freedom struggle in India.

The novel, *Api Mahalu Wayasē* includes a love affair between Sri Lankan woman and foreign lecturer though their age difference is very wide, and *Histhenala Sita* describes the life of an orphan girl from a children's home.

Q. How was the novel, *Api Mahalu Wayase* written? Or what is your art of fiction?

A. Every novel I write is more or less associated with people I know, but the characters are not exclusively about them. Characters are developed from a few known facts about them and largely from the unknown facts about them. Take the woman behind the protagonist of this novel. She died recently and was in her fifties. I was at that funeral and got to know that the woman who passed away, had a love affair not only with that foreigner, but also with another man. So, the novel was written based on this sad story. However, the protagonist in the book lives on unlike her real character.

In my fiction I develop my protagonists by means of real persons in society, and every time I create a female protagonist, I try to implant some courage in her. Therefore, every woman protagonist in my fiction is a courageous one as is the case with this novel too. And also I generally do research on my fictitious protagonists. When I was writing *Manjeshwaree* I had to do a lot of research. That novel was based on a real love affair between a Sri Lankan naval officer and a Hindu girl from India.

The naval officer had to go for training in India and there he meets this girl, *Manjeshwaree*. But you know according to our laws, a soldier cannot marry a foreigner. However, in this particular incident the naval officer was offered the permission to marry his lover through revising the laws by then President Chandrikā Bandaranaika Kumaratunga.

So, when I wrote this novel I had to

do excessive research on India's naval headquarters, its related places, and the laws of our naval system.

Q. Do you predetermine the storyline?

A. Generally, I decide on the role of the characters from the outset, but it is not a rigid plan. The narrative must be attentive to the needs of a particular moment, and the editing process will also affect the storyline. In that context nothing is predetermined in fiction writing.

Q. Do you revise the story when you are editing it?

A. I do not make major corrections now, but at the beginning I sometimes rewrote the story and revised the storyline. Now rewriting is very rare.

Q. How long do you take to write a novel?

A. At least one year. When I began to write, I took years. Now it is somewhat quicker. I write about two, three pages per day now. And there are times when I couldn't write at all. My new novel, *Mata Mahalu Wayasē* was written over almost two years. But I don't take that much time for a translation as there is no such revision.

Q. Do you write or type directly on a computer?

A. I don't key on a computer, I write. Writing by hand is a time consuming process, but it is easy going. If I write on a computer, it will disturb my imagination. Some of my writer friends key directly on computer, but in my view they are also like computers, very artificial.

This is the same for the paintings or illustrations. You know Sybil Wettasinghe, the late veteran artist drew on paper by hand, but when we see some of the work other artists have drawn on computer, we can see clearly the difference between them. In fact, when we write, we not only write words, but our feelings too. Without feelings no art can be created.

Q. Are you inspired by other writers?

A. I don't follow other writers, but when I was a schoolgirl, I greatly respected Martin Wickramasinghe. He was a god for me in literature. I loved his fiction very much, especially his *Gamperaliya*. This influence was so much that I did my M.A. Degree on his short stories.

I even registered for it at the Sri Jayawardanepura University. But ultimately, I couldn't accomplish it because of my pregnancy. However, I was influenced by his stories at the beginning.

Q. You have produced more translations than your original books. What



is the main qualification to be a good translator?

A. It is the creativity or talent. Without a talent or creativity you cannot translate fiction.

Most people say that my translations can be read as originals or that they don't feel that they are translations. The reason for it is their emotional quality. This emotional quality derives from the talent.

Q. Some critics say that you are concise when you translate a book?

A. Generally I don't do so, but when I was translating *Cancer Ward* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, I had to shorten some of the repeated lines and dull details. Still, readers say it is heavy. However, I don't translate word to word.

Once a reader called me and said he thoroughly enjoyed the book *Ādaraya Balā Hindee*, my translation of Ba jin's novel. He said it was more entertaining than the English translation.

Q. You spoke about Martin Wickramasinghe. Have you met him personally?

A. No. I never met him, but I have seen him on one or two occasions. When I was working at the *Mihira* newspaper, our editor, Sumana Saparamadu who was a relative of Wickramasinghe, told me Martin Wickramasinghe was seriously ill and to write an article about him.

I started to write it but when I was writing it, I heard the news that he had passed away. That was a very sad moment for me. I felt if I had written that M.A. thesis on his short stories, I would have met him. Actually, I still consider it the best Sinhala novel so far is Wickramasinghe's *Gamperaliya*, The flowing of it is very beautiful and characters such as Kaisāruwatthe Munhandiram, Māra Hāmīne, Nandā and Anulā still live in our villages.

Q. Who are the other writers you admire?

A. Prof. Sarachandra was my tutor in my last year at the University of Peradeniya. I participated in his *Nirmāna Panthiya* (Creative writing class) at the university and he praised me most of the time when I presented literary work in it. I remember my short story, *Jeewitha Āshāwa* was highly praised by him at the *Nirmāna Panthiya*. When all the others were critical about it, he and *Thissa Kayawasam* who was my batchmate, appreciated it.

Later *Thissa* said to me that his first ever review was about my short story. And my novel *Unmatthakayō* was also serialised at the *Riwiresa* newspaper because of him. It was the first novel that was serialised in a Sinhala newspaper in Sri Lanka. And *Gunadasa Amarasakara* was also an admirer of my work. I once wrote a short story when I was schooling, and he sent me a letter appreciating it.

Q. How do you think of Dr. Sarachandra?

A. He was a true artiste, writer and a scholar. He was never rude to students and when he was lecturing, he did it as a normal activity, never gave us notes. I loved him very much because of his calmness and soft approach to students. His lectures were very interesting as he did it taking examples of day to day life.

Q. Are you influenced by foreign writers?

A. Anton Chekov influenced me more than any other Russian writer. Foreign writers didn't influence me, though I translated world literature into Sinhala.

Q. Do you have a specific place and time to write?

A. No, I haven't any of those. There is a palm tree in front of my house and I write under it keeping a chair and a wooden plank during the day. At night I write on a terribly messed up table though I have a comfortable table in my bedroom.

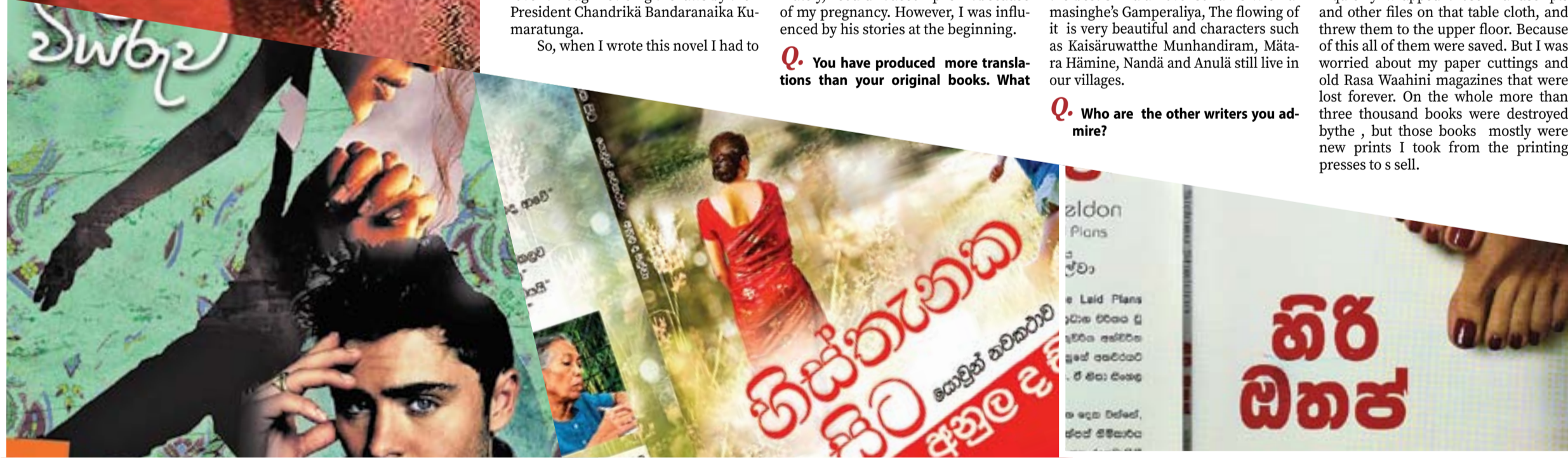
Q. We heard your books were destroyed by the tsunami in 2004. How did the tsunami affect you?

A. Yes, all my books and paper cuttings except my manuscripts were destroyed by the tsunami. When sea water flooded my house, I had no time to save my books. I was nearly swept away by it. However, the water level stopped at my neck and at that time I saw my manuscripts were on a table with a table cloth in the living room.

I quickly wrapped those manuscripts and other files on that table cloth, and threw them to the upper floor. Because of this all of them were saved. But I was worried about my paper cuttings and old *Rasa Waahini* magazines that were lost forever. On the whole more than three thousand books were destroyed by the tsunami, but those books mostly were new prints I took from the printing presses to sell.

RAVINDRA WIJEWARDHANE

Anula De Silva is a veteran writer, translator and a journalist. She had been contributing to the *Mihira* newspaper, a Lake House publication since its inception in 1964 and subsequently worked for eight newspapers for nearly half a century as a journalist and editor. More than 100 books including popular novels such as, *Ahas Maligā*, *Unmatthakayō*, *Manjeshwaree*, *Maha Muhuda Mamai* and popular translations such as *Deviyangē Adawiya* (Not without my Daughter), *Thunweni Birinda* (Third Wife), *Pilikā Wāttuwa* (Cancer Word), *Tibbatha Diyaniya*, (Daughter of Tibbatha), *Thittha Kōpi* have been published by her. Her latest literary endeavours include the launching of two translations, a novel and a young adult novel, all of which are to be launched in September at the annual International Book Fair at the BMICH. The *Sunday Observerspoke* to Anula de Silva about her new literary event and her art of fiction.



Asean Day Celebration 2020

On August 8 2020, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) marked its 53rd anniversary. Looking back on half a century of development, ASEAN has made a tremendous journey since its inception in 1967. The remarkable achievements ASEAN has made, far exceed what the founding fathers of ASEAN had imagined.

From just five Southeast Asian countries, the organisation has doubled in size and has grown to become a family of 10 nations including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, living in peace, stability, dialogue and cooperation.

Holding the ASEAN's chairmanship in 2020, Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam highlighted the following at the virtual official ASEAN Day Celebration in Jakarta on August 8 2020.

"Today, the ASEAN community is a big family of six hundred and fifty million people with a combined GDP of three trillion USD.

Translating its vision into actions, ASEAN has been promoting both the interest of our people and peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific.

ASEAN is now at a critical juncture. The new dynamism in our geo-strategic landscape, emerging regional and global issues require ASEAN to be ever more cohesive and responsive.

Shoulder to shoulder, we can rise above any challenge and move ASEAN forward.



Therefore, we should redouble our efforts to strengthen our community, while proactively and effectively promote our ties with the dia-

logue partners. We should also ensure an ASEAN-centered regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive




and rules-based." Addressing its vision of ASEAN Community-building within a peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asia, ASEAN remains committed to reinforce centrality and unity under "One Vision, One Identity, One Community" in the years ahead.

ASEAN remains committed to reinforce centrality and unity under "One Vision, One Identity, One Community" in the years ahead.

MONTAGE


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AUGUST 23, 2020



19th DHAKA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2021
16-24 January

THE FILM SUBMISSION PROCESS OF THE FESTIVAL IS NOW OPEN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 AND THE FESTIVAL WILL HAVE A COMPETITION FOR UNDER EIGHT CATEGORIES NAMEDLY, 'ASIAN CINEMA SECTION', 'RETROSPECTIVE', 'BANGLADESH PANORAMA SECTION', 'CINEMA OF THE WORLD SECTION', 'CHILDREN FILMS SECTION', 'WOMEN FILMMAKERS SECTION', 'SHORT AND INDEPENDENT FILMS SECTION' AND 'SPIRITUAL FILMS SECTION'



South Asian cinema mesmerises the world

DIFF Festival Director, Ahmed Muztaba Zamal

BY ANURADHA KODAGODA

The Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) is one of the biggest film festivals in South Asia where you get the opportunity to indulge in the best of South Asian cinema rubbing shoulders with silver screen celebrities of South Asia. Its 19th edition will be held in Dhaka from January 16 to 24 2021.

The festival has also created space for young and aspiring filmmakers in Bangladesh and larger South Asia to connect with global artistic trends and to strengthen the parallel development of Bangladeshi cinema.

Similar to the previous years, the general theme of the festival is 'Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society'. The Festival has been organised on a regular basis by the Rainbow Film Society, which has been dedicated to the promotion of a healthy cine culture in Bangladesh and in celebrating the global mainstream in film and its social relevance since 1992.

Speaking exclusively to the Sunday Observer Ahmed Muztaba Zamal, the Festival Director of Dhaka International Film Festival said, "the DIFF is one of the most prestigious film events in Bangladesh and, to a great extent, has helped shape an increasingly healthy and positive national film culture. DIFF is a bold expression of resistance against the decadence, vulgarity and cheap commercialism that pervades the mainstream Bangladeshi film industry."

Film Submission deadline September 30, 2020

The film submission process of the festival is now open until September 30, 2020 and the festival will have a competition for under eight categories namely, *Asian Cinema Section, Retrospective, Bangladesh Panorama Section, Cinema of the World Section, Children Films Section, Women Filmmakers Section, Short and Independent Films Section and Spiritual Films Section.*

The Selection Committee is in charge of all sections. The Committee will preview and select films in DVDs (PAL) and downloadable link only.

Preview Tapes will not be returned. They will be preserved for the Festival Archive for academic purposes. After submission and selection, no films can be withdrawn.

Film entries should be made in 2020, in special cases the Selection Committee may accept films made in 2019.

The Festival is devoted to feature films only. Fictional films from all over the world, with a minimum length of 70 minutes are eligible for entry.

But documentaries and short films may only be included in 'Women Filmmaker', 'Short and Independent', 'Spiritual Films' and in other special sections where it is deemed fit. However, films with a maximum length of 30 minutes are eligible for entry in these sections. DIFF requires films which do not have any record of being screened in any other Bangladeshi film festival before DIFF.

Virtual platform at DIFF and Festival schedule

During the 19th DIFF, organisers expect to screen about 200 films, with the participation from around 60 countries.

The screening will be held at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Star Cineplex, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Central Public Library Auditorium and Bangladesh National Museum Auditorium. As mentioned by the Festival Director Ahmed, Dhaka International Film Festival will use the virtual platform for the first time with this festival, besides the cinema halls.

"The DIFF select a few from the many submitted films and will use an online platform to cast it and once a film representative submits their film, they also agree to allow DIFF to do so. One documentary and one fiction film will be selected by the international interfaith juries appointed by the Festival.

Prizes will be awarded to the directors of the winning films. The award will be a certificate and a crest. Selected films from 2019 to 2020 and with a minimum length of 70 minutes are eligible for entry in this section. Documentaries and short films may be included in the Spiritual Films section with a maximum length of 30 minute," he added.

Conference on Women in Cinema

Just like the previous years, the Rainbow Film Society expects numbers of woman filmmakers, actors and personalities from all over the world to attendi DIFF's most important segment - the 'Seventh Dhaka International Conference on Women in Cinema 2021'.

This conference will be held on Sunday January 17 and Monday, January 18, 2021 during the festival.

"This will also serve the purpose of a platform that will address issues concerning women through the work being done by the invited panel of women guests.

Given that women compose half of humanity and the inherent importance and relevance of women's issues in global progress; it is high time that such a conference is convened in a country like Bangladesh, more so as the world is going through enormous changes on all fronts having both positive and negative implications for women. Having said this, I would also mention that this conference will serve as the heart of our upcoming festival," Ahmed said..

West meets East

Cinema by virtue of its invention has essentially remained a western art form. When the countries from the East adopted the art, they approached it quite differently. Like any other art there remained a clear division between the cinema from the East and that from the West and it was assumed that "Never the twain shall meet".

There has been a significant change over the years. International Film Festivals have become a meeting point between the two. As a result more and more films from the East are being appreciated by the West in recent times.

However, there has been a school of thought that the West has been more patronising than appreciating in their approach.

A day-long program will be held at the DIFF on January 19, 2021 on discussing the matter of recognising a certain kind of cinema from this Eastern region by the West and many other similar questions will be raised,

discussed and refuted. The discussion will be held with the participation of an international film critic, a prominent Festival official, a leading academic and an experienced producer.

Censorship and criteria

According to the Festival Director, as per the existing policy every film participating in the Festival will have to be submitted to the Bangladesh Film Censorship Board for a clearance certificate.

"The Censor Board in Bangladesh is absolutely intolerant to any nudity, obscenity, sexual scenes, promotion of homosexuality, insulting or belittling of any religion or any film or any scene that may jeopardise the country's international ties.

If you decide to submit your film at our festival we will assume that you have agreed and have given us the permission to edit and delete as per the terms and conditions of our Censor Board," he said.

Invitation for Sri Lankan filmmakers

Ahmed welcomes all filmmakers in Sri Lanka to the virtual edition of 19th Dhaka International Film Festival. "You all can tag along and join the beautiful experience of DIFF. We have in store various genres and life changing cinemas that you would remember forever,"

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic situation, although it cannot be certainly said about a physical participation at the festival, Ahmed stressed the fact that DIFF hopes to see all the Sri Lankan filmmakers and film enthusiasts in the coming years at the Festival.

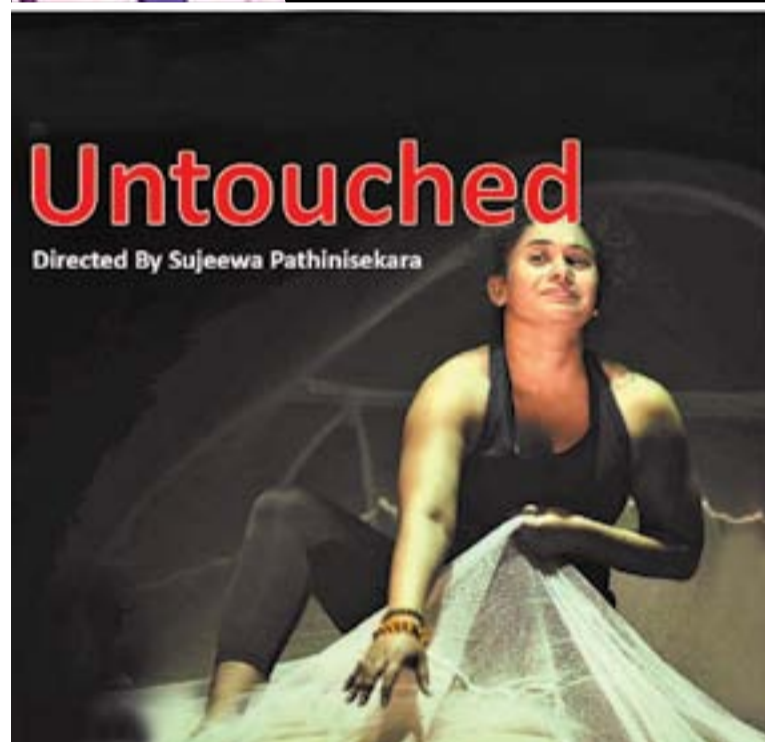
He invited all cinema enthusiasts to experience the traditions and culture of Bangladesh, as it is a part of South Asia, it makes DIFF a part of it too.

"DIFF reflects greatly on the South Asian aspect. We can together show the whole world, how rich our culture is and how united we are in the roots. South Asian cinema never fails to mesmerise the world, we hope we can keep on contributing to become one of the best cinemas there is," he added.



Preksha stage drama festival 2020

Preksha stage drama festival 2020 organised by the Tower Hall Foundation will be held from August 19 - September 15 at the Maradana, Tower Hall and Elphinstone theaters. The festival is being held on the direction of Prime Minister and Minister of Buddha Sasana Mahinda Rajapaksa with the aim to attract the public, artistes, dramatists back to theatres following the Covid -19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown. During the festival 50 outstanding and award winning stage plays of veteran dramatists such as Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra, Dayananda Gunawardene, Henry Jayasena, Simon Nawagaththegama, R.R. Samarakoon, Somalatha Subasinghe, Gunasena Galapaththi, Dharmasiri Bandaranayake, Attorney at Law Douglas Siriwardene, Rajitha Dissanayake, Udayasiri Wickramaratne, Priyantha Ranjan, Chamika Haththalawatta, Ajith Mendis, Asanka Sayakkara. Budhika Damayantha, M.Safeer, Rodney Warnakula, Akhila Sapumal, Prof. Upul Ranjith Hewagamage will be staged at the Maradana, Tower Hall and Elphinstone theaters from August 19.



Two Interact Art Plays at Preksha Drama Festival

Two Interact Art Plays will be staged at the Preksha Drama Festival organised by the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation.

The first play, Anne Frank, directed by M.Safeer, is a Sinhala language production based on the Anne Frank diary, and will be staged at the Elphinstone Theatre, Maradana on August 31 at 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

The second play, 'Untouched', English Language Drama directed by Sujeewa Pathinisekara, will be staged at the Elphinstone Theatre on September 2.

The play has represented Sri Lanka at the Fujairah Drama Festival in the united emirates and the Kalkata Dum Dum Festival in India.

Subuddhi Lakmal performs in the play and set and choreography by M. Safeer, Music by Vindaka Weerasinghe and Lighting Wasantha Kumara.



Features



THE STATE AND FATE OF THEATRE

By
Dilshan Boange



Beginning his entry into Sri Lanka's English theatre in 1980, staging a production of the classic Ceylonese vintage comedy *Well, Mudaliyar How* written by H.C.N de Lanerolle and E. M. W Joseph, Jith Peiris has proven his prowess as a theatre practitioner entertaining theatregoers for what is now four decades.

A veteran English theatre director who has been instrumental for Sri Lanka's English theatre to gain momentum and robustness especially over the past two decades, with notable successive groups of schoolchildren with a passion for theatre being moulded by his guidance through school productions and amateur theatre productions, Jith shares his views and concerns about what challenges are ahead for English theatre in Sri Lanka, as this week's featured artiste in *The State and Fate of Theatre*.

Q. Did the nationwide lockdown and the subsequent situation that arose, halt any theatre productions that you had planned for this year?

A. It was quite fortunate that my latest production 'Oops it's a Crossdresser! Cash on Delivery' managed to complete the show run, which was in February before the lockdown.

It was a spin on Michael Cooney's British comedy *Cash On Delivery*. However, the subsequent show at the Wendt, which was Feroze Kamardeen's production, couldn't complete its show run because of the lockdown. My production was the last one to have its full show run at the Wendt before the lockdown came into effect. But the pandemic has thrown 'a spanner in the works' when it comes to my plans for the rest of the year. My annual Christmas show *Silver Bells* which is towards the end of each year at the Wendt seems unlikely this time because of the present situation we are faced with. It is a pity as I have been doing *Silver Bells* for the last 30 years.

I was planning to do what was to be my 'curtain call', if I put it like that, to 'call it a day' and retire from theatre.

It may come as a surprise to you perhaps, to hear that I have decided on retiring from theatre, but that was what I intended as my program for 2020. I was going to stage *Well, Mudaliyar How?* the play that I staged as my first production, directed by me in 1980, which marked my entry into English theatre in Sri Lanka. I was going to have a show run of *Well, Mudaliyar How?* during July to August this year, take a bow and bid adieu to life in theatre. But when the lockdown started I knew this was going to drag on for some time, and I began planning ahead.

I knew this was not going to 'blow away' in a matter of weeks. Even though the lockdown may end in a few months the nature of the pandemic would have its effect for some time. So I got the calendar for 2022 from the Lionel Wendt and began planning ahead. We are planning to have rehearsals in 2021 and move forward from there.

Q. Did the lockdown provide you an opportunity to engage in any creative endeavours? What did you engage in during those months in connection with your interests in the arts?

A. You know the lockdown compelled us to stop and think. I mean we had to seriously think and rethink what our priorities are in life and for me it was

also a time for reflection and contemplation. It was during this time that I decided to start on my memoirs and did the initial 'sketch work' so to say, by working out the segments and themes and so on, because there are several aspects of my life in the arts and society that converge to form the larger picture of what is my 'realm of interests'. Segmenting the headings for chapters and sections and noting down themes was what I focused on to begin with. So I have made a start with the intended future memoir. That is a positive development for me during the lockdown.

I am also an avid reader and an ardent follower of politics, not just in Sri Lanka, but politics around the globe. From New Zealand to Iceland, what happens in the global political arena is of interest to me. Reading about politics is one of my great interests. Politics is after all a form of drama. It is an engaging drama and that is how I see politics. So even if it's a by-election in New Zealand or a State election in Australia my attention is given to that political event. I read Michelle Obama's biography cover to cover during the lockdown. I also read a set of books on Donald Trump and his administration. In all I read about fifteen books during the lockdown. So as you can imagine there was quite a good amount of reading and also writing during those lockdown months.

Q. Sri Lanka doesn't have an 'English theatre industry' so to say, as compared to Sinhala theatre which has artistes employed more or less on a full time basis, with frequent work being available as shows take place in various parts of the country. How do you see the effects of the global pandemic affecting English theatre in Sri Lanka which is basically a Colombo centric sphere of artistic engagement?

A. It was just getting ready to take off as an industry. That's how I saw it, and why I feel so sad for so many of these



A feature series of Q&A interviews with Sri Lankan theatre practitioners on perceptions and perspectives of what lies ahead for Sri Lankan theatre as the world grapples with a pandemic that calls for 'social distancing'.

young theatre directors who over the past few years gave it their heart and soul and developed several theatre companies. It was just on the verge of developing into an industry. But this pandemic which has affected theatre globally, has dealt a serious blow to English theatre in Sri Lanka. A very serious blow. English theatre will survive but it will not thrive for quite some time to come. There were so many large scale big productions that happened over the last several years, and there was the show of so much promise for English theatre to develop beautifully with new artistes coming up. But all that has now been dealt a serious blow.

Q. You have been involved with school theatre productions for decades. Looking at the current state of affairs that is affecting theatre badly how can English theatre in Sri Lanka sustain interest among schoolchildren so that successive generations of theatre artistes will join the folds of English theatre in Sri Lanka to take it forward?

A. If the annual All Island Inter-school Shakespeare Drama Competition, which obviously isn't happening this year, stops for a few years that alone will be a big setback for English theatre in Sri Lanka. The annual Shakespeare drama competition is something that boys and girls who are passionate about theatre during their school days look forward to. If that stops for two or three years it would cause a big drop in the momentum for English drama and theatre among schoolchildren. I have so far got 43 telephone calls from students I have trained in English drama from various schools, and they are heartbroken that the productions planned for this year won't take place.

They kept saying how much they looked forward to those productions as some of them were getting ready for A/Ls and cannot look forward beyond this year at school to get the thrill of doing school plays. I really feel sorry for them. I have had parents telling me that the problem is with rehearsals and how could they as conscientious parents agree to about three months of rehearsals where the risk of infection cannot be ruled out completely? They asked me how they can let their children be part of rehearsals for several hours a day in close proximity to each other, and for that routine to go on for about three months. I can understand their concern as parents.

Q. You mentioned that you are now at the point of preparing for your retirement from theatre. Having been part of Sri Lanka's English theatre for four decades what are your thoughts on what looms ahead for English theatre in Sri Lanka?

A. Firstly I must say that I learnt the nuts and bolts of theatre and developed my craft from practitioners and productions of West End theatre in London and Broadway in New York. My heart simply aches when I think of all those technicians and artistes who are now out of work due to the pandemic. What on earth will they do? They are professionals who depend on theatre as their livelihood. Theatre has been affected globally and the worst hit are those who depend on theatre for their livelihood. Sri Lanka's English theatre as I said earlier will not thrive during the next few years but will somehow survive.

The proscenium is going to suffer no doubt. But there will be alternative forms that will come up. Outdoor theatre is one. I recently advised Aslam Marikkar in Kandy who is the head of Sri Theatre Company, to do a production as an outdoor performance within the premises of his school Trinity College, and to avoid doing the show indoors. Similarly I think English theatre practitioners in Sri Lanka will adopt ways to keep the art alive, but I am sad to see it will not thrive in the way it had so much promise in the recent years leading up to this pandemic.

The Indelible



Making a sincere attempt to bring an unimagined and unexplored treasure trove of modern Sinhala literature to the English reading community, *Montage* is bringing Mahinda Prasad Masimbula's award winning novel *Senkottan* translated by **Malinda Seneviratne**, veteran journalist, writer and poet. *Senkottan* (The Indelible), a remarkable creation of literature by Mahinda Prasad Masimbula was his debut effort in his literary career for which he won the State Literary Award in 2013 and short-listed in *Swarna Pusthaka* Literary Awards and many other Literary Award Festivals in the same year. The book has been published by Santhawa Publishers and *Senkottan* has blazed the trail in the self-publishing industry as one of the best-selling books in Sinhala literature.

CHAPTER 9, PART 2

About an hour later, when Nambu Henaya returned home, he found Malma Ridee seated on the steps of the verandah, crying. Nambu Henaya went to her quickly and began speaking impatiently.

'What did the astrologer say, nendamme?' Malma Ridee spoke almost incoherently and tearfully without looking at Nambu Henaya.

'A lot of things were said. He asked if it was about a human being that I was inquiring. Apparently a long dead relative had taken her a long distance away. She's fallen somewhere, wracked with thirst, having passed seven places where there was water. How can we find her? Where can we look, my boy? He said that she should have written in a day and a half on account of all the chanting. Then again the gurunannse himself wondered how she could come if she was lying somewhere without any water. Oh! My poor girl...'

She sobbed grew louder. Nambu Henaya squatted right there and he too began to weep. A moment later Baba Henaya came running up to them, quite out of breath. He stopped, bent, rested his hands on his knees to catch his breath. Nambu Henaya and Malma Ridee, got up, realizing that the boy had some important news to share.

'What's it, little boy...tell!' Malma Ridee asked impatiently.

Still panting, Baba Henaya spoke with some urgency.

'Aatha wanted me to tell Kiri Amma and the others to come towards Werehera. Aatha ran along the Werahera road.'

'Oh! God! Let's go...all of us...'

An hour and a half later, Malma Ridee, Nambu Henaya and Baba Henaya, having run without stopping found themselves crossing the dried bed of that stream following directions given by villagers. Their bodies were bathed in sweat. Nambu Henaya had never exerted himself this much in his entire life. And yet, his mind was possessed by some strange strength. Some villagers in ones and twos were climbing down the hill even as they crossed the stream. Since all three were running and navigating the boulder-filled stream with tears streaming down their cheeks, the villagers just looked and said 'aney...apoi...'. A few moments later they arrived at that place.

A foul smell had enveloped the entire area. Veerappuli Henaya was sitting by a mound of fresh earth, deep in thought. There was just one other person, an elderly villager who sat on a rock, chewing a wad of betel. Upon seeing the wife, son-in-law and grandson, Veerappuli Henaya was consumed by sobs. As he sobbed with his lips held tight a host of feeling swept across his countenance. He was clutching something, holding it close. Malma Ridee and Nambu Henaya came close to him walking almost lifelessly. He held out to them what he had been holding. It was Podina's jacket. Immediately Malma Ridee and Nambu Henaya began wailing like two children. Baba Henaya sat on a nearby rock and cried softly. The next moment Nambu Henaya threw himself on the mound of earth and cried. The elderly person who witnessed all of this began to speak.

'I come this way once a month or so to cut venivelgeta. This morning as I was making my way along the dried river bed I noticed a strong stench and that's what made me look around. It was almost impossible to get close, it stank so much! I held my nose and came closer. The monitor lizards had fed on the corpse even then. I realised it was a woman by the hair that was spread all over. What locks of hair!'

I ran back to the village and broke the news. It was one of the young men who noticed this jacket tangled among the branches of that tree. It had to be *mahasona* for the jacket to end up in a place this high. Anyway, that's all there was to it. The head was smashed. I surmised that some powerful force had been at work. Even the *arachchi unnannse* agreed. I mean, what on earth would make anyone come this deep into the jungle? If there was some need that had to be satisfied it would be enough to turn away from the rocks and go a few dozen yards into the jungle. This has to be the work of some inhuman force.'

The sobs of the small group grew louder. The old couple of the little boy held their sorrow to the extent possible and let the excess seep out onto their faces, but the young man alone hugged the mound of earth, weeping uncontrollably. All this the elderly man noticed. He moved close to him.

'Young man, look here. The dead woman will not come alive just because you clutch at this mound of earth. All of you should follow the example of this man,' he said pointing to Veerappuli Henaya.

'This man kept calm from the moment he saw the decayed corpse until the villagers brought a mammoth and a mat, dug a grave, collected the scattered pieces of her body and buried her. A sob escaped him not until the three of you arrived. When they tried to take the torn jacket he held on to it and didn't let them bury it. This is the way of the world, people. We don't want to be far away from those we love. We don't want to reflect on death. I too am a vedaraala and I too have saved lives, as many as there are hairs on my head. However, even the god *Sakra* cannot prevent a death that has to take place. Be patient.'

Whether the woman was brought here by the *Mahasona* or any other evil creature, what's done is done now. From the little one to this old man, the four of you must come to terms with all this. What you are leaving behind beneath this mound of earth is just decayed and decaying dirt. If the one who

has passed on had some commendable qualities, just remember those. Invite a hamuduruwo to the house for a sermon, transfer merit to the woman and be at peace.

'Let me stay here today, just for today...please let me stay...you can all go,' Nambu Henaya screamed and continued to cling to the earth.

Crying like four small children they returned home as dusk was falling.

The young hamuduruwo, Reverend Nambuluwawe Sumanajothi Thera arrived the following day upon receiving an invitation extended by Veerappuli Henaya. He delivered an excellent sermon by the bo sapling. Seated upon a white cloth spread on a flat rock by the sapling, the hamuduruwo explicated some fine and practical points. Guna Ralahamy had also come to listen to the sermon. The most important thing was that Heen Ridee had also come. She hadn't known about the sermon. The entire village had come to know about the tragedy that had befallen Podina by this time. The moment she heard about it Heen Ridee had come running, weeping all the way. Babanis came with her a part of the way, but didn't come to the house. He remained by the large kumbuk tree in the middle of the paddy field. There was no time for any conversation after Heen Ridee's sudden arrival and cries because Sumanajothi Hamuduruwo arrived just then.

Veerappuli Henaya, Guna Ralahamy, Malma Ridee, Nambu Henaya, Heen Ridee and Baba Henaya say on small flat rocks placed around the bo sapling and with becalmed minds listened to the sermon. What remained of Podina as far as they were concerned was the jacket, which was placed on a kolapotha laid out on a rock facing them. Except for Guna Ralahamy and Veerappuli Henaya the others found it difficult to stifle the sobs that clutched at their throats each time they eyes strayed and came to rest on this torn piece of clothing.

Heen Ridee's heart melted like cheese brought close to the fire when she set eyes on her sister's jacket. She held down her sobs but she could not stem the flow of tears.

Many noble thoughts about her sister had taken residence in her mind never to leave. There was only one occasion when she had temporarily forgotten all these. That was from the moment she started her affair with Babanis until a few days had passed after she had started living with him.

However, four or five days after she had left home, she realised that the advice offered by her sister hadn't been prompted by any jealousy but were the yield of immense wisdom about life. She realised also that by then it was far too late for her. She told herself again and again that what Podina had tried to explain in harsh words in the manner of yaksanee was none other than the transient nature of the impatient process birthed in just disguised as love. At the time, though, the strict and harsh manner of her sister had been defeated by the stubborn desire to enter an unfamiliar territory which had spread like a great fire throughout her body, she remembered. She wanted to recall the last time she had seen her sister. It was about a month after she had left home. She had gone to the Bandara field to collect cow dung and had seen her sister who had also come to collect cow dung. The moment Podina had seen her, she had gathered what she had collected and left through the tall grass towards the ovita, Heen Ridee remembered.

She had a strong urge to call out to her, but why had she not spoke out, called out 'Akka?' Was it because of fear, shame or endless respect? If she had in fact spoken even a word with her sister and worshipped her she would not feel as deeply the sorrow she suffered now. The regret produced by these reflections made her sobs more intense without her realizing it. At this moment, Malma Ridee stroked her head. Veerappuli Henaya looked at her with pity for a moment and then closed his eyes once more. A faint sob escaped Nambu Henaya. Baba Henaya turned his head at the sound. The calm voice of Sumanajothi Thero calmed one and all. In the meantime, Heen Ridee noticed something and cast her gaze upon it.

The tract of paddy land was clearly visible from the bo maluwa where they were seated. Heen Ridee saw Babanis squatting by the great kumbuk tree in the middle of the paddy field, cleaning his teeth with a small stick. Babanis cast his eyes towards the bo maluwa off and on. After waiting to catch his eye, Heen Ridee signalled him to come to the bo maluwa. He didn't offer any response. He scowled and looked down. Heen Ridee felt derision rise within her about Babanis. The moment the story of Podina's fate, spread throughout the village by Garu Ridee reached her ears, Heen Ridee had fallen on the floor, weeping uncontrollably. Seeing her Babanis had said 'she should have suffered much worse!' This only increased her pain two to three fold. Although she was now listening to the sermon and was more or less of a calm mind, she knew that the moment she got home she would have to suffer Babanis' harsh words and beatings.

There were two new leaves, pale purple, that had by this time sprouted from the bo sapling. Exactly three days later around sunset the yellowed leaf at the base of the sapling fell. Veerappuli Henaya, who was sitting on a rock awaiting this, took it in both hands and looked upon it for a long time. He felt a great pride rising within him. A new life process was unfolding within the precious thing which he had with the greatest effort brought home. New leaves were sprouting. The older leaves would decay and fall to the earth. One day this tiny sapling will grow into a giant of a tree and would bathe with a divine light all corners of the village, he thought.

Age-appropriate sex education programs, the need of the hour

Young persons worst hit by Covid-19 crisis - Psychiatrist

By
Carol Aloysius



The UN last week, sent a global red signal to its member nations of the severe and lasting impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on young persons. Citing its ILO report "Youth and Covid-19 impacts on jobs, education, rights and mental well being", based on the Global Survey on Youth and Covid-19, a study of over 12,000 young persons aged 18-29 conducted across 112 countries, the report stated there was increased anxiety, fear and depression among young persons due to their uncertain future amid the Covid-19 crisis which called for urgent remedial action.

In a country where youth still continue to dominate our 22 million population, the needs of young persons should not be underestimated. Unemployment figures are still high despite our high literacy rates. Many young people still rely on their teachers and peers for information on basic facts of reproductive health. Does the country have the facilities to take the young people forward? Senior Lecturer, Psychiatry Department, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Consultant Child and Adolescents Psychiatrist, Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Dr Yasodha Rohanchandra answers some of these questions in an interview with the *Sunday Observer*.

Excerpts
Q. It was reported that a separate Ministry for Youth is to be set up to highlight the needs of young persons in all aspects. Considering the many problems young people in Sri Lanka face today, do you consider this a step in the right direction?

A. Yes, in my opinion this would help in identifying needs that are specific to young people and in the planning, designing and implementation of services for this unique group.

Q. The Covid-19 outbreak and curfew has added to the mental fears and anxieties of young people. Many of them miss their school and daily hang outs with friends. Consequently they become withdrawn and distance themselves from the family. Your comments.

A. Covid-19 has led to school closure and halted extracurricular activities. This has resulted in loss of routine and structure in the lives of children and young people. They have lost the opportunity to meet friends, who may be their main support network.

They have lost the opportunity to engage in play and leisure activities which may be their main mechanisms of stress release. They have also had to adapt to a new way of distance learning within the home environment. The home environment is not an ideal learning environment and parents, who are not experienced in teaching, have had to take up the teachers' role. This has led to many conflicts among parents and children. All of



these can lead to frustration and increased stress among children and adolescents. Concerns about contracting Covid-19, the health of their family members and worries about the impact of school closure on their academics can cause fear and anxiety.

Q. What are the main mental health problems caused by the current Covid-19 pandemic on youth? Who are most at risk?

A. Stress, anxiety and depressive symptoms are the main mental health problems. In addition, the rates of child abuse have also become alarmingly high. These effects would be much higher in children living in dysfunctional families with parental disharmony and violence. With confinement to home, these children now have no way of leaving the stressful environment or to seek help from other adults.

The other group at risk would be children and adolescents with developmental disorders (e.g. intellectual disability, autism) and preexisting mental health problems. Children with developmental disorders who have special education needs find it difficult to engage in learning via distant education and are more likely to be affected by the lack of routine. They may also have lost access to the specific therapeutic activities they need during the lockdown.

Q. What are the signs to look for in a young person who is mentally adversely affected?

A. Recent onset of irritability and frequent outbursts of temper, lack of motivation to engage in previously enjoyed activities, changes in sleep patterns and appetite and mood changes

are common signs. In addition, increased fear and clinginess may be seen in young children.

Q. As we know Covid-19 has also affected older persons especially those living alone and those who miss going out to meet their friends. According to reports from abroad, fatality rates for those over 80 years is much higher in older persons who suffer from depression as a fallout of being under long hours of curfew. Your comments?

A. People who suffer from depression may have higher rates of physical comorbidities. They are also less likely to engage in exercise, and tend to smoke more and neglect their health. All these factors may contribute to the higher mortality in this group.

Q. It has been said that since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic which has affected over 180 countries, several measures and interventions have been put in place by governments to stop the spread of the virus to save lives. However, many of these interventions do not target young people and lack initiatives to assist young people to cope with the threats of Covid-19. Your comments?

A. The primary focus has been the physical impact of the illness. However, the widespread impact of Covid-19 on young people has now been recognised and several resources made available by the World Health Organization and United Nations, for young people, their caregivers and health care staff.

Q. The lack of easy access to scientific family planning methods and sexual and reproductive health education is

another global issue especially in the Asian region. In comparison, Sri Lankan youth to a large extent have more access to such information, via social media. However, this could be dangerous as some electronic programs give the wrong messages. Do you agree?

A. The rates of child sexual abuse have increased dramatically in Sri Lanka. In my day to day clinical experience I have found that a majority of these children are not aware of sexual abuse, the need to protect themselves and some are not aware that sexual encounters can result in pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to provide age-appropriate sexual education programs. Although they do have access to this information via the internet, the information they receive may not be accurate, age-appropriate or culturally acceptable.

Q. Peer education is often encouraged in certain programs by Non Governmental Organisations on sexual reproduction. Is this a good idea?

A. In my opinion, sexual education is best provided by parents or other adults who are close to the child. The problem with peer education is that the information they provide may not be accurate and may be based on information gathered from unreliable sources. However, if a group of young people who have been especially educated and trained for peer education takes up this task, it may be beneficial.

Q. The impact on Persons with Disabilities - It has been said that women and young girls with disabilities are the hardest hit when it comes to lack of access to sexual and reproduc-



Dr Yasodha Rohanchandra

tive health, including family planning due to the fact that they are often unaware that they too have a right to make choices about their own health and their own bodies. As we have thousands of disabled young women in Sri Lanka what are your suggestions to solve this problem?

A. Young people with disabilities are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation as their understanding of the impact and consequences of sexual relationships is poor. In addition, they may fail to report abuse due to communication difficulties.

Parents and caregivers are also less likely to educate children with disabilities about sex as they believe that the child will not understand.

However, given the high risk of abuse, it is important that young people with disabilities receive the same education about sex and protecting themselves as their peers without disability. But this information needs to be given in a developmentally appro-

priate language.

Q. What are the government interventions already in place to help mentally disturbed young persons? Are there separate wards in hospitals?

A. There are two specialised inpatient units for children with mental health problems under the age of 13 at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for children (LRH). Another specialised inpatient unit for adolescents aged 13-18 is available at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). However, as all adolescents needing inpatient care islandwide cannot be transferred to NIMH, and as the unit does not have the capacity to accommodate such a large number, most adolescents are managed in adult Psychiatry wards. Children under 12 years needing admission are often transferred to LRH or sometimes managed in Paediatric wards.

Q. What gaps do you see in our present health system that fail to meet the needs of youth?

A. Mental health services for children and adolescents are still at a primitive level. To date, there are only about 10 child and adolescent psychiatrists in the whole country. There is also a lack of allied health specialists such as psychologists, speech therapists and occupational therapists specialised in caring for children and young people. There is a lack of specialised inpatient units for adolescents with mental health issues.

In addition, services to address child maltreatment and abuse are lacking. There are no proper frameworks to address the needs of young people who have become pregnant as a result of sexual abuse. Due to the lack of the enforcement of the law we find that these perpetrators are often released on bail. Unlike in most other countries there is also no sex offender registry, which would help in reducing recidivism.

Another area that is deficient is services for young people with intellectual disabilities and developmental disorders. Individualised educational plans, vocational training, day centres, respite care facilities and residential care for youth with severe developmental disabilities are limited.

Q. Your message to all young people out there?

A. Adolescence and youth is a period where many physical, emotional, social and ideological changes take place in an individual. This is a period where academic stress, family expectations and peer pressure all come together. Therefore, being an adolescent or a youth can sometimes be challenging and frustrating. Young people often do not seek help for their difficulties as they believe they will not be understood or that they cannot be helped or maybe even due to embarrassment.

However, sometimes it may be difficult to manage your problems on your own and talking to someone often helps. There are people to listen to you and help you.

Therefore if you need anyone to talk to call 1926 helpline of the National Institute of Mental Health, 1333 CCC tele-counselling service or 0112682535 Sri Lanka Sumithrayo.

To up-skill domestic help to provide eldercare

'Managed Maid' by English Nursing Care

English Nursing Care (ENC), a total solution in home nursing and elderly care, has expanded its service offerings with the introduction of a brand-new service called 'Managed Maid'. The service was developed with the objective of teaching domestic help the specialised skills of looking after the elderly and those that need special care.

The 'Managed Maid' service would develop the skills of domestic help with expert training and management, to better serve those in need, with the comfort of a familiar face. This innovative service is a unique combination of technical training together with follow up assessments and support in the customer's own home.

Ensuring that your elderly loved ones are looked after and cared for can be a challenge, English Nursing's 'Managed Maid' service entails an operational training program that involves a team from English Nursing Care coming to your home and carrying out a detailed understanding of the situation in the care space, thereafter they would create a bespoke

training program for your domestic help. The training program will be delivered and monitored by a qualified nurse taking into account your needs. The bespoke training program will allow the patient's needs to be met in their own home - whether long term care or rehabilitation after a hospital stay.

Speaking of this innovative service, Ivanka Fonseka, General Manager, English Nursing Care said, "We are always looking at ways to improve the lives of the elderly and that is why we do understand that sometimes when you get used to someone in your home, it is difficult to adjust to a new person being brought in."

This service allows you to provide quality eldercare to a patient at home while minimising disruption to their existing routine. Our service of upskilling a domestic helper to provide good quality eldercare provides real support to the family.

Our expert staff always remain available when required."

English Nursing Care in Colombo is a supervised home nursing service which allows quality care within the



Home care of the elderly

comfort of a person's home. Bringing in expertise from the UK, English Nursing aims to develop Sri Lanka's community nursing and care sector by setting elevated standards in quality and compassionate nursing care in the country.

Attesting the efficiency of Man-

aged Maid Eldercare, a family member of one of English Nursing's existing patients said, "We needed more specialised care than our home help could provide after my father returned from hospital."

His pressure sores have now cleared due to the supervision of Eng-



lish Nursing Care. The spot checks and a regular report from English Nursing Care keeps me updated on the care that my father is receiving - granting me a great peace of mind."

With over 50 years of experience in community care, English Nursing is developing new ways of de-

livering eldercare to the customer's home. The UK management Team of English Nursing Care works closely with an excellent Sri Lankan team - providing them with management oversight, nursing supervision and training skills to maximize existing patient care.

People



Breathtaking Brides

Technique International, an authority on hair design and beauty therapy, has been around for thirty years. Each year the institute has presented many professionally qualified beauticians, cosmetologists and hair design experts to the domestic and international beauty industry.

Technique International, the first Institute to get accreditation for Bridal Dresser - NVQ 4 qualification. The accreditation from the TVEC - (Tertiary Vocational Education Commission) bears the registration number P01/0247 - ISO 9001-2000

The Bridal Dresser Course was conducted by Mrs. Gwendoline Kuhatheva - Director of studies of Technique International (Pvt) Ltd., Institute of Vocational and Management Studies, after six months of theory, practical and project work after which the students had their final assessment done by Ms. P.M. Samarasekera, Ms. L.P.W. Kusumsiri Werakoon.

The nineteen glamorous brides here are those created, dressed and presented by these eighteen qualified students who will enter the beauty industry.



SEATED (L/R) - Ms. Gwendoline Kuhatheva (Director/Principal) Technique International, Ms. Geetha Kanakarathne (Deputy Director), Technique International, Licensed Assessors - Ms. L.P.W. Kusumsiri Werakoon and Ms. P.M. Samarasekera. STANDING (L/R) - A.G.K. Kumari Ariyadasa, K.G. Amitha Padmakumari, H.K.G. Nishamani Rathnayake, J.A. Uthpala Muditha Jayasuriya, Ranmali Gunawardena, R.R.J. Anusha Manori Abeywickrama, I.J.M.C. Ineshika Jayaratna, H.K.J. Nadeesha, S.A.D.S. Maheshika Rajapaksha, W.A.S. Nelka Wijesooriya, K.K.D. Muthamalee, P.V. Chamila Priyadarshanie, S.M.N. Malani Menike, N.G.K.P. Thilakarathna, Menaka Siromi Jayawardena, W.A. Devika Malkanthi, H.P. Waruni Indika, S.M.S.P. Kumuduni, Vajira Lokuge



FAMILY TIME Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
			18							19		
20	21	22					23	24				
25							26				27	28
29				30	31					32		
33			34							35		
		36					37	38				
39	40						41					
42				43	44					45	46	47
48				49						50		
51				52						53		

ACROSS

- Young one wet behind the ears
- (K) "Voth," when you meant "both"
- (K) You can't drag race without it
- A fruit from Jamaica
- (K) Hoppy creature
- Bullet in Vegas
- (K) Belfry (2 words)
- (K) That lady with the dog
- Girl in Belfast
- (K) Part of a staircase
- (K) Next to
- Vague memory, visually?
- (K) Totally wreck
- Dominance by just two companies
- (K) Common hand holder

- Cold War weapon
- (K) Pecan or cherry treat
- Chilly weather wear
- (K) Spectacular star
- Carpenter's wood strip
- (K) Tricky pitch to hit
- Twist, as facts
- (K) Like quite successful dieters
- (K) Wee hill-builder
- Ursa Major, commonly (2 words)
- (K) Melted taffy, e.g.
- (K) "That's not food!"
- (K) Like a fabled triumphant duckling, once
- (K) Be possessive?
- Allocate (with "out")
- (K) Type of survivor

DOWN

- (K) Pencil stump
- All grown people should act theirs
- (K) "Well, ___ be!"
- (K) Be a successful substitute (2 words)
- (K) The ones over there
- Swerves off course, in a yacht
- (K) It means before, before words
- Preposition in "The Star-Spangled Banner"
- (K) Snail or slug, for example
- (K) Lasting pain
- Ooze through the cracks
- Just a ___ (slightly)
- (K) Like a fabled triumphant duckling, once
- Dennis the Menace, comically
- (K) 100 cents, but not in the USA
- Real doofus
- "Steer" or "rap" lead-in

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

P	O	M	R	T	A	B	C	L	A	D	
A	R	E	A	A	G	E	H	A	V	E	
L	E	A	H	S	O	L	M	E	N		
M	O	D	F	S	T	A	V	I	A	R	Y
L	E	I	Y	E	B						
G	A	P	E	N	G	T	E	M	P	I	T
A	R	L	G	U	M	L	R	I	A		
S	C	R	U	B	N	E	A	T	I	O	H
I	M	F	L	O	W	I	N	R	U	S	H
H	O	A	L	F	F	O	N	O	N	C	E
O	P	P	S	E	V	E	O	D	O	F	E
L	E	E	S	B	A	R	M	O	T	E	

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY				CHALLENGING			
4x		1-		20x	2÷	2-	2÷
					6		48x
		1-		3-	7+		5
3		7+			1-	4	4-
				8+		5x	2÷
3-			3	5			13+

RULES
 1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
 2 The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
 3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

SUDOKU 221

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.

	7		2					
3	9		1			5		
	1		4	7	9			
		5	6					
7	6						4	1
					8	6		
		8	6	5		3		
	4			1		2	5	
			4				6	

Riddle:

Moving picture?

Last week answer:
37-A) Scrub

Last week's solution

4	7	8	2	3	9	6	5	1
3	5	9	6	1	7	2	4	8
1	6	2	4	5	8	7	9	3
7	8	1	5	6	3	4	2	9
5	3	6	9	4	2	1	8	7
2	9	4	8	7	1	5	3	6
8	2	7	1	9	5	3	6	4
6	1	5	3	8	4	9	7	2
9	4	3	7	2	6	8	1	5

OBSERVER EDUCATION

AUGUST 23, 2020



DIGITAL LEARNING SYSTEM SERVES IHS... PAGE 44



MAS' LAUNCHES 'HARIMAMAGA' TO... PAGE 45



JOIN THE MOST AFFORDABLE... PAGE 46



SLIM-SLIC TO PROMOTE 'MADE IN... PAGE 48

Australia's ECU receives consecutive 14th 5 star rating

Edith Cowan University (ECU) has received a 5-star rating for undergraduate teaching quality for a record 14 years in a row, the only public university in Australia to receive the maximum rating for this timeframe.

The 2021 Good Universities Guide, released on 14 August 2020, also rated ECU's overall experience 5 stars and number one public university in WA.

In total, ECU was rated 5 stars, and the number one public university in WA, for the categories of:

- Teaching quality
- Overall experience
- Skills development
- Student support
- Learning resources

ECU Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Chapman CBE welcomed the results and

said they are a continuation of years of consistently high rankings.

"ECU is proud to once again be recognized as a 5-star university for our teaching quality," Professor Chapman said.

"The 2021 Good Universities Guide ratings demonstrate that ECU continues to offer one of the best learning experiences in Australia.

"Our approach to teaching and learning is to put students at the centre of everything we do, and these results strengthen our focus on providing a world-class student experience.

"These results are a testament to the commitment and dedication of our hard working and talented staff."

In field specific results, ECU's teacher education and computing and information systems both received 5-star ratings

across all education experience metrics, including teaching quality, overall experience, skills development, student support, learning resources and learner engagement.

The Good Universities Guide ratings are based on results from key national surveys run on behalf of the Australian Government under the banner of Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT).

The QILT suite of surveys is the largest of its kind in Australian higher education and includes the Student Experience Survey (SES) and Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS).

Earlier this year, ECU was also ranked in the world's top 100 universities under 50 years old in the 2020 Times Higher Education (THE) Young Universities Rankings.



New Secretary to the Ministry of Education assumes duty



Professor K.K.C.K. Perera, who was appointed as the new Secretary to the Ministry of Education assumed duties on the 17th of August 2020 at the Ministry of Education.

Professor K.K.C.K. Perera who has served as a Vice Chancellor at the Moratuwa University, earlier served as the Dean of the Engineering Faculty of the same university has taken the leadership in the Administration and Policy Planning, Academic Administration of the university and for the grading of Universities, quality certification of the departments, planning and implementation of staff development activities.

He has also acted as a lecturer in Undergraduate Courses, Degree Courses and Postgraduate Courses in many subjects including Energy Environment, Fundamentals of Thermodynamics. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from the Moratuwa University and obtained his Doctorate from the University of California. He holds membership in many institutions including Institute of Automotive Engineers, Institute of Engineers, Sri Lanka Energy Managers Association.

State Minister of Education Hon. Vijitha Berugoda and many senior officers of the Ministry of Education graced the occasion.



ECU is ranked 9th in the world for quality education and 1st in Australia for starting salaries

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077 3000 900/ 0112 555 123

www.acbt.net/ www.ecu.edu.lk

CRICOS code: WCR0279B

Advertorial

CDC adopts online approach for Australian migration consultancy

The Career Development Centre (CDC) sincerely hopes everyone is in the best of safety and wellbeing during the pandemic, which has now consequently created much new restructuring of business operation models for many across the globe.

Australia is speedily getting their strength back and normalizing the system but still the Australia state migration plans remain temporarily suspended until the federal government decides on the size and composition of the Migration Program which is set each year through the Budget process.

The budget will now be delivered on 5th of October and this delay has given rise to speculation among existing visa holders and prospect skilled migrants already reeling under economic pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government of South Australia will publish their state nomination plan on 27th August 2020 and from 31st August they will commence reviewing EOIs and sending invitations to submit an on-

line application.

We have compiled a list of valuable ideas to help you maximise your potentials and to increase the likelihood of success in getting a General Skilled Visa to Australia while you wait for the 2020-21 year migration program to open up. You can fix an appointment to discuss your possibilities with us and we are also now offering reviews and assessments via online communication. As part of the new online digital processing policies, the CDC wishes to emphasise with great importance to the existing CDC clients as well as all hopeful migrants who plan to gain the services of the CDC, that subscribing the CDC's Face book page is now an absolute essential requirement. By searching for 'Migration Agents in Sri Lanka's client can find the CDC Face book page. As the leading name in Australian migration consultancy, CDC's clientele is growing significantly and therefore it is no longer practically possible for the CDC team to inform each client individually of the latest updates in the

process for the various clients whose applications are at various levels in the process.

All updates will now be posted on the CDC's Face book page and therefore that is why the company's management wishes to stress the importance for clients to subscribe the CDC Face book page as a compulsory requirement to proceed with the application process. The latest news related to Australian migration, new plans and other updates that are relevant to existing clients and all hopeful migrants to Australia will be communicated via the CDC Face book account as part of the complete online process.

All the Migration plans were temporarily suspended due to the immediate stage of the Covid-19 outbreak in Australia, but now the system has once again resumed and therefore hopeful migrants are kindly advised to begin their application process immediately without any further delays. Even if the Australian migration authorities enforce a temporary suspension of visa issu-



Senior Consultant
Mrs. U.S. Pathirage
Department of Home Affairs
OffShore
DHA Off Shore Agent ID:
3001304

ance in the course of time, there is no need for an applicant to halt their application process. The applicant should continue with the process in order to be prepared to lodge the application when the system opens again. An application process takes

about one year and therefore the sooner one commences the better in all respects.

IELTS classes provided via the CDC's network of instructors have now resumed and this will be an important update for all hopeful migrants as to begin preparing for this vital requirement of scoring the required marks in IELTS. CDC's website and the Face book page will have all relevant updates in this regard.

Looking at the current situation of how Australia handled the Covid-19 outbreak in their country, it is quite clear that their government policies and administration work was very effective in curtailing the situation from getting out of control. The Australian people have also shown remarkable willingness to observe principles of social distancing in a manner of discipline which has been helpful to contain the outbreak and put Australia on its track to a speedy recovery.

The world's economy is now showing signs of a recession in the

west mainly centred on the economy of the US and Europe. However the situation is Australia is optimistic and therefore this shows that Sri Lankans who are looking to build their future in Australia can continue to bloom their hopes of realising their dreams.

Once again, while wishing all in Sri Lanka the very best to stay safe and well during this time of global pandemic, the CDC reminds its valued clients and all hopeful migrants that the diligent and committed team at CDC is always ready to ensure that the utmost will be done for those who wish to realise their dreams of migrating to greener pastures. The opening step is just a phone call away. Do not put your dreams on hold and let pessimism claim your day. Our commitment to serve you has never been more resolved as we are determined to not be discouraged by the grimness of the current world situation, and we will with maximum effort focus our strengths to help you realise your pathway to a golden future.



Gateway College - Dehiwala

Gateway College

Graduations of Gateway Colleges Negombo and Dehiwala

The graduation ceremonies of the class of 2020 of Gateway Colleges Negombo and Dehiwala were held last week with the customary elegance and splendour while maintaining safety protocol at all times. Gateway Negombo had theirs in the school auditorium and Gateway Dehiwala chose the Water's Edge hotel for their celebration. The colourful celebrations were attended by the school management, academic staff, graduates and their family members.

Following tradition, this year too, the students of the class of 2020 organised the functions with the support of their teachers. Each event was a testament to the talents and abilities of students who had gone above and beyond to make their memorable occasions. The ceremonies marked the culmination of the years of hard work and focused effort of the students, who have all achieved great success.

While commemorating the school careers of the students, the ceremonies also herald grand beginnings for each young adult who will now step into a new phase in life. This year, students of Gateway received offers from prestigious universities such as the University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, St. Andrew's University Scotland, University College London, Loughborough University, University of Melbourne, New York University, University of California, Los Angeles(UCLA), University of Toronto, National University of Singapore (NUS) and Yale - NUS, Singapore. Despite the setbacks of 2020, students have performed well and can look forward to more success in the days ahead.



Gateway College - Negombo



Informatics Institute of Technology (IIT), pioneer in providing British higher education in Information Technology and Business in Sri Lanka for the past 30 years, recently held its annual 'Cutting Edge 2020' exhibition on a virtual platform for the very first time in Sri Lanka keeping in par with the health regulations following the COVID-19 outbreak. The exhibition was held on the 31st July and 1st August 2020 with a few students present at IIT Campus handling the back end process for the virtual website.

The theme for Cutting Edge 2020 was 'Embracing Change and Transformation through Digital Technologies'. The exhibition is a showcase of undergraduates studying Software Engineering, Computer Science, Business Information Systems and Business Management, displaying projects relevant to their degree.

This year's exhibition included more than 90 IT and Business related projects under the categories Embedded Systems, Game Development, Internet of Things, Fintech, UI/UX, Entrepreneurship, Natural Language processing, Robotics, Machine Learning, Image Processing, Augmented Reality, Sentiment Analysis, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Business Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Data Mining, Customer Relations, Cyber Security, Data Science, Deep Learning, Digital Marketing and e-commerce.

The campus moulds students according to the developing world trends through two years of academic studies while the third year of the degree serves as a mandatory one year internship at a leading corporate entity. This guides IIT students to enter the corporate world as entrepreneurial graduates and successful innovators leading them into established white collar jobs around the globe.

In previous year's many students who emerged winners of Cutting Edge have

gone on to represent renowned local and international competitions such as NBQSA, mBillionth, e-Swabhimani, Microsoft Imagine Cup, APICTA and have won multiple accolades at these competitions.

The exhibition comprised of a coding completion, Business Pitch Competition, Gaming Competition, Webinars and panel discussion while the event also

IIT VIRTUAL CUTTING EDGE 2020

DRIVING DIGITAL INNOVATION AND INSPIRING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

featured a Cutting Edge Live Show which interacted with the students and alumni for two consecutive days.

Speaking on the success of this year's event, IIT's Dean - Naomi Krishnarajah said, 'I would like to congratulate staff and students for creating history in organising a virtual exhibition for Cutting Edge 2020 during this difficult time. The exhibition was of a high standard displaying 93 projects which were researched and developed by IIT students under the guidance of their lecturers. It also had a variety of competitions and IFM which was streamed live. There were many obstacles along the way as the event was "first of a kind". However, staff and students mitigated them effectively and achieved the set goals. This reflects their determination, character and ability to adapt to varying situations.'

Member of the elite panel of judges who evaluated the students' projects, Nuwan Dias, VP and Deputy CTO for API Management and Integration of

WSO2 stated 'IIT Cutting edge 2020 was conducted virtually due to the present pandemic. I was part of a group that evaluated the projects for awards. The evaluations were conducted online. I was blown away by the creativity and commitment of the students to research, implement and present world class projects. One thing I noticed in particular was the increased interest in usage of technologies related to Artificial

Intelligence, Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing. Some of these projects I believe deserve international recognition. With proper investments, mentoring and guidance, I believe these projects have a huge potential to be successful businesses which can expand Sri Lanka's presence in the global IT market significantly. I would like to congratulate the students on their projects and wish them all the best in all future endeavours.'

Further assessing the student's projects another member of panel of Judges Ehantha Srisena, Snr. VP Delivery of Informatics International Limited commented 'This was the first time I was involved in judging Cutting Edge. It was great to see the amazing projects that the final year students had put together. Some projects were top notch and had high potential to solve real world problems. The lengths to which the students had gone to conceptualize, research and implement their products showed the commitment and can do

attitude brought on-board to cutting edge. This made this platform very special. Good luck to all the graduates.'

Amongst the innovations the most outstanding project were nominated and adjudicated by a panel of judges. One such project which won the Best Project Category Gold Award, Software Innovation, Stelan Briyan Simonsz mentioned that 'Cutting Edge 2020 was taken to the next level with the most innovative virtual exhibition, which gave me an opportunity to exhibit my project to a larger audience and meet

with more parties who were interested in investing in my project, which is an aid for the visually impaired to navigate from one place to another avoiding barriers and arriving at destinations similar to a standard person. Using the latest technologies and many algorithms, presenting an application called 'Smart Shoes'.

Some of these projects I believe deserve international recognition. With proper investments, mentoring and guidance, I believe these projects have a huge potential to be successful businesses which can expand Sri Lanka's presence in the global IT market significantly

The winner of the Business category Thilini Prarthana Gimhani a undergraduate, also working as an IT Sales and Account Manager at Informatics International Limited showcased her project on InfoChurn - Customer Retention Engine with

Churn Prediction for Motor Insurance in Sri Lanka acknowledge that 'Despite being a globally addressed problem, the Sri Lankan insurance industry has lagged in leveraging technology-based solutions to outsmart customer churn and strategically retain its clients. InfoChurn application was aimed at analyzing the churn behaviour of motor insurance customers of Ceylinco General Insurance, a leading insurance company in the country to retain their most revenue generated customer segment. Developed as a case study, the solution is scalable to cater to any insurance company having the same requirement. Hence, Cutting Edge 2020, held as a virtual exhibition was a great platform to showcase projects of us, IITians going beyond the borders.'

IIT conducts internal postgraduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of Westminster (UOW), UK and Robert Gordon University, UK. The degrees offered at IIT are Software Engineering, Business Information System, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, Business Management and Computer Science with specialization pathways in gaming and computer graphics development, mobile and web computing and multimedia computing.

IIT is an award winning campus, which has bagged many accolades for innovation in local and international competitions such as Microsoft Imagine Cup, National Best Quality Software Awards (NBQSA), APICTA, British Council-HSBC Youth Enterprise Award and e-Swabhimani. With its strong international affiliations, outstanding resources and focus on quality higher education, IIT is without a doubt an ideal place for students to follow world renowned IT and Business degrees.

For further information, e-mail "admissions@iit.ac.lk" or call the hotline 0766 760 760 or visit IIT Main Campus at No. 57, Ramakrishna Rd, Colombo 06.



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Advertorial

Digital Learning System serves IIHS overcome COVID-19 pandemic

Sri Lanka's pioneer Healthcare Education Provider, International Institute of Health Science (IIHS) has proven to be a role model for Sri Lanka's Education Industry by successfully facing the challenges of COVID-19 with an effective Distance Learning System. Being a responsible educational institute in Health Science, IIHS has implemented a remarkable Learner Management System (LMS) in order to overcome the obstacle of reaching out to students during the pandemic. Dr. Kithsiri Edirisinghe MBBS, MSc, MD (Medical Administration), who is the Founder/CEO/Director Academics, Strategy and International Affairs - at IIHS briefly speaks on that.

Q: How did the COVID-19, a global pandemic affect the education sector?

As we all know, COVID-19 locked us within our houses and it restricted our lives due to the inability to move out for day-to-day activities. Such social isolation affects people in many ways, mainly the students who were preparing for their higher educational hurdles. Being a leading Health Educator, IIHS also faced a major challenge in continuing lectures and examinations, since we had an immeasurable responsibility to complete our academic year on a high note. So we decided to expand our existing Learner Management System (LMS) to defeat this unexpected challenge.

Q: How did IIHS manage to reach students without a barrier during COVID-19?

I feel it was one of the positive outcomes of COVID-19. This pandemic made people realize that they could utilize the technology at their fingertips with ease to achieve their tasks. Especially the education sector of Sri Lanka took off in a major way by migrating to Digital Learning or

Distance Learning from Traditional Learning during this lockdown period. As staff and students of IIHS were already using the LMS prior to the pandemic we felt that we could incorporate our previous guidelines for the delivery of education during the pandemic.

If we speak about what an LMS is, it's a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, automation and delivery of educational courses, training programs, or learning and development programs. This system ensures that students can step out from their traditional learning habits of being in a teacher-centric environment. Through this system, Educators who are involved will transform the control to student and make learning environment a student-centric one.

As a premier leading Healthcare Education Institute in the country, we always maintain our standards by using the best and top technology for education, and therefore deploying a Distance Learning or a Learner Management System (LMS) was not a fresh effort. Years back, we initiated innovative solutions to engage with the students and we created a versatile Learner Management System (LMS). It's a very basic technological method of studying-in, where Lecturers broadcast lessons via a digital platform and students have easy access without having to attend lectures physically.

IIHS believes that delivering skilled professionals with multiple knowledge segments is essential for this era and I am proud to say that we always utilize compact learning methods inspired by international learning practices. With that mindset, as an Educator we use a professional LMS platform which has been awarded at the Commonwealth Digital Health Awards in 2016, 2017 and 2018 continuously for its proven and qualified learning features. This system ensures the accessibility to

education for students and provides access to all the required learner materials.

Prior to the breakout of the pandemic, IIHS provided access to study content for all nurses completing the Bachelors program in Nursing. Back in 2017, as an initiative to improve accessible, affordable education IIHS provided tabs to the nurses enabling access to the LMS from home or their workplace which led to an increase in the levels of satisfaction and improved IT literacy skills among the nursing students whilst giving them the option of not having to travel long distances for education. Currently approximately 1500 state sector nurses utilize tablet devices to access the LMS, thereby adhering to the contemporary modes of learning whilst staying up to date with the latest evidence in Health Care.

In addition to the mentioned advances in online delivery, IIHS also created an independent LMS for the state sector nursing training schools to allow similar access to content for students and tutors. This initiative whilst reducing the workload of the tutors will also allow nursing students to access learning material from home during the pandemic.

Q: How successful it is to defeat the pandemic through a Learner Management System (LMS)?

Using LMS for education can be considered as 'a baton changeover' to the student. This system allows the teacher or lecturer to be 'a moderator' and not 'a controller'. LMS creates a student centric environment for learners where students can expand their knowledge on their own accord. It grants a stress free space for students to access study materials and prepare for the online class in the safety and comfort of their home. This platform has been set to international standards to ensure that students maintain autonomy while achieving the desired outcomes.



Dr. Kithsiri Edirisinghe

So at IIHS, we are very glad to say that we have been able to conduct all the scheduled Academic lectures and other educational meet ups online through this distance learning platform and that lifted us to another level of quality education. We are extremely proud to say that we have catered our best to the students who are keen on education.

Q: What are the key features of this Digital Learning System which made students' life easy?

The LMS which we were using for last few years was initiated by a team of IIHS nurses a few years back. So that system comprised of all the important features which were essential for distance learning, as it was our own development. I would say that system is not actually based on rocket science but furnished with user friendly features.

This system fundamentally has all the options to deliver online lec-

tures and the Lecturers can record their scheduled lectures and easily upload them to the system. Then the student could access those data by following quick steps, within their own framework and the system has in-built features which help us to track attendance and the engagement of students.

Also we have set up guidelines and criteria to accomplish the syllabus, so it automatically paves the path for student to work on time while enjoying their day - to - day life. It doesn't burden the student as he/she will always have the ownership of allocating time for learning. I would like to stress that this system only augments our current delivery methods to provide more support to tutors and students.

Furthermore, this distance learning system has more features to ensure students' attention is drawn towards additional study materials and we have successfully conducted examinations via this system, and those experiences were fabulous.

Q: Since Health Education is more related to practical learning, How did IIHS overcome the challenge of conducting practical sessions?

That was the biggest challenge we had. But luckily we managed to offer practical presentations for students, with the involvements of our experts. Not only that, on a weekly basis we host Clinical sessions which are moderated by a student and has proven to be very effective among our students. Furthermore, within two weeks of the nationwide lockdown, we organized webinars for students and have managed to complete six (06) webinars thus far with the participations of professionals in the field. Another exciting fact is that our students were able to hold an online Avurudu festival called 'E Avurudu', which helped them to rejuvenate their friendship.

Q: Do you think you have successfully overcome the situation?

Yes, of course. I would say that this was the most practical season for us to utilize our existing LMS since most of the day-to-day work were digitalized. We believe that we have achieved great progress using a distance learning method and our students have had the maximum benefit. We should emphasize on the fact that we are still able to manage approximately 2000 students via the system with the majority being Sri Lankan students. I am glad to say that we have a young and energetic 7 member technical team comprising of our past graduates who timelessly dedicated themselves for the betterment of this system and have managed to keep track of the progress. Nevertheless, we have identified some areas that we should improve on so that the technology would more convenient for students in the future.

Our technical team has maintained a good rapport with students and parents, and thus based on their opinions, has been able to recognize some features which need to be incorporated. We will consider them in a timely manner and have plans to execute them at the earliest.

Q: Can we see a future for LMS even after COVID-19 Pandemic?

I think this should be the way of offering education for students who are willing to change. Implementing such technologies in a country like Sri Lanka is quite difficult, but is achievable with a mindset that is open to changes. I think COVID-19 taught us a valuable lesson which should be recalled when we plan to execute something fresh and big. Further, if we are planning to move with Global trends of education we must have sound IT literacy to face globalization. As an Institute we will definitely continue this learning system parallel to traditional learning for the betterment of our students.

SLITHM offers host of facilities for public

The Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management (SLITHM) SLITHM in addition to providing education for the leisure sector, offers host of facilities for the public through Samudra Hotel.

"We have been known as primary institution for grooming youth for the hospitality sector. However taking a step further SLITHM offers host of service for the public in the areas of F&B, conference, accommodation and banquet," said SLITHM, Deputy Director, Harshana Ponnampuruma.

He said that Samudra Hotel due to its strategic location in Galle Road Colombo 3, regularly hosts corporate sector events such as Press Conferences, Board Meetings, launches and other get-togethers.

"We also host several birthday and private parties and anniversaries as well at Monara restaurant," he said.

The Samudra hotel also offers accommodation and rooms are equipped with all modern-day needs. "We have 12 fully furnished A/C rooms for this purpose making SLITHM an ideal MICE venue," he said.

"Our conference hall could accommodate 250 guests (now 125) and our other banquet and restaurant facilities could host weddings up to 125 guests and events up to 60 guests."

He said that the biggest advantage they have is the large kitchen and training staff on any given day. He also said that the SLITHM is closely monitored and guided by Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) Kimarli



Fernando and Director General Deepa Sannasuriya and other senior officials.

Meanwhile Assistant Director, SLITHM, Sagara Kulasinghe said that SLITHM provides education to over 5,000 students each year prior to them entering the industry and students who undergo training are provided on the job training in three star plus hotels where 90% of them are absorbed to the hotels itself. Even during lock down we continued to coordinate with the students and provide online classes whenever possible. Rising to the needs of the leisure sector Human Resource demands of the 'new normal', will be introducing several online/virtual study programs. "We also hope to rope in international students for these courses."

"We will also open a new payment gateway. However unlike some other education schemes the SLITHM cannot go all-out virtually since 'practicals' are a 'must' to multiple courses they offer. He said currently there are around 1,500 students attending their



courses in Colombo as well as in their satellite schools (Anuradhapura, Bandarawela, Kandy, Koggala, Ratnapura, Pasikudah, Jaffna and Kurunegala) and during the lockdown online education was offered. "We are now waiting for health guidelines to commence SLITHM classes again."

The others also get absorbed into

other hotels and make the students 100% employable soon after passing out from SLITHM.

SLITHM, was established in 1964 is managed by The Ministry of Tourism. "The mind-set for tourism employment for women are fast changing and we see around 15% of women students and this number is increasing."



Advertorial

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See page 48



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With an internationally acknowledged reputation over 30 years in providing world class higher education to its credit CINEC today continues to diversify its reach to meet national demands of providing quality internationally recognized higher education to its youth in a competitive environment thus enriching quality of human resources in Sri Lanka to meet the challenges of the industries who are today seeking for sustainable development.

Graduate and Postgraduate education in the popular and in demand fields of Engineering & Technology, Information Technology, Management, Engineering & Technology, Humanities & Social Sciences, International Logistics, Transport, English Language, Law and Aviation alongside highest level of maritime training at management level of Ship Captain, Chief Engineer and Marine Electro Technical Officer make CINEC unique and unchallenged to position itself as the leading and largest non-state higher education institute.

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affordable and flexible human capacity building, CINEC provide abundance of undergraduate certificate, diploma and higher diploma training opportunities in the same graduate training disciplines as well as in industrial engineering, underwater operations and hospitality thereby offering a wide spectrum of opportunities to the majority of the youth.

In accomplishing this noble service to the nation CINEC has partnered with government institutions of Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Port & Shipping, University Grants Commission and Civil Aviation Authority. Conducting training course curriculum approved by the Ministry of Higher Education and with the affiliation of Universities in China, UK and Australia through Faculties of Maritime Science, Marine Engineering, Engineering & Technology, Management and Social Sciences, Humanities & International Sciences, Education and Health Sciences, Law and Aviation alongside CINEC Metro Campus Nugegoda directly collaborate in providing these training.

The unprecedented investment in infrastructure along with experienced and qualified academic and support staff and also the opportunities afforded to develop soft skills has propelled CINEC products to the cutting edge in securing employment. Whilst

students are at heart of everything, we do at CINEC we focus on their performance standards and exit qualifications to be competitive in the industry.

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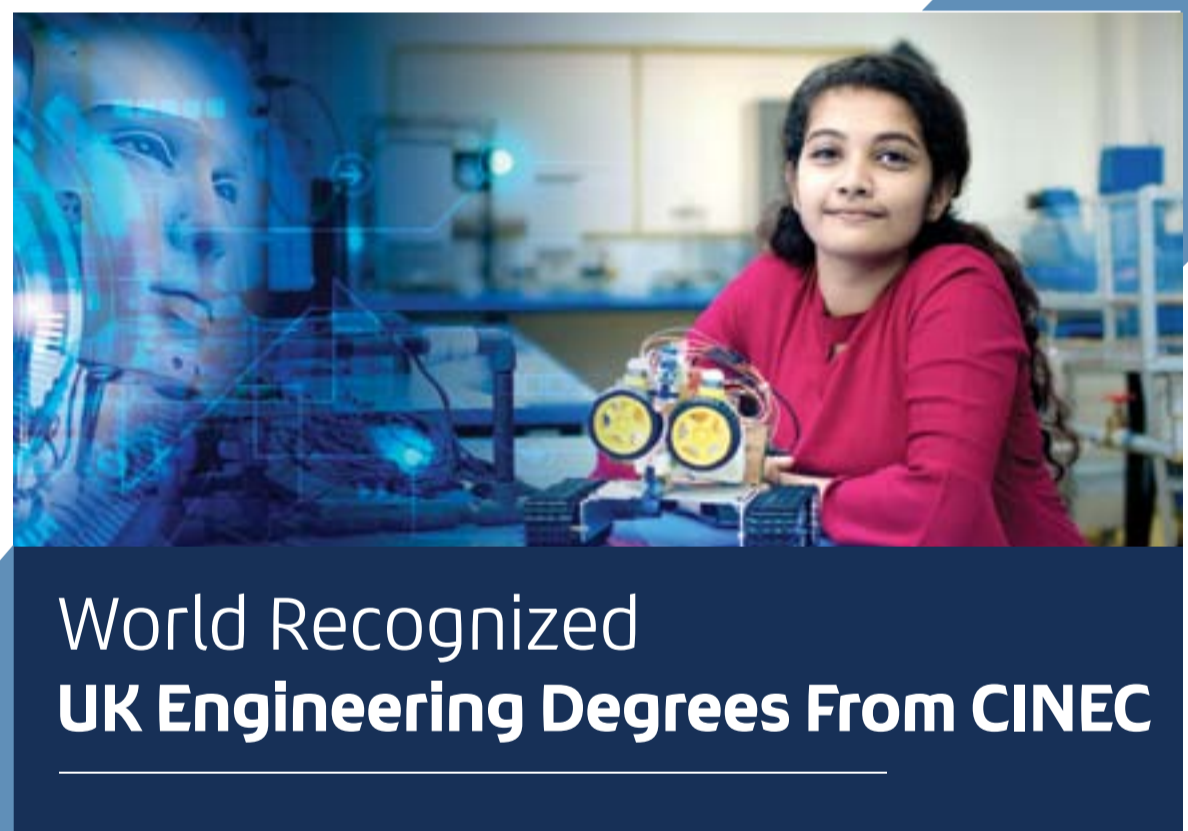
Meaningful investment in academic and scientific research is the globally recognized as the critical stimulant in advancement of science & technology and global trade to step up and condition the industry and future generation to face multitude of challenges. In recognizing this vital component CINEC has collaborated with industry and global giants MAS Holdings, Brandix Lanka and Orange

Electrical as training and research partners who have invested to establish their respective research and training centers in the Campus premises in Malabe. This partnership is hailed by all foreign and local partners as a rare value addition to those students who make use of this facility.

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Prashani Rodrigo at work

works and Telecommunications, Business Engineer - Energy and Signals, Financial Engineer

The first batch of students who joined this transfer program in 2016 completed their first two years of study at AIC Campus and has successfully transferred to ESIGELEC Graduate School of Engineering to continue their studies in one of the 14 Majors they have chosen to obtain the Inte-

grated MSc in Engineering. This is yet a milestone of AIC Campus as it made history getting a 100% visa success.

Few of our students who have successfully transferred to ESIGELEC Graduate School of Engineering to continue their studies:

Ms. Prashani Rodrigo, Lyceum International School, Wattala, Ms. Poorni Ekanayake, Museaus College Colombo, Mas. Kavindu Mahaduruge, Leeds International School, Mas. Anouk Amarasekara, Stafford International School, Mas. Thavindu Samarasinghe, Ananda College, Colombo.

"A Very happy moment for me and my batch mates today, the encouraging words from all well-wishers and especially HE the Ambassador who welcomed us so warmly. I have to say that the AIC Transfer program gave me an opportunity to study two years and continue my balance three years in France to pursue my dream career. Learning French during our two-year period was the most interesting part and I would say the language is not as hard as many think. I am fluent in my French and Alliance Française De Kotte teachers brought us to this level with dedicated teaching" - Prashani Rodrigo an ESIGELEC transfer student from Lyceum International School, Wattala.

One is useless without the other



By
Vasana
Abeynayake



A healthy mind depends on not only good food and water, but a healthy lifestyle and a recommended sleep cycle. Sound sleep cycle helps you in maintaining a good lifestyle throughout our entire lifetime. Not only does it help maintain our physical and mental health; rather it also helps in maintaining a decent and healthy lifestyle along with ensuring safety from a number of fatal diseases. Providing rest to our body after the entire day's fatigue and hectic schedule ensures a better preparation for the next day's routine with greater stamina, freshness and energy. Not only on sleep but also attending on various sports and games too makes a person wealthier in health.

The ancient proverb 'Healthy mind can be found in a healthy body' grips real even today's modern world. Exercise helps us to keep fit and at the same time maintain an alert mind. Regular exercise increases blood circulation in our bodies and that means an increased supply of oxygen to the brains. In commemoration of National Sports Day which is to be held on the 29th of August, it is quite comforting to make you aware on the significant necessity of sports and games in order to gain a healthy fitful life. Good and sound health would ensure a responsive and an active mind. Just as a person's mood and emotions are reflected in a person's health, a body that is weak and unfit plays chaos on a person's mental well being. Recent studies have shown that increasing stress of today's fast paced life is giving rise to a number of health problems. Major among those are heart and neurological problems. A good health helps a person to keep a positive attitude towards work and life in general. No matter what kind of hardships and hurdles we come across, life is meant to be positive and happy. To enjoy and appreciate the beauty of life we need the energy and gusto for life. This can happen only when the body is healthy enough to take on the hardships of life. An overweight person who cannot walk through the garden path, might not enjoy the fragrance of the flowers or the sight of a mother bird feeding her chicks, primarily because his mind would be occupied with various ailments he might be suffering from due to his obesity.

When we feel ill, it brings on frustration so that it often causes us to be irritated with the smallest mistakes that others make. We become rude and it can start off a chain of unpleasantness all around. As most of our activities are governed by the mind, it is very important to keep our minds fresh, alert and in a positive frame. The dissatisfaction and malice in a person's mind gets reflected on his face whereas positive thoughts of a healthy mind bring a glow to the person's outer appearance.

He then loses the will to improve so that only a great motivation can change this situation. If a person can willingly change to free his mind of unhealthy and negative thoughts like self pity, he can stir up the will to improve his body. That will free him of most ailments that are of psychological basis. Once he is the path to good health, he will definitely experience an improved psyche.

Health, be it mental or physical is the prerequisite for living a good and fruitful life. It is not wealth, food or good attire that makes a person happy, but a cheerful health together with a strong mind only when a person is holistically healthy does he gain the confidence to tackle any problem that comes his way. Thus, neither the mind nor the body can be neglected. We must constantly strive to keep both body and mind healthy with proper food, rest, sports and games with exercise. As we always believe; in life one is useless without the other so as the body and the mind.

SLIM-SLIC to promote 'Made in Sri Lanka' to help 'Restart Sri Lanka' Program

The National Body for Marketing in Sri Lanka Institute for Marketing (SLIM) together with the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC) launched the 'Made in Sri Lanka' platform to bring about recognition to Sri Lankan inventors, which was launched recently at Gangarama. 'Made in Sri Lanka' is an initiative aimed to assist and encourage inventors to come forward to exhibit their inventions and products, and provide guidance to inventors as to how to better commercialize and market their inventions to prospective investors.

The Pearl of the Indian Ocean is enriched with jewels that are unfortunately hidden with no opportunity to shine. With Sri Lankans showcasing their skills globally, ranging from acting to entrepreneurship and athletics to engineering, there is no doubt about the skills they possess. Time and time again they have proved their abilities to both the country and the world. Sri Lankans are innovative and creative and have the ability to generate novel concepts and unique inventions that would benefit both the country and world. While they have the capabilities, they lack the capacity, in terms of finance, opportunities and marketing knowledge that is needed in order to generate an income through their inventions. Hence, they face many hardships in commercializing their products or converting them into viable businesses.

SLIM in collaboration with SLIC has stepped up to help these inventors achieve their dreams. The 'Made in Sri Lanka' initiative was launched with the intention of recognizing Sri Lankan talent and paving the way for Lankan inventors to convert their creations to successful businesses that would generate profits. This marketing-oriented platform further provides guidance to inventors on how to successfully communicate with investors and make their products more appealing to them through knowledge driven workshops.

The event was held with the participation of about 100 inventors. In addition to the launch, the inventors were granted an opportunity to exhibit and demonstrate their inventions and a workshop on marketing knowledge will be organized to support them. During this workshop the inventors will be given guidance in relation to commercializing the product, marketing the



Roshan Fernando

product and reaching out to investors.

The COVID-19 pandemic created a platform to bring forward the talented local inventors to showcase their creations regardless of the barriers and challenges they would have faced by the debacle caused by COVID-19. While adhering to social distancing rules, the target audience from around the country gathered at one destination at the launch of 'Made in Sri Lanka' to guide them to a clear path of work.

Speaking at the event Prof. Rangika Halwatura, Commissioner - SLIC stated, "On a daily basis Sri Lanka witnesses many people who innovate and come up with new products.

But commercializing those inventions are at a very minimal level in the country, which tends to continuously discourage these inventors. So our intention is to help add value to those inventions and make these inventors into entrepreneurs, or create a platform for investors and inventors to meet, commercialise their products and carry them into local and international markets. We believe that this initiative would allow Sri Lankan inventors to gain the much needed recognition and pave the way for them to become successful entrepreneurs one day.

SLIM is the national body that represents the marketing and business fraternity in Sri Lanka. Thus the collaboration of SLIM and SLIC in trying to give an opportunity to Sri Lankan inventors would definitely be a success story with many happy endings for our inventors".

Roshan Fernando, President of SLIM said, "The National Body for Marketing- SLIM has always been in the forefront in promoting the future marketers of Sri Lanka through recognition, motivation and appreciation. As a sub-project under the 'Restart Sri Lanka' initiative SLIM also spearheaded and shouldered the responsibility to encourage and assist inventors by creating a market-oriented invention platform to support successful entrepreneurship. In addition to taking every opportunity to build marketing platforms for Sri Lankans, SLIM did not hesitate to join this venture to help the local skills and talents of the country.



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Applications are invited for the Master of Science Degree/Postgraduate Diploma in Mathematics Education programme commencing in December 2020.

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Eligibility: B.Sc. degree with Pure Mathematics or Applied Mathematics or Mathematics as a subject, or any other equivalent qualification acceptable to the Senate of the University of Colombo.

Total Programme Fee: Rs. 250, 000.00.

Duration: Postgraduate Diploma - 18 months, MSc - 24 months

The MSc programme consists of two parts, Part I and Part II. Those who successfully complete Part I will be eligible for the Postgraduate Diploma in Mathematics Education and those who successfully complete Parts I and II will be eligible for the MSc in Mathematics Education.

Face-to-face Lectures/Discussions/Lab Classes will be held on Sundays. Further information can be obtained by visiting the weblink given below or contacting the Programme Coordinator.

Programme Coordinator

Dr. Chanakya J. Wijeratne

Department of Mathematics, University of Colombo

Phone: 011 250 1731/076 803 6233, Email: cjw@maths.cmb.ac.lk

WhatsApp: 076 803 6233

Application Procedure

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Anuja Fernando

From Airport to Aerotropolis
Supervisor: Prof. Saman Bandara



In 2019, ten million passengers passed through the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA). Travelers favour airports that offer outstanding experiences. Such a travel hub can bring an influx of foreign exchange through attractive product and service offerings. Anuja's quest was on transforming smaller airports such as the BIA to Aerotropolises.

Aerotropolises are areas around airports that have moved beyond core services such as landing, takeoff, passenger and baggage handling, towards venues for shopping, conferencing, sports, entertainment, relaxation etc. Anuja identified key enablers for transformation. She then developed Airport City Effective Criteria (ACEC) to assess the readiness of an airport for moving towards an Aerotropolis.

Gayani Jayatunga

Drying of black pepper
Supervisor: Prof. Padma Amarasinghe



Sri Lanka is a major producer of pepper, exporting around 10,000 MT annually. With its pungent aroma and medicinal properties, pepper adds value to the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries.

Gayani undertook to study drying, an important part of postharvest pepper processing. Her objective was to identify the best operational parameters for spouted bed drying, such as air-velocity, drying temperature and bed height. Experimental data was fitted to several drying models to identify the best. Four models were developed and were extended to estimate drying time. Accordingly, she has been able to provide valuable recommendations for the pepper processing industry.

Hasitha Bandara

Better curing of concrete
Supervisor: Prof. Wasantha Mamppearachi



Curing of concrete requires adequate moisture to be maintained on the concrete surface to develop its strength. This process increases construction time, and may cause early age cracks. Hasitha set out to understand an alternative curing process which maintains water in porous aggregates within the concrete.

He chemically analyzed several local and imported clay samples, and established an aggregate production process to produce fine aggregates in the lab. The pore structure and curing properties of these were analyzed in detail. He then produced conventional and superior aggregates for internal curing in large quantities and validated the analysis with three types of concrete.

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Kokila Abeykoon

Disabilities to residual abilities
Supervisors: Dr. Himan Panchihewa, Dr. Julian Nanayakkara



Kokila's research helps potential employers to evaluate People with Physical Disabilities (PPDs) for employment. She explored typical manual work activities (WAs) that could be performed by PPDs with their residual range of movement (RM) of the relevant body regions. She then mapped them to form a framework. Her work was guided by industrial engineers and medical experts. She tested the framework for usability and functionality with potential employers and PPDs respectively.

The framework identifies WAs for a PPD in line with his/her residual capability, and prompts to determine equipment, facilities, procedures and training needs for effective performance.

Upuli Perera

Efficient and clean energy from local firewood
Supervisor: Prof. Mahinsasa Narayana



Fuel wood accounts for the largest share of industrial energy usage in Sri Lanka, being the dominant fuel in tea, brick and tile industries. Biomass, despite being renewable and environmentally friendly, does not guarantee efficient or clean combustion.

Upuli undertook to characterize Rubber and Gliricidia in order to obtain a thorough understanding of the combustion process, aiming for better efficiency and less pollution. Due to the large number of variables involved, she resorted to numerical modelling and followed up with experimental model validation. Upuli's contributions are useful in designing and optimizing furnaces, where these local fuel wood varieties are used.

Mihirini Wagaarachchi

Experimenting with human-like artificial intelligence
Supervisor: Prof. Asoka Karunananda



Humans, with our sophisticated Neocortex, have a six-layer neural network to perform brain functions. Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) try to replicate the problem-solving abilities of the human brain. However, many real-life ANNs have only a few hidden layers, trading off performance with complexity. Mihirini's investigation was about the optimum number of hidden layers to solve a particular problem.

Mimicking neuroplasticity of the human brain, i.e., its ability to reorganize its neural connections, Mihirini developed a novel algorithm which she applied to ANNs with up to twelve hidden layers. She observed that a simpler architecture can be derived for a given complex ANN.

Sudarshana Perera

Filling a gap in the rubber industry
Supervisors: Dr. Shanitha Egodage, Prof. Shanitha Walpalage



The estimated annual gross turnover of the Sri Lankan rubber industry is approximately US\$ 1B. Our world-acclaimed natural rubber (NR) products include tires and surgical gloves.

Fillers modify the mechanical properties of NR as required for a specific application. Though carbon black is widely used as a reinforcing filler, its colour and environmental pollution are limitations. Hence, Sudarshana investigated inexpensive and environmentally friendly alternatives.

He identified clay (Montmorillonite) as a suitable reinforcing filler, and carried out experimental investigations on preparation of the NR-clay nanocomposite and resulting mechanical properties. These revealed that it is an excellent reinforcing filler at low loadings.

Chinthanie Weerakoon

A paradigm shift in computing with the Buddhist Theory of Mind (BTM)
Supervisors: Prof. Asoka Karunananda, Prof. N. J. G. Dias



In the human mind, repetition improves speed and quality of problem solving. According to the BTM, the key to this is the continuously evolving memory. In contrast, in the Von Neumann Architecture (VNA), memory is separate from processing. Chinthanie believes that this prevents effective utilization of advancements in processors and software.

Following the BTM, Chinthanie introduced the Six-State Continuous Processing Model (SSPM) having external inputs and causal relationships involving previous inputs. Memory grows and organizes itself through this continuous process. SSPM can be applied to enhance the speed and quality of processing in areas such as control systems in aviation.

Budditha Hettige

English to Sinhala translation with Multi Agent Technology
Supervisors: Prof. Asoka Karunananda, Prof. George Rzevski



Natural languages are complex, and differ from language to language. This makes automated language translation challenging. There is always a quality gap between human translation and machine translation (MT).

Budditha presents a novel approach to MT that models the human language translation process. His MT system processes morphology, syntax and semantics interactively, like humans, rather than sequentially, as in current MT systems. He applies Multi-Agent Technology to translate English to Sinhala in this way, which he named EnSiMAS. A statistical approach was taken to test the accuracy of translation. The adequacy and fluency of the best solution were evaluated with human support.

Rukmal Weerasinghe

Assessment of the National Innovation System
Supervisor: Prof. Ananda Jayawardane



Innovation is not always accidental. Systematic, formal mechanisms are needed to energize and diffuse innovation for economic development. Rukmal identifies key actors of a National Innovation System (NIS) as universities, industry and the government. He evaluates the effectiveness of roles played by the actors and their networking relationships through document reviews, surveys, interviews, independent reviews and social network tools.

Data analysis reveal that while the actors' traditional roles are evolving, their effectiveness is yet to reach a desirable level. Interrelationships appear fragmented. Rukmal suggests a simple model with four pillars linked with one connection, to build up a strong NIS for Sri Lanka.

Thanuja Silva

A new model for weekly rainfall
Supervisor: Prof. Sarath Peiris




South Asian countries fall victim to extreme weather events often. High population density, poverty and lack of resources for recovery aggravate the situation. Research shows that over the last 30-40 years, prediction of short term rainfall has been difficult due to erratic variability and high volatility.


Thanuja studied the variability of weekly rainfall including extreme events, focusing on the south-west monsoon and the second inter-monsoonal periods in Sri Lanka. She developed and validated a model to forecast weekly rainfall in Colombo. Her research outcome is a novel long-range dependency model, whose performance is maintained over a wide range of forecasting lengths.



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SLIM Inaugurates 'License to Sell' for 2020

The inauguration ceremony of SLIMs 'License to Sell' (LTS) 2020 batch 6 was held on 8th July at SBS, Colombo. The event was graced by the CEO of SLIM, Sanath Senanayake, Dr. Pradeep Edward, Past President and Advisor Business Development SLIM, Laliith Fernando, MD/CEO MBSL Insurance and distinguished Sales professionals.

'License to Sell' (LTS), developed by SLIM Trainings, is a programme aimed at producing trained sales staff to the job market and honing the skills of those who are already employed in the profession. The core objective of the program is to provide a 360-degree skill development to sales staff, which will accelerate their performance. LTS has been designed by utilizing the latest teaching techniques, which provide the optimum knowledge and skills development of Sales professionals. With a blended focus on theoretical and practical aspects, the programme is conducted by professional trainers with expertise from numerous

industries in the country.

'License to Sell' consists of 11 modules, which focus on Personal Grooming and Personal Branding, Creating a Winning Attitude, Developing Confidence, Leverage Technology for Better Prospecting, Productivity, Multitasking and Time Management, Social Media for Sales, Meeting the Client and Sales Presentation Skills, Handling Objections, Closing Techniques, Building Business Relationships and Basic Finance for Sales.

'License to Sell' is aimed at developing the soft skills required for sales and enhancing the confidence levels of the sales staff. With a study duration of just 11 weeks, LTS provides a well-rounded education for those who are interested in pursuing a career in sales, and also for those ambitious professionals, to enhance their sales skills and to progress in their careers.

Commenting on the LTS program, President of SLIM, Roshan Fernando stated, "Sales has an immense impact on

the growth of a business. An ineffective and traditional sales pitch would lower the profits, while an innovative and intensive sales approach would boost sales. It is therefore, necessary to keep up with the rapidly changing world of marketing to enhance the competency levels of sales professionals and to accelerate the growth of a business. With 'License to Sell', we at SLIM offer you an opportunity to develop your skills and embrace innovative sales approaches that would enable you to excel in any market in the world."

This program was specially designed for Sales Professionals by combining industry knowledge and marketing strategy. It is a program much in demand and we are confident that it would definitely help participants contribute in a more productive manner and also possess the ability to maintain a more fruitful relationship with customers to ensure success of their companies," said Nuwan Gamage, Vice President of SLIM.

Dr. Pradeep Edward, Past President and Advisor to the Business Development of SLIM said, "The knowledge that will be imparted to the sales staff through this LTS program will be a platform to successfully climb up the corporate ladder. Sales and Marketing are very important aspects in business, and contribute greatly to the success of any organization. The course is designed to equip them with professional skills in Sales, boost their confidence as a sales professional and increase their access to more opportunities in the local and global context."


CEO/Executive Director, SLIM, Sanath Senanayake added "As the pioneer in marketing education in the country, SLIM focuses heavily on providing quality coaching with the latest study material, and maintains very high standards enabling students to deliver exceptional results with value additions. The educational sessions at SLIM provide a proper guidance for the students to segment and prioritize their careers accordingly. We motivate the students to achieve success in their academic environment by putting their skills into practice. SLIM provides a platform for the students to grow, build leadership qualities, experience new bonding and plan their future."

Considering the demand and the requirement in the market for trained sales professionals with exceptional sales skills and exemplary levels of confidence, SLIM launched 'License to Sell' to help Sales professionals gain the needed competency levels to compete in the industry.

SLIM has made its mark in the Marketing fraternity by creating professional marketers through its internationally recognized educational products and training programmes. As the National body for marketing in Sri Lanka, SLIM continues its efforts in enhancing the marketing fraternity in the country and providing quality education to future marketers in Sri Lanka.

SLIM is the National body for Marketing in Sri Lanka and has been promoting marketing excellence and elevating the status of marketing since 1970. It 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). Internationally it is affiliated with ESOMAR, the Federation of Marketing Research Industries and is a member of the Asia Marketing Federation, which is affiliated to the World Marketing Association.

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Details of the courses can be obtained from the Department of Electrical Engineering or via the Internet on the Department Postgraduate course web site: <http://www.elect.mrt.ac.lk/postgraduate>

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3. Any recognized category of membership of a recognized Professional Institute, obtained through an academic route, **with** a minimum of one year of recognized appropriate experience obtained after the membership, as may be approved by the Senate.

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1. The Degree of Bachelor of the Science of Engineering of the University of Moratuwa specializing in Electrical / Mechanical / Electronics / Computer Engineering; **or**
2. Any other engineering degree of at least four years duration, from a recognized University, in a relevant field as may be approved by the Senate; **or**
3. A degree in Engineering, Technology or Science of at least three years duration from a recognized university in a relevant field of specialization with a minimum of one year of recognized appropriate experience obtained after the degree **AND** a Postgraduate Certificate in Industrial Automation or in an equivalent field, as may be approved by the Senate; **or**
4. Any recognized category of membership of a recognized Professional Institute, obtained through an academic route, **with** a minimum of one year of recognized appropriate experience obtained after the membership, as may be approved by the Senate.

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Registration fees: Rs. 2,000 per year.

Examination fees: Rs. 500 per year (payable at registration).

Tuition fees: Rs. 250,000 for the first year and Rs. 125,000 for the second year.

Rs. 50,000 for an additional year (See the application form for more information)

Library Deposit: Rs. 2,500 per item, up to 6 items (Optional and refundable).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND CLOSING DATE

Application forms can be downloaded from the department web site. The closing date for applications for all the courses will be 30th September 2020.

For inquires contact Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Tel: 0112640400

**Registrar,
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MAS' launches 'Harimamaga'...

From page 45

We operate in a subtle manner and we aim in aiding genuine students, to give them an easy and straight forward approach and a procession which we introduce the most suitable destinations than the most popular to give them an advantage in terms of expenses, accommodation and lifestyle.

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We provide benefits in all aspects but it is up to you if you want to take up this great opportunity!

We are always here to help by providing up to date true information, understanding the reality of our student's situation and the weight of traveling to foreign countries to reach their dreams. Don't be fooled by fake agents or people who give you false hopes. We will take you to your right destination, showing you the right path in the right way at the right time.

"It all starts with a Dream! So, do not wait till the Opportunities come to you, take the first step and make them happen!"

Many students these days get caught up with false stories and expectations from companies or individuals who aim not for the welfare of our students but for their own personal gain.

In reality, the truth is that we only have few real possibilities but those possibilities are no doubt capable of serving the purpose of education and later on providing a better future for our students.

Anyone who wishes to receive honest and up to date information then please contact us, we have you covered!

Another one of our targets is to join hands with responsible and honest teams in Sri Lanka to minimize such misleading activities. So we, MAS have initiated our new project 'HARIMAMAGA' and have hopes this will help you all understand about where and what you want to do in your future!



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Skill Development & International Training Institute
සිසුන්ගේ සංවර්ධනය හා පුහුණු කිරීමේ ජාත්‍යන්තර පාඨමාලා
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**Vacancies
in
Surgical and Pharmaceutical Company**

New Arumed (Pvt) Ltd (NAPL) is a dedicated, dynamic and rapidly growing Healthcare Company in Sri Lanka since 2007.

NAPL Imports and distributes Pharmaceuticals, Vaccines and Surgical and Medical Equipments' representing globally recognized Pharmaceutical and Surgical Multi National and Global Companies from the inception.

We are seeking suitable, dynamic and efficient personnel for the following existing vacancies in our establishment with the required qualifications.

1. Brand Managers or Agency Managers

Candidates are expected to have sufficient experience in planning and promoting Pharmaceuticals and Surgical along with the professional marketing qualifications such as SLIM or CIM or equivalent qualifications.

2. Medical Representatives / Product Specialists

Candidates are expected to have sound knowledge in English, Sinhala or Tamil with A/L qualifications probably in Bio Science or any additional qualification in order to promote Surgical, Pharmaceutical and Bio Similar products.

3. Regulatory Manager / Executive

Candidates are expected to have sufficient knowledge & experience in the Product Registration process of NMRA, especially in the on-line procedure of registration also the capability to communicate and update the local and overseas office.

4. Sales and Marketing Coordinator for Institution Sales

Candidates are expected to have experience with our stakeholders such as SPC, Army, Navy, and Airforce and other State Medical Institutions with the sufficient knowledge of tender procedures.

5. Accounts Executive

Candidates are expected to have sufficient experience or knowledge in Computer Accounting probably in Quick Book (QB) or Tally. Knowledge in import and export procedures would be considered as added qualifications.

Interested candidates are requested to send their CV giving two non-related referees via email or send their applications by post to the below given address as early as possible.

**The Office Manageress
NEW ARUMED (PVT) LTD
No. 325, Negombo Road,
Peliyagoda.
info@newarumed.com**

VACANCY

Health System Enhancement Project

Ministry of Health

Project Procurement Officer - Central Province

Through Asian Development Bank funded Health System Enhancement Project, it is proposed to renovate/ refurbish 135 Primary Health Care institutions and 127 Field Health Centres in Central, North Central, Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces.

Project implementation is scheduled for 5 years from 2019 to 2023.

Applications are invited for the post of Project Procurement Officer on full time basis in the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) **Central Province - based in Kandy.**

Qualifications and Experience

A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission or having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the NVQ level 7 issued by a technical/vocational training institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to a technical field and minimum 2 years' experience in the required area of specialization.

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the NVQ level 6 issued by a technical/vocational training institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to a technical field and minimum 7 years' experience in the required area of specialization.

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the NVQ level 5 issued by a technical/vocational training institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to a technical field and minimum 12 years' experience in the required area of specialization.

Age Limit

Under 64 years by 31.08.2020

Salary Scale

Salary scale PS 6 and other benefits, in accordance with the Management Circular No. 01/2019 dated 15th March 2019

Further details and application form can be downloaded from <https://www.hsep.lk/>

Duly completed application together with detailed curriculum vitae supported by copies of education and professional qualifications, experience and names of 2 non-related referees along with their contact telephone/fax/email address should be sent to reach the following address on or before **07.09.2020** in a sealed envelope stating "Application for the Post of Project Procurement Officer - (Central Province) - Health System Enhancement Project" on the top left of the envelope.

**Address - Project Director
Health System Enhancement Project
3/19, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08**
Email - hsep.pmu@gmail.com (for E - Submissions)
Telephone - +94 11 2 697 173
Fax - +94 11 2 697 163



**PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA
VACANCIES**

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka who are physically sound and of excellent moral character for below mentioned posts on the Staff of the Secretary-General of Parliament.

1. Deputy Coordinating Engineer
2. Hansard Reporter
3. Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Technician

Applications prepared in accordance with the specimen given in the Gazette notification published on **August 21, 2020** should be sent under registered cover to reach the **"Secretary-General of Parliament, Parliament of Sri Lanka, Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte"** on or before September 04, 2020. Post you are applying for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. The notice is accessible via www.parliament.lk

Secretary-General of Parliament

**Parliament of Sri Lanka,
Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte.**

August 23, 2020



**SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL
(SLMC)**

VACANCY

Recruitment of Stenographer

Applications are invited from experienced Stenographer for both Sinhala and English.

Terms and conditions of service and remunerations are negotiable.

Apply within 10 days of this advertisement with CVs. For further inquiries contact the Registrar of the SLMC.

**Dr. Ananda Hapugoda
The Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Rd,
Colombo 10.
T.P. 011 2 691 848
E-mail: info@mc.lk**



**TRANSCEND THE
ORDINARY**

Re-write your future across the world's best interiors

The leader in the surfacing industry in Sri Lanka and a pacesetter in the international arena, Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC (Rocell) is now inviting highly driven individuals to expand their mission to the next level. In just two decades we have redefined design paradigms; through an uncompromising passion for perfection, quality and innovation. With two top-of-the-line tile factories and the country's only bathware manufacturing facility - which is one of Asia's leading resources - our success precedes our ambitions at any given time. Already our conquests have accomplished 20 foreign markets, but our aspirations do not rest so simply. We have an intent that will mould the interior design landscape of the world. We want you in that future.

Showroom Managers

Senior Customer Officers

NAWALA CONCEPT CENTRE / NAWALA g8 / NAWALA FACTORY OUTLET / MORATUWA / PELMADULLA / KALUTARA NORTH / KESBEWA FACTORY OUTLET / GALLE FACTORY OUTLET / KURUNEGALA FACTORY OUTLET / DIVULAPITIYA / KUNDASALE / KILINCHCHI / KALMUNAI / JAFFNA / VAVUNIYA / SWISSTEK BELUMMAHARA

The selected candidate will be responsible for the overall performance of the showroom which includes achieving set sales targets, in-store merchandising, market development activities and customer service. In addition, statutory duties such as managing inventories, cash and sales proceeds and leadership roles such as motivating the showroom sales team, are amongst the skills required.

Requirements:

- A Bachelor's Degree in Marketing / Business Management
- Dynamic and result oriented individual
- A team player with strong interpersonal skills
- Leadership skills and business acumen
- 05 years of experience in Sales, Store Management and Merchandising
- Ability to work long hours
- Below 40 years of age
- Ladies are also encouraged to apply

The selected candidate will be responsible for achieving set sales targets and the smooth functioning of the showroom under the guidance of the Showroom Manager.

Requirements:

- 2-3 years of experience in a similar capacity
- A flair for sales and customer care
- Strong communication and computer skills
- Below 30 years of age
- Ability to work long hours
- Professional qualification in Marketing / Sales would be an added advantage

Attractive remuneration packages commensurate with the position applied for are on offer.

Apply within 07 days of this publication, with an updated complete CV and names and contact details of two non-related referees. All applications forwarded by post must clearly indicate the area / showroom applied for on the top left corner of the envelope. Those applying by e-mail must indicate the area / showroom applied for in the subject box.

**The Head of Human Resources
Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC**

No. 20, R. A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03.
Tel: 011 4 799 400

Email: recruitment@rcl.lk Website: www.rocell.com





**Bishop's College,
Colombo 03**

VACANCY

**WESTERN MUSIC TEACHER
FOR PRIMARY GRADES**

Applications are invited from candidates with good academic background, personality, physical fitness and good communication skills in English.

Requirements:

- ◆ A suitable qualification (Degree or Diploma) in your particular field.
- ◆ Age Limit - below 50 years.
- ◆ Minimum of 5 years of teaching experience as a teacher at school level.

Closing Date for applications - 6th September 2020.

Please provide a complete CV with application to:

The Principal,
Bishop's College,
#15, Boyd Place,
Colombo 03.

Email: hr@bishopscollegacolombo.com

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Priyajanaka Enterprises is a registered construction firm and looking for enthusiastic candidate.

- Experience in Building Construction field is very important.
- Good knowledge of project planning & control
- Very good knowledge of English written & spoken
- AutoCAD knowledge is essential.

Strong interpersonal skills and strategic thinking capabilities, Saturday working, Salary 50,000/-.

Priyajanaka Enterprises,
146A, Thumbowila, Bokundara, Piliyandala.
0714 428373, 0771 437694
email: priyajanakaenterprises@gmail.com

PROJECT ACCOUNTANT

A Local NGO based in Colombo is looking for a qualified Accountant to fill a vacancy in a foreign funded project.

Project Duration: 30 months

Qualifications and Experience:

- ◆ A Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy / Business Management from a recognized university
- ◆ Fully qualified in AAT/CMA or partly qualified in ICASL/CIMA/ACCA
- ◆ Over 05 years post qualifying experience as Accountant in government or NGO sector.

Age: below 40

Salary: Negotiable

Please submit your application with updated CV to below email on or before 27-08-2020.
Email: sevanata@sltnet.lk

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (FEMALE) -
KIRIBATHGODA**

We are a growing Company with multi sectoral businesses as Micro Finance, Auto Mobile and Textile Sector based in Kiribathgoda. We are looking for a dynamic and competent **Executive Secretary** to support high-ranking officials in our Company.

Qualifications and Experience :

- Professional qualification in secretarial practices
- Minimum 5 years of experience in similar capacity in a reputed Organization
- Proficiency in MS Office Packages
- Should be a good team player & ability in multi-tasking
- Excellent communication skills in English (Knowledge of Chinese Language would be an added advantage)
- Age below 35
- Salary negotiable.

**Send your CV to vfranji@yahoo.com
T.P. 071-492 1303**

SOFTA CARE VACANCY
Simply. The Wide Choices

WE S Q MARKETING Importers & Distributors of Adult care, Baby Care, Medical items, clinical products and hospital equipment under the brand name of SOFTA are diversifying our business and rapidly increasing the chain of Operations Islandwide.

We offer golden opportunities to self-motivated individuals to join our team for those who are interested to build up their career in the field of,

- **SECRETARY** — An individual with an excellent communication skill and immense talent and be able to correspond with all the internal departments in the organization (Female)
- **RECEPTIONIST / SALES ASSISTANT** — An individual who has the ability to work freely and correspond with all internal departments of the organization and correspond information with all staff members and outer customers.

With attractive remuneration and many other benefits.

Interested candidates please e-mail / post your complete personal resume with two non-related referees to,

The General Manager
S Q Marketing Private Limited
No. 52, Yashodhara Mawatha,
Saranankara Road,
Kalubowila, Dehiwala.
TEL - 2727220 / 2710221
E - MAIL - lloyds2@sltnet.lk

VACANCY

Kandana Food & Drugs (Pvt) Ltd, reputed pharmaceuticals company requires a dynamic person to join our pharmaceutical Company

- ◆ Account Assistant
- ◆ Sales Representative

Negombo Branch

- Age below 25
- Must have valid Driving licence
- GCE O/L, A/L qualified

Please send in your application with two non related referees to

E-mail : kfdord@kfdilk.com

0766 44 62 93

The Manager,
Human Resources,
No. 14, 1st Cross Street, Negombo.

**TRAINEE
EXECUTIVE**

We are a Tea Export Company and looking for a young talented Female candidate for the above vacancy available at our office in **Pita Kotte**. The work is related to Purchasing & Office Administration.

Candidate should have:

- Age below 30 years
- Basic Computer Knowledge

Please send your resume by email / post within 14 days of this advertisement.

S. St. Clair Teas (Private) Limited
No. 22, Sri Nagavihara Road,
Pita Kotte
finance@stclairteas.com



GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY



VACANCIES

POST OF SENIOR PROFESSOR / PROFESSOR

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Subject Areas : Anatomy, Physiology, Parasitology, Microbiology, Pathology, Public Health & Family Medicine, Forensic Medicine, Pharmacology, Psychiatry, Medical Education

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Subject Areas : Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Telecommunication Engineering, Marine Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Mathematics and Statistics, Mechanical Engineering* (Only for the post of senior professor*)

FACULTY OF LAW

(Only for the post of senior professor*)

Subject Area : Law

FACULTY OF DEFENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

(Only for the post of senior professor*)

Subject Areas : International Politics, International Relations

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT, SOCIAL SCIENCE & HUMANITIES

(Only for the post of senior professor*)

Subject Areas : Sociology, Geography, Management, Human Resource Management, English Language and Literature, English Language Teaching

FACULTY OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Subject Areas : Medical Laboratory Sciences, Nursing and Midwifery, Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy Pharmacy, Anatomy, Radiography and Radiotherapy* (Only for the post of senior professor*)

FACULTY OF COMPUTING

(Only for the post of senior professor*)

Subject Areas : Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science & Technology

FACULTY OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL SCIENCES

Subject Areas : GIS and Remote Sensing, Geodesy, Cadastre, GNSS and Photogrammetry, Architecture and Quantity Surveying* (Only for the post of senior professor*)

SALARY SCALES

- 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.

OTHER BENEFITS

Sabbatical Leave and Research Allowance, Research Grants, Free Health Insurance, Annual Incentives, Scholarships for children of employees, priority basis treatments at University Hospital - KDU, EPF, ETF and other privileges.

Applicants should send the applications downloaded from the KDU website (www.kdu.ac.lk) with copies of relevant certificates by registered post to reach The Registrar, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana on or before **22.09.2020**.

Applied post should be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

* For subject areas which have advertised only for Post of Senior Professor – Please refer to paper advertisement dated **16.08.2020** for the post of Professor/Associate Professor.

Candidates are requested to refer to KDU website (www.kdu.ac.lk), UGC Circular no. 05/2015, 916, 04/2010 and subsequent amendments or contact Senior Assistant Registrar (Establishments), KDU for clarification on qualifications and more information.

Visit our website for further details - www.kdu.ac.lk.

**Closing Date
22.09.2020**

Applications should be addressed to

The Registrar,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
Ratmalana



UNIVERSITY OF VOCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Education



VACANCIES

**Director / Chief Executive Officer at University Colleges of
Ratmalana, Anuradhapura & Jaffna.**

University of Vocational Technology established by the Act No.31 of 2008 invites applications from suitably qualified citizens of Sri Lanka to serve as Director / Chief Executive Officer at the University Colleges of Ratmalana, Anuradhapura & Jaffna.

Nature of Appointment:

3 Years Contract with an initial salary of Rs.100,000/- per month with an annual increment of Rs. 10,000/- along with other applicable allowances to the post. Selected candidates will become contributors to the "Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund".

This position is entitled to,

- Assigned Vehicle
- Fuel Allowance
- Communication Allowance
- Interim Allowance (DMS Circular 01/2015)

Age Limit:

Age should be not less than Thirty Five (35) years and not more than Fifty Four (54) Years. Upper age limit is not applicable to the applicants who are in Government services.

Qualifications:

1. (a) A degree with specialization in the field of Engineering, Economics, Business Management or similar subject.
OR
(b) Corporate membership of a recognized Professional Chartered Institution or Corporate membership of Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka.
AND
2. A Master Degree obtained in the field of Engineering, Economics, Business Management or similar subject.
AND
3. (a) Candidate should have been in the post of Senior Lecturer Grade I or above post of a University.
OR
(b) Candidate should have at least ten (10) years experience in a post of senior managerial level in a public institution / establishment or recognized private mercantile establishment after obtaining first degree / professional qualification.
OR
(c) Candidates should be an officer in an all island services serving 15 years or more in the executive capacity and out of the 15 years, 03 years should be in the Grade I or above post of the relevant service.

Selection Procedure:

Structured Interview.

Please refer www.univotec.ac.lk for further details

Other Conditions:

- Duly filled application form indicating the academic and professional qualifications along with certified copies should be sent to the Director General, No. 100, Kandawala, Ratmalana registered post on or before 22.09.2020
- Applicants presently employed in Higher Educational Institutions, Government Departments and Government Corporations should forward their application through the Heads of their Institutions.
- The post applied should indicate clearly on the top left hand corner of the envelope.
- Incomplete applications will be rejected.
- Only the short listed applicants will be called for the interview.

Competent Authority

University of Vocational Technology
No. 100,
Kandawala,
Rathmalana
23rd August 2020

Tel : 0112630706
Web : www.univotec.ac.lk



PURSUE A CAREER OF PRESTIGE & HONOUR JOIN THE SRI LANKA ARMY

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR FOLLOWING PROFESSIONALS TO BE ENLISTED TO
THE CORPS OF SRI LANKA ENGINEERS
 UNDER THE SRI LANKA ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- A citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Height 5 feet & 6 inches.
- Weight 50kg (Minimum).
- Chest 32" (Minimum-Unexpanded)
- Vision - Right eye 6/6, Left eye 6/9 (Without Spectacle)



PAY & ALLOWANCES

Gross Pay & Allowanced for Officers:

Major - Rs. 122,825.47 Captain - Rs. 116,450.47

- Those who are employed in the government sector should submit their applications along with the recommendation of the Head of the Department (The upper age limit will not be applicable for those who are employed in the government sector).
- **Age between 18-55 years as at 06.09.2020**
- Incomplete applications and the applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Applications with copies of the following documents certified by a justice of the peace (JP) should be submitted under registered post with the top left corner of the envelope marked the post applied for, to reach the address given below.
- Birth certificate
- National Identity Card
- Grama Niladhari Certificate
- Certificates of Education & Professional qualifications
- Two recently obtained character certificates
- Certificates of Sports / Extracurricular Activities
- Recommendation letter of the Head of the Department
- Other relevant certificates

**SERVE YOUR COUNTRY
 PRESTIGE IS YOURS**

Closing Date of Applications - 06.09.2020

POST	RANK	EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
Civil Engineer	Major	Chartered Civil Engineer of the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka. Civil Engineering knowledge and experience will be an added qualification.
	Captain	Successful completion of BSc Degree In Civil Engineering conducted by a University recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in Sri Lanka. WITH Minimum 2 years work experience in relevant field WITH Associated Membership of Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL).
Structural Engineer	Major	Chartered Civil Engineer of the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka. Structural Engineering knowledge and experience will be an added qualification.
	Captain	Successful completion of BSc Degree in Civil Engineering conducted by a University recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in Sri Lanka. WITH Minimum 2 years work experience in relevant field WITH Associated Membership of Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL).
Irrigational Engineer	Major	Chartered Civil Engineer of the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka. Knowledge and experience in Irrigational Engineering field will be an added qualification.
	Captain	Successful completion of BSc Degree In Civil Engineering conducted by a University recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in Sri Lanka. WITH Minimum 2 years work experience in relevant field WITH Associated Membership of Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL).
Surveyor	Major	Successful completion of BSc Degree in Surveying conducted by a University recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in Sri Lanka WITH Minimum of 5 years Experience in the Survey Department Of Sri Lanka. OR Registered Licensed Surveyor of Land Survey Council of Sri Lanka.
	Captain	Successful completion of BSc Degree in Surveying conducted by a University recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in Sri Lanka. WITH Minimum 2 years work experience in relevant field WITH Associated Membership of Surveyor's Institute of Sri Lanka (SISL)

Address: Recruiting Officer, Headquarters, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Salawa, Kosgama
Inquiries: 036-2255362/011-3188558
Please visit: "www.slavf.lk/en/join-us" for applications, qualifications and more details.



SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

OFFICER CADET VACANCIES

A CAREER LIKE NO OTHER..... in

GENERAL DUTIES PILOT BRANCH (MALE)

Be a
GRADUATE IN AVIATION STUDIES FROM THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE ACADEMY
(ACCREDITED TO THE GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY)

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE CADETSHIP IN THE REGULAR FORCE OF THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Nationality : Must be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- Civil Status : Unmarried
- Gender : Male
- Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 22 years as at 15th July 2020
- Height : Male - 167.5 cm (5' 6") and above
- Weight : Male - 17 < BMI < 26 $BMI = \frac{Weight (Kg)}{Height (m)^2}$
- Chest : Minimum 32" (Male)
- Colour Vision Standard : CP2
- Visual Acuity : Left eye 6/6 and right eye 6/6 (without Spectacles / Contact Lens)

EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS (GENERAL DUTIES PILOT BRANCH)

- Degree Programme**
 * Minimum of **six Credit (C)** passes at the GCE (O/L) examination with compulsory Credit (C) passes for **English** language, **Science, Mathematics** and a Simple (S) pass and above for Sinhala / Tamil language in **one sitting** (additional and optional subjects are not considered).
 * Simple (S) passes in **three subjects** at the GCE (A/L) examination in **Physical Science / Bio Science and Technology** Streams (as applicable) in **one sitting**.
 * Further candidates who are applying for the degree programme are to indicate whether they have qualified and applied for University admission when indicating A/L results in the application form.

2. Non Degree Programme

Minimum of **six Credit (C)** passes at the GCE (O/L) examination with compulsory Credit (C) passes for **English** language, **Science, Mathematics** and a Simple (S) pass and above for Sinhala / Tamil language in **one sitting** (additional and optional subjects are not considered).

SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS (DEGREE PROGRAMME)

* BSc (Aviation Studies) Degree Entrant Qualifications (Accredited by the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University).

SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS

- * Approximate gross annual salary including services and all other allowances with retirement benefits applicable to Officer Cadets is Rs. 937,775.64. Pilot Officer Rs. 1,052,075.64, Flying Officer Rs. 1,120,595.64 Flight Lieutenant Rs. 1,216,715.64 and Squadron Leader Rs. 1,286,795.64.
- * Meals, Accommodation, Uniforms, Air and Ground transport, Medical and recreational facilities are provided on free of charge basis.

SPECIAL NOTE

- * Pearson / Edexcel - International Ordinary / Advanced Level, GCSE, GCE and Cambridge exam qualification may be considered subjected to confirmation obtained from the Department of Examination, Sri Lanka, to effect that it is equalant to above basic educational qualifications.
- * All Candidates who are selected are required to undergo a medical screening test as per Sri Lanka Air Force Medical Standard during the selection process.
- * All Candidates who are selected are required to undergo a written or practical test, flying aptitude test and Officer Quality Test during the selection process.
- * Any candidate who has special skill / qualifications may at the discretion of the Commander of the Air Force be considered, even though he / she does not have any of above pre-requisite provided that he / she possess the requisite of the professional/ special qualifications for the best interest of the SLAF.

SPECIMEN APPLICATION

- * Full Name (As per National Identity Card)
- * Branch Applied
- * Permanent Address
- * Present Postal Address
- * Nearest Police Station to the Permanent Address
- * District
- * Electorate
- * GN Division
- * Date of Birth Y M D
- * Age as at 15th July 2020 Y M D
- * National Identity Card Number
- * Height (cm)
- * Gender Male / Female Civil Status Married / Unmarried
- * Contact Number
- * School Attended
- * Educational Qualifications (Ordinary & Advanced Level with Index No)
- * To mention whether qualified or not to apply for University admission
- * Achievements in Sports / Extra Curricular Activities
- * Details of Previous Service in the Armed Forces / Police
- * Other Achievements

I hereby certify and declare that the details furnished above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date : Signature of Applicant

* For further details see Government Gazette Number 2165 of 28 February 2020 and 06 March 2020.

* The envelope should be marked "APPLICATION FOR COMMISSION IN THE GENERAL DUTIES PILOT BRANCH" on the top left corner. Applications should be forwarded under registered cover to reach "COMMAND RECRUITING OFFICER, SRI LANKA AIR FORCE TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL, KOTUGODA" or may apply online through web <www.airforce.lk> or <www.observerjobs.lk> on or before 1200 noon on **28th August 2020**.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC (A Subsidiary of Bank of Ceylon)

Property Development PLC is a public listed Company and is the owner of a prestigious BOC Headquarters building in Colombo. Its core area of operation is to upkeep of real property and operation and maintenance of central A/C system, electrical, water supply and sewerage disposal system etc. of the Building. The company seeks the services of high caliber staff with the necessary qualifications to fill the following position.

DEPUTY MAINTENANCE MANAGER

The Job is to assist the Maintenance Manager in carrying out operation & maintenance and renovation/ upgrading projects in the Building.

Qualifications:

- ◆ Be a Chartered Civil Engineer holding B.Sc Engineering Degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized University/Institution.
- ◆ Has a minimum of 04 years' experience after obtaining charter qualification.
- ◆ Experience in preparation of Bidding documents, Contract documents, Project Management Contract Administration and Building Maintenance etc.
- ◆ Age below 45 years.

An attractive and negotiable remuneration with other fringe benefits will be offered based on qualifications and experience of the applicant.

Please forward a complete resume with two non-related referees along with supporting documents by email to pdlhrm@sltnet.lk and by registered post indicating the position applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelop to reach the following address within 14 days.

Manager - Human Resources and Administration
Property Development PLC
Floor 19, Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building
"BOC Square"
No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha
Colombo 01



VACANCIES

BHIKSU UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA - ANURADHAPURA

The Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following posts.

Faculty of Buddhist Studies

1. Chair Professor (Buddhist Philosophy) - (01 vacancy)
2. Chair Professor (Pali) - (01 vacancy)

Department of Practical Buddhist Studies

3. Lecturer (Temporary) for Buddhist Psychology and Counseling - (01 vacancy)

Faculty of Languages and Cultural Studies

Department of Social Sciences and Comparative Studies

4. Lecturer (Probationary)/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Senior Lecturer II / I for Educational Science - 01 vacancy
5. Lecturer (Probationary)/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Senior Lecturer II / I for Archeology - (01 vacancy)

Note - Special attention will be paid to the applicants who have gained the knowledge to use Archaeological laboratory and the paleo-osteology.

Department of Languages

6. Lecturer (Probationary)/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Senior Lecturer II / I for Sanskrit - (01 vacancy)
7. Lecturer (Probationary)/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Senior Lecturer II / I for English - (01 vacancy)

- Note:
- Only Buddhist monks are considered for the above academic posts.
 - Preferences will be given to monks who are capable to teach in both Sinhala & English medium
 - Those who are appointed to the above mentioned posts No. 04,05,06, and 07 should complete a minimum service period of 10 years to this University and enter in to an agreement with the University.

8. Instructor in English Language Grade (iii) - (01 vacancy)

Administrative / Academic

9. Librarian

Note - Only lay Sinhala Buddhists are considered for the post of Librarian.

Administrative / Non-Academic

10. Assistant Registrar - (01 vacancy)

Benefits

- In addition to the salaries U.G.C. approved allowances will be paid for all the above positions and academic and research allowances will only be paid for all the academic and librarian positions.

Those who join the University will become members of the University Provident Fund (UPF) and the ten percent (10%) of the salary will be credited by the employees and 15% will be credited by the University. Three percent (3%) of the salary will be credited to the Employees Trust Fund (ETF) by the University.

Applications

- i. Application forms and relevant information could be obtained from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Establishments) by hand or by post sending a self-addressed, stamped, 23x10cm in size envelope to Senior Assistant Registrar (Establishments) on or before 15.09.2020 or could be downloaded from the University website www.busl.ac.lk
- ii. Candidates who apply for more than one post should submit separate applications for the each post.
- iii. Application forms and other documents should be prepared according to the provisions stipulated in the U.G.C. Circular No. 916, 4/2014 and Establishments Circular Letter 4/2010, for the post of Professor and according to the U.G.C. Circular No.921 for the post of Librarian.

How to Apply

- i. Duly completed application forms should be forwarded with the certified copies of certificates and relevant documents stated in the above circulars under the registered post indicating the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach the "Senior Assistant Registrar (Establishments), Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka, Puttalam Road, Anuradhapura" on or before 22nd September, 2020 and for the post of Chair Professor and Librarian on or before 07th November 2020.
- ii. Candidates in the service of the Universities, Government Departments, State Corporations and Statutory Bodies should channel their applications through the Heads of the respective Institutions.
- iii. Applications received after the closing date/ incomplete applications/ not in conformity with the above requirements will be rejected.
- iv. University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates and call for the interview such candidates only.

Registrar
Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka
23.08.2020

Marketing Manager
Search a dynamic target oriented individual with experience in the field for the above position. Attractive salary with other benefits depending on experience.
General Manager,
Raja Bojun (Pvt) Ltd, Liberty Arcade,
No 282, R.A.De Mel Mawatha - Colombo 03.
Pis forward CV to: rajabojunhr@gmail.com

Walk-in Interview for Post of Accounts Assistant

Vacancy for "Accounts Assistant" to be filled immediately.

You should possess the following

- ◆ AAT or Similar
- ◆ Minimum of two years experience in a similar capacity obtained from a recognized organization.
- ◆ Knowledge of QB Accounting Package compulsory
- ◆ Salary negotiable

Age Limit : 22 - 35 yrs.

Please call for an Interview on 26th, 27th & 28th August 2020, between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon with your CV & original certificates.

Secretary General
J.R Jayawardene Centre
No. 191, Dharmapala Mawatha,
Colombo - 07.
TP. 011 269 5084 / 011 2694252
Fax. 011 2 695 137

VACANCIES

We are looking for Marketing / Front Office Coordinator

Expected Qualifications

- Passed A/L & above
- Fluent in Sinhala, English and Tamil will be added advantage
- 2 Years related experience
- Female candidate (Age 18 - 40)
- Computer literacy (Office package)

Job Responsibilities

- Handling sales inquiries (Phone / walking customers)
- Coordinate with Sales & Marketing Team to ensure high quality Customer Service

The selected candidate will receive an attractive remuneration package

CLP CEYLON LTD
No. 75/27, Kaduwela Rd, Thalahaena, Malabe
0117 110 700
Send Your CV via E-mail: careers@clpceylon.com

Classic Venture (Pvt) Ltd, is an organization engaged in providing quality reliable and trustworthy security consultation & related services to leading business establishments in Sri Lanka.

CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANT

We are looking for a young energetic female with following qualifications to work at our Head Office at Park Road Colombo 05.

- Age below 30 years
- Pleasant Personality
- Excellent command of English
- Computer literacy and knowledge in Quick Books Package

Salary Negotiable

Please send your CV on or before 28th of August 2020 to the below address or by e-mail

Director

Classic Venture (Pvt) Ltd

No. 196, Park Road, Colombo 05.

Tel : 0753 632 000 / E-mail : susil@classicventure.com

PRODUCT EXECUTIVE

Union Chemicals Lanka PLC (formerly Union Carbide) is a leading company in manufacturing and marketing of industrial chemicals including a range of emulsion polymers and water based wood coatings, representing reputed multinational chemical companies. The company is looking for a dynamic, results oriented person for the Marketing Division.

The Job

Product Executive is a key member of the marketing team and is responsible for coordinating and implementing strategies leading to continued growth in sales and profitability of the company.

Candidate Profile

- * Science degree with Chemistry as a subject with minimum of 03 years sales experience. (Those without experience will be considered to be placed as Trainee Product Executive)
- * Those who have passed GCE A/L with Chemistry as a subject having considerable sales experience preferably in the chemical trading industry, with a proven record of high level of achievements will also be considered.
- * Excellent communication skills in English Language.
- * Computer literacy.
- * Demonstrate high level of initiative and drive to achieve ambitious targets with minimum supervision.

An attractive remuneration package with other fringe benefits and opportunities for career advancement is available to the right candidate.

Applications with details of qualifications and experience, giving contact details of two non-related referees should be forwarded within 10 days of this advertisement to: mahinda@ucll.lk



Marketing Manager,
Union Chemicals Lanka PLC,
4th Floor, Sarathi Building,
50, Hyde Park Corner,
Colombo 2.

IMMEDIATE VACANCY

Position - Site Engineer

Experience : BSc. Eng. (Civil) with 3 years / NDT (Civil) with 10 years
Job Location : Ja-Ela
Project Title : Building
Application Process : Send CV to singeruwan2@gmail.com

HR Division
Singhe Ruwan Construction
No. 451A, Beligaha, Galle.
Tel : 0777840876

URGENT TEACHER VACANCIES

TAPROBANE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL, KALUTARA

We need Teachers to teach Mathematics, Commerce, Buddhism, English Literature and Health & Physical Education from Grade 6 to Ordinary Level (Local) for our new Batches. Only qualified Teachers with good English proficiency should apply immediately to,

The Director,
Taprobane College International,
20/71, Dharmarama Road,
Kalutara South.

034-2236814, 0342229480
Email : yoosufmahees@gmail.com

Vacancies - Building Construction

A Leading Building Construction Company needs suitable Individuals to fill the following position.

Engineer - MEP

- NDT, HND, TTI (Electrical / Mech) with 5 Years Experience
- Special Hospital Project Experience
- Ability to Coordinate Electrical / AC / Plumbing / Medical Gas/ all Mechanical Installations.
- Ability to Independently Manage Medium scale building Construction Project
- Ability to Coordinate all MEP Sub Contractors

VENTURE PROPERTIES (PVT) LTD
No: 27/6/A, Park Lane, Rajagiriya.
ventureengineeringlanka2020@gmail.com
0766- 914 301

IMMEDIATE VACANCIES

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR REPUTED ENGINEERING COMPANY FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS FOR IMMEDIATE RECRUITMENTS

PROJECT MANAGERS

Chartered Engineer in Mechanical or Building Services Degree with minimum 10 years post qualifying experience in MEP & HVAC field or similar approved academic qualification and experience.

PROJECT ENGINEERS / MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL

Minimum 03 years post qualifying experience ME & HVAC with BSc. Eng. Degree or 06 years with NDT, NDES or similar approved academic qualification.

QUANTITY SURVEYORS

BSc. in Quantity Surveying with minimum 05 years' experience in pre & post contract experience, MEP experience advantage.

DRAFTSMAN

Minimum 03 years post qualifying experience in MEP, HVAC SERVICES

HVAC SUPERVISORS / ELECTRICAL SUPERVISORS

Minimum 02 years' experience and NDT/NVQ Level 5 or equivalent

AIR-CONDITION TECHNICIANS / ELECTRICIANS / HELPERS / FITTER

Trained or untrained.

Attractive allowance for Trainees.

Salaries and Benefits :

Remuneration packages are negotiable and will correspond to the qualifications, experience and performance of the selected candidate.

Candidate shall forward a self-prepared CV indicating academic and professional qualifications, experience and two non-related referees.

Applications shall be forwarded to frigi@slt.lk or to below address within ten (10) days of this advertisement.

Frigi Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd.,

No. 145, Siri Dhamma Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

Telephone : 0112692250, 0117855800
Email : frigi@slt.lk Fax : 0112693095



STAFFORD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Stafford International School, is looking for highly competent and energetic teachers to teach **English Language & Literature** for O/Ls & A/Ls and **Computer Science** for PRE-Ordinary Level Students (CAMBRIDGE ORDINARY LEVEL - IGCSE SYLLABUS).

Applicants should:

- Have a minimum bachelor's degree in the relevant field with good knowledge of English.
- Have experience in teaching Cambridge/ Edexcel board curriculum.
- Be dedicated in preparing innovative lessons that involves student engagement.
- Motivate students to meet the challenges.
- Be enthusiastic about teaching.
- Be a team player who is eager to be involved in all school activities.

Send your CV to recruitment@siscolombo.lk

Further details from Registrar

Stafford International School

No. 37, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 07.

Contact: 0112 694 592, 0112 671 734
Email: info@siscolombo.lk

www.siscolombo.lk

Join hands to shape the future

Realise your professional goals within a rewarding environment: At MAGA, Sri Lanka's leading construction company, join the dynamic team driving the nation forward.



Assistant Administration Officer

Candidate Profile:

- Minimum 02 years of experience in the relevant field
- Proficiency in English and Sinhalese (both written & verbal)
- Computer literacy with thorough knowledge of MS Office will be an added advantage

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist the Administration Officer in the management and control of all general administration matters of the Company
- Assist the Administration Officer in the control of wastage, pilferage, and misuse of company property
- Management of transport, insurance, and welfare
- Attend to requirements of projects and activity centres
- Attend to all correspondence and documentation
- Liaison with stakeholders

Location: Head Office, Colombo 05

The above position provides excellent career progression opportunities in a professional environment, along with attractive remuneration.

If you can fulfill the above requirements, please send your application with contact details of two non-related referees to hr@maga.lk or to the address below on or before 31 August 2020.

Please indicate the position applied for as the subject of your e-mail or on the top left corner of the envelope.

Manager Human Resources

Maga Engineering (Pvt) Ltd
200, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05
Tel: 011 280 8835-44 | 011 720 9879 | E-mail: hr@maga.lk

Join hands to shape the future

Realise your professional goals within a rewarding environment: At MAGA, Sri Lanka's leading construction company, join the dynamic team driving the nation forward.



Security Officer

Candidate Profile:

- Age below 45 years
- Priority will be given to officers who have retired from the Armed Forces or Police.
- Ability to visit construction projects Islandwide and initiate, prepare, inspect, and improve security arrangements
- Possession of a valid driver's license
- Energetic and youthful candidates will be preferred
- Ability to read and write in English is essential

Location: Head Office, Colombo 05

Security Supervisor

Candidate Profile:

- Age below 45 years
- Priority will be given to those who have retired from the Armed Forces or Police
- Experienced in preparing and monitoring security rosters
- Minimum five (05) years experience in security services or two (02) years experience as a security supervisor
- Energetic and youthful candidates will be preferred
- Preference will be given to candidates who can read and write in English

Location: Head Office, Colombo 05

Security Guards

Candidate Profile:

- Age below 45 years
- Priority will be given to those who have retired from the Armed Forces or Police
- Minimum two (02) years experience in security services
- Energetic and youthful candidates will be preferred
- Ability to read and write English is an additional qualification

Location: Head Office, Colombo 05

Selected candidates will enjoy the following benefits:

- ▶ Entitled to a higher salary than the standard set by the government for the Security Services Industry
- ▶ EPF and ETF costs borne by the Company
- ▶ Accommodation provided by the Company

Candidates who meet requirements for the above positions should bring original certificates and references to attend walk-in interviews on 26, 27, or 28 August, between 9.00am and 3.00pm at the Maga Engineering Head Office at the following address.

Manager Human Resources

Maga Engineering (Pvt) Ltd
200, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05
Tel: 011 280 8835-44 | 011 720 9879 | E-mail: hr@maga.lk



SUMEDHA COLLEGE-GAMPAHA

(Ed.dep.- ASN 1290 / Ex.dep. -08449)

OPPORTUNITY TO BE A GOVERNMENT TEACHER

A government approved school with more than 15 years of experience in the Education Field is looking for teachers to join the Senior School (Government Approved Bilingual Syllabus) Academic Staff with immediate effect.



VACANCIES FOR TEACHERS

A/L and O/L (English and Sinhala medium)

- Science, Maths, Commerce, Technology, Art Subjects, Tamil, English and English Literature

Minimum qualifications

- A/L pass
- Following or completed a Degree at recognized university
- Teaching experience an added advantage
- Age immaterial

Closing date:
20th
September
2020

Attractive Salaries

Please send your application to following e-mail address ydcnawaloka@gmail.com

THE PRINCIPAL, SUMEDHA COLLEGE, GAMPAHA.

INQUIRIES: 077 766 3625, 071 040 5760

Join hands with us to become a part of the SUCCESS STORY



Specified Officer / Head of Technical

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Be responsible for assuring to the Principal Officer, Board of Directors and to the Regulator that technical related guidelines and procedure followed by the Company are adequate and prudent
- Review the regulatory returns and be the signing officer on behalf of the Company where necessary
- Ensure the Company's compliance with regulatory technical provisions
- Ensure that the Company conduct its affairs in fairness to both the Company and its customers

Requirements

- Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute (ACII) or an equivalent
- Minimum 05 years post qualifying experience at managerial level
- Excellent communication skills with strong analytical and organizing skills

Head of Operations – General Insurance

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Responsible for the underwriting, claims and reinsurance operations of the Company
- Implement adequate risk management strategies to ensure profitability of different classes of insurance
- Coordinate work with other departments and ensure a smooth operation

Requirements

- Full or part qualifications in the Chartered Insurance Institute or an equivalent
- Minimum 10 years experience in General Insurance operations which at least 5 years at managerial level
- Strong leadership qualities together with excellent communication skills, people management skills and the ability to work in a diverse team environment

Manager / Senior Manager - Motor Claims

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Manage the Motor Claims function in accordance with the Company guide lines
- Develop strategies to improve the productivity of the Claims department
- Develop and implement customer service standards relating to motor insurance claims

Requirements

- Full or part qualification in ACII or AII together with minimum of 2 years' experience in Motor Claims at managerial level OR
- Minimum 7 years experience in motor claims handling of which at least 2 years at managerial level AND
- Excellent communication skills, people management skills and the ability to work in a diverse team environment

Manager – Internal Audit

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Planning, leading, organizing and executing the annual internal audit plan
- Assess the control systems in key processes and develop procedures and controls to mitigate identified risks
- Review and monitor prior audit findings and assist Management to ensure that they have been properly addressed
- Assist the management of Risk and Compliance function of the Company

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Finance/Accounting or full/ part qualification in ICASL/CIMA/ACCA/CMA
- Minimum 05 years experience in the fields of finance or audit, preferably in internal auditing. Previous experience in the insurance and/or financial services industry will be an added advantage
- Excellent communication skills with strong analytical, presentation and organizing skills


Attractive remuneration packages with other fringe benefits will be offered to the selected candidates who meet the Qualifications, Experience and other assessment factors.

Suitable candidates are requested to send CVs along with names of two non-related referees by email to md@mbslinsurance.lk or by post (address is given below) before 04th September 2020.

Postal – Managing Director – MBSL Insurance Company Limited. No.122, Kew Road, Colombo 02.



Address - No.122, Kew Road, Colombo 02. Tel: 011 2 304 500 Fax: 011 2 300 499 Email: info@mbslinsurance.lk Web: www.mbslinsurance.lk



KELUN LIFESCIENCES (PVT) LTD

Kelun Lifesciences (Pvt) Ltd is the first largest liquid injectable manufacturing plant based at Pallekele, Kandy. The company offers a wide range of intravenous infusion and injectables for local and export market.

WALK IN INTERVIEW

Looking for trainee/experienced young, dynamic and ambitious individuals who possess a good academic background with relevant qualifications and fluency in English/Sinhala languages. Please walk in for an interview along with your completed CV and relevant original documents.

Production
Operator – Production / Formulation / Packing (machinery)
Operator – Specialized Sterilizer
Operator - Water Station

Engineering and Equipment
Boiler Engineer - Executive, Officer
Mechanical Engineer - Executive, Officer
Electrical Engineer - Executive, Officer
BMS Operator - Executive, Officer
Maintenance Personnel (Daily) – Executive, Officer, Assistant

Quality Assurance
Assistant Manager, Executive, Officer
Regulatory
Assistant Manager, Executive, Officer

Quality Control
Assistant Manager, Executive, Officer
Microbiology
Assistant Manager, Executive, Officer

Logistics/Stores
Assistant Manager, Executive, Officer

COME AND EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES WITH US!

Date
Thursday 27th August
Saturday 29th August 2020

Interview Location
Kelun Lifesciences (Pvt) Ltd,
C/o - Celogen Lanka (Pvt) Ltd,
No. 7A, Industrial Park-BOI,
Pallekele,
Kandy.

Time
08.00AM to 03.00PM

For more details : Contact 081-2424841/21

VACANCY

POST OF VICE PRINCIPAL

A leading Private school in Western Province need a vice principal for the upper school

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Science Degree / Master Degree from a reputed local / foreign university
- Sound knowledge of secondary school bi-lingual government syllabus
- Fluency in English
- Over 2 years experience in a similar position.

Apply before 30/09/2020
Please send complete CV, Manager, 75/4, Barnes Place, Colombo 07 or email to findajobwp@gmail.com

INQ: 0703171107 (OFFICE HOURS)

Accounts Officer

To handle book-keeping work with 01 year audit experience and computer knowledge.

Wharf Documentation Officer

To handle the Asi Kuda System.

Harbour Wharf Clerks

To handle the Customs and Harbour works.

Address - AMT Transport Service No. 230, Wolfendhal Street, Colombo 13.

E-mail : newamtransport@gmail.com

Contact Nos :- 0112-451558, 0777-391221



Vacancy Announcement

Driver (Colombo) (Six Months Contract basis)

The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is a British Non-Governmental Organization registered as a charity, undertaking humanitarian mine action around the world. MAG is working to save lives and build futures in Sri Lanka by reducing the risk presented by remnants of conflict. MAG Sri Lanka is seeking applications from suitable candidates to fill the driver position immediately. Selected candidates will be deployed in MAG Colombo office and should be flexible in working all parts of the region according to MAG operational locations. As part of MAG's commitment to safeguarding, this post is subject to check reference before an offer of employment is confirmed.

Skills, experience and qualification requirements:


- A minimum of 3 years' experience with Heavy Vehicle licence is preferred.
- Basic mechanical knowledge for the care and maintenance of vehicles.
- Accurate book keeping and administration skills to complete Log (In English).
- Adaptable and flexible approach to work with team members.
- Ability and willingness to travel at short notice for out of the district movements.
- Experience in similar positions in a INGO is desirable.
- Should be able to work in any part of the Country.

Duties and responsibilities:




- Ensure that the proper maintenance of the vehicle and required daily checks are completed.
- Ensure immediate action's are taken for any defaults identified through the daily check through the relevant focal point.
- Ensure that safety and security of the passengers or goods when transporting.
- Ensure updated/validated documentation are maintain/available to use the vehicle.
- Ensure the daily running charts and other standard documentation are completed as per the requirement of the organization.
- Should support assistance to load/unload the goods.
- Should be able to follow MAG internal guidelines when transporting passengers/goods.
- Ensure that only authorized persons are allowed to transport in MAG vehicles.
- Should be familiar with government authorities and diplomatic mission for delivery/collection of documentation.
- Having experience in attending banking matters is advantageous.

Applications should be forwarded with CV via email or register post on or before 28th August 2020. The header of the email or envelop should be "Driver vacancy - MAG Sri Lanka". Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.
Email address:- recruitment.lk@maginternational.org or Postal Address: HR and Administration Officer, Mines Advisory Group, 30A, Pamankada Lane, Colombo 06.

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AVAILABLE AT





GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

Support to Colombo Urban Regeneration Project – AIBB

VACANCIES – PROJECT DIRECTOR 01

The Urban Regeneration Project was initiated by the Government in 2011 to improve housing conditions of low-income communities and enhance the land use efficiency in Colombo. The aim of the project is to construct 50,000 affordable housing and redevelopment of land reclaimed. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) supports this initiative by providing of loan financing to construct 5,500 housing units and land development in Colombo city and suburbs under the Support to Colombo Urban Regeneration Project (SCURP). The total cost of the SCURP is USD 280 mn and of which AIIB provides USD 200 mn. The Project is executed by the State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness and implemented by the Urban Development Authority (UDA).

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced citizens of Sri Lanka to fill the post of Project Director.

PS level 1, 5th band as per the Management Circular No. 01/2019.

(1 or 2 or 3 or below)

- 1) A successfully completed 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
or
An Associate Membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institute in the relevant field
and
At least 16 years post qualifying experience at Managerial Level, out of which 08 years should be in the Senior Managerial Level.
- 2) A successfully completed 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
or
An Associate Membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institute in the relevant field
and
Corporate/Chartered Membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institute in the relevant field or A Postgraduate Degree in the relevant filed
with
At least 14 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level, out of which 07 years should be in the Senior Managerial Level.
- 3) A successfully completed 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
and
A Postgraduate Degree in the relevant filed
with
Corporate/Chartered Membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institute in the relevant field
with
At least 12 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level, out of which 06 years should be in the Senior Managerial Level.

Salary scale and general conditions:
Salaries are based on the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019 of 15.03.2019 and other relevant Management Services Circulars. Applicants should be citizens of Sri Lanka and should not be more than 64 years of age.

Terms and Conditions of Service:
Government servants will be recruited in accordance with clause 2.3.3 of the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019 dated 15th March 2019 and persons outside the government service will be recruited on contract basis. The appointments will be on contract basis and initially for a period of one year, which is renewable annually based on the performance of the candidate.

Method of Selection:
Shortlisted applicants based on the qualifications and experience will be called for an interview.

Applications:
Candidates are requested to prepare the application in A4 size paper stating full particulars of qualifications and experience and other relevant information, including telephone number and email address. Application should be sent by Registered Post to reach the following address on or before 07th September 2020. The "Application for the Post of Project Director – SCURP" should be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Applicants from the Public/Corporate sector organizations should channel their applications through the respective Heads of Organizations with an advance copy directly to the address given below.

**Secretary
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
17th Floor,
Suhurupaya,
Battaramulla.**

VACANCY

COMPANY SECRETARY

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL) widely known as Lake House, is the home and heart of print media in Sri Lanka invites an experienced candidate to play a key role as Company Secretary. We are looking for a competent, dynamic person with an excellent knowledge of English and a working knowledge of Sinhala language.

Requirements:

- He/ she should have ten years post qualifying experience as an Attorney - at- Law, out of which three years should be as a Company Secretary of any recognized institution.
- LLB Degree from any recognized university will be an added qualification.
- He/she should be registered as a Company Secretary.
- Thorough knowledge of relevant legislation and regulations including corporate governance practices.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English.
- Should possess the ability to successfully work under pressure as a self-motivated team player and further should have the capacity to work independently.
- Should display effective time management and ability to manage in changing /conflicting priorities.
- Should be proactive, assertive and forward thinking.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist in ensuring smooth running of Board/Board Committee/ General Meetings and dissemination of decisions of the board in an effective and timely manner.
- Ensuring compliances with the requirements of Companies Act, the articles of association, listing rules, any other relevant legislation or regulations and corporate governance practices, by establishing proper and effective processes and controls to comply with these provisions
- Providing support and guidance to the Directors with respect to their duties and responsibilities in order to assist them to discharge their duties effectively.
- Preparation of documents to shareholders, i.e. notices, circulars and annual report and other corporate documentation.
- Protecting the company's interests by ensuring the effectiveness of all documentation in corporate actions and special projects.
- Monitoring changes in relevant legislation and the regulatory environment and taking appropriate action.

Age : Below 45 years

This appointment will be made on contract basis.

The selected candidate will be offered an attractive compensation package commensurate with relevant expertise, competencies and past track record.

Please forward your completed Curriculum Vitae within seven days of this advertisement with names and contact details of two non-related referees to the under-mentioned address stating the position on the top left hand corner of the envelope or e/mail to the following e-mail address with the subject line "Post of Company Secretary".



Head of Human Capital
The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited
No.35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.
dgm.hr@lakehouse.lk



www.cocogreen.co.uk

Superb Opportunities have arisen for self-motivated and committed individuals to join the UK based International Company to its production plants based in North-West Region of Sri Lanka.

Vacancy	Minimum Qualification
Assistant Accountant Preference for candidates from Kurunegala, Kuliyaipitiya	Degree in Accountancy + Part Qualification in CA/CMA/CIMA/ACCA + 4 years experience
Accounts Executive x 6 posts 2 posts - Kuliyaipitiya/Udawela 2 posts - Kurunegala/Hiripitiya/Ganewatta 2 posts - Kurunegala/Wariyapola/Katupotha	A/L Commerce Stream + AAT qualified + 2 years experience
Accounts Assistant x 6 posts 2 posts - Kuliyaipitiya/Udawela 2 posts - Kurunegala/Hiripitiya/Ganewatta 2 posts - Kurunegala/Wariyapola/Katupotha	A/L Commerce Stream + AAT part qualified
Assistant Quality Manager x 2 posts 1 post - Kuliyaipitiya 1 post - Kurunegala	A/L in Science Stream + 2 years working experience in manufacturing field
R & D Executive x 2 posts 1 post - Kuliyaipitiya 1 post - Kurunegala	Science/Maths Degree from a recognized University
Internal Auditor/Risk and Control Officer x 2 posts 2 posts - Kurunegala, Kuliyaipitiya	Degree in Accountancy + Part Qualification in CA/CMA/CIMA/ACCA + Experience as an Internal Auditor + Strong written and verbal communication
Production Planner 1 post - Kurunegala, Kuliyaipitiya	Science/Maths degree from a recognized University
Shipping/Logistics Operation Executive 2 posts - Kurunegala, Kuliyaipitiya	Job Specializations - Supply Chain/Logistics (Export, Shipping) Transportation + Ability to interact with all kinds of people

Apply sending your curriculum vitae to careers@cocogreen.co.uk within 14 days of this advertisement and applying position must be indicated on email subject.

WANTED COOK

Vacancy exists for the above position:

- Experienced and Hardworking
- Specialized in Indian cooking
- Capable to cook for and manage parties for 15-20 people
- Basic knowledge of Spoken English

Please send your application along with experience certificate and testimonials within 7 days of this advertisement.

PO Box 882
Colombo.
Contact No.: 011 2325280

POST OF CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER WITH MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Mahinda Funeral Directors Mount Lavinia is seeking a highly motivated candidate to assume, customer service with management, throughout the funeral arrangements. Candidate with previous experience in any industry such as hotels, garments, super markets, banks etc., would be a great advantage. Candidates with no previous experience, willing to be a trainee can apply too.

Age 25 - 60 years.
Salary scale : experienced officer Rs. 65000/-
- Rs. 85000/= Trainee Officer - Rs. 45000/- - Rs. 65,000/- .

Please call from 12.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. from 25th August 2020 to 10th September 2020 to confirm a meeting appointment.

0775733869, 0771507495

CRICKET COACHES VACANCIES

SRI SUMANGALA COLLEGE PANADURA

Senior Head Coach
1 Vacancy (Level 2 Qualification a must)

Junior Head Coach
1 Vacancy (Level 2 Qualification a must)

Assistant Coaches
4 Vacancies (Minimum Level 1 Qualification)

Please send your application to OfficialSumangalaCricket@gmail.com or send by post to **Principal Sri Sumangala College - Panadura**



Call for CVs

Background

The USAID/Sri Lanka Private Sector Development (PSD) activity is a 5-year, \$19.5 million program that will drive increased competitiveness, financing, and economic opportunity of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The activity will focus on expanding employment and entrepreneurship of women within target sectors and supply chains. The activity will provide technical assistance to SMEs, both directly and through business advisory service (BAS) providers, to strengthen the pipeline of bankable deals. In parallel the activity will create market-based incentives and provide technical assistance that enable financiers to expand into new markets and geographies. As opportunities present, PSD will work with local institutions to provide transaction advisory services to facilitate large inbound investment. The PSD activity, through local partners, will address second-order economic impacts of COVID-19.

PSD is seeking qualified applicants for the following full-time staff and short-term consultant positions via Terms of References (TORs) links below:

- **Full-Time Staff:**
 - Activity Team Lead: <https://palladium.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/2/home/requisition/8683?c=palladium>
 - Activity Deputy Team Lead/Director of Finance and Administration: <https://palladium.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/2/home/requisition/8675?c=palladium>
 - Component 1 Lead: SME Competitiveness Manager: <https://palladium.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/2/home/requisition/8678?c=palladium>
 - Component 2 Lead: Financial Facilitation Manager: <https://palladium.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/2/home/requisition/8679?c=palladium>
 - Component 3 Lead: Women's Labor Force Participation Manager: <https://palladium.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/2/home/requisition/8680?c=palladium>
 - Component 4 Lead: COVID-19 Resilience & Adaptation Manager: <https://palladium.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/2/home/requisition/8681?c=palladium>
- **Short-Term Consultants and/or Organizations:**
 - SME Competitiveness and Gender Inclusion Assessment: <https://thepalladiumgroup.com/tender/SME-Competitiveness-and-Gender-Inclusion-Assessment-PSD-Sri-Lanka>
 - Team Lead
 - SME Development Specialist
 - Financing Landscape for SMEs Assessment: <https://thepalladiumgroup.com/tender/Financing-Landscape-for-SMEs-Assessment-PSD-Sri-Lanka>
 - Team Lead
 - Finance and Banking Specialist
 - Intermediary Mapping Assessment: <https://thepalladiumgroup.com/tender/Intermediary-Mapping-Assessment-PSD-Sri-Lanka>
 - Team Lead
 - Business Advisory Services Providers Expert
 - Assessment Coordinator/Research Assistant
 - Operations Coordinator: <https://palladium.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/2/home/requisition/8682?c=palladium>

Specific eligibility criteria and application instructions are detailed in the TOR links above

Positions are open to Sri Lankan nationals and permanent residents with authorization to live and work in Sri Lanka and individuals with the ability to obtain a work visa and permit if selected. Rates of pay are based on local labor standards. The chosen individuals and/or organizations will be required to provide a police clearance certificate. Only shortlisted individuals and/or organizations will be contacted for interviews. Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis and recruitment will be closed once suitable individuals and/or organizations are selected.

STATE MORTGAGE & INVESTMENT BANK Career Opportunities at SMIB



SMIB, as the premier housing Bank to the Nation, is in the process of restructuring the Bank's operation with a view to offer a higher level of customer satisfaction and wider variety of services. As such we invite applications from candidates who have demonstrated dynamic leadership roles and make full commitment to achieve business goals with relevant qualifications and experience for the following post.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Key Responsibilities:

- Establishing financial objectives in line with organizational objectives.
- Develop financial strategies by estimating, forecasting and anticipating requirements, trends, and variances, aligning monetary resources, measuring and analyzing results, initiating corrective actions and minimizing the impact of variances.
- Guide employee actions by researching, developing, writing, and updating policies, procedures, methods, and guidelines, communicating and enforcing organization values.
- Providing an accurate and timely financial service including setting and monitoring of budgets, forecasts, cash flow analysis, financial accounts and advice and support to inform decision making at all levels.
- Assist in formulating the bank's future direction and supporting tactical initiatives.
- Monitor and direct the implementation of strategic business plans.
- Carry out any work as assigned by Assistant General Manager (Finance) or higher officers in the bank.

Qualifications:

Associate Membership of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka/Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of UK.

OR

Bachelor's degree in Accountancy/Finance with Intermediate or licentiate examination of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka or stage I and II examinations of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of UK.

Experience:

10 years' experience in Accountancy/Finance of which minimum 03 years at senior management level and experience in a Banking institution will be an added qualification.

Remuneration:

Salary Scale: Rs. 122,105 - 3,540 x 12 - 164,585 per month together with Bank approved allowances. Monthly gross salary on this basis would be approximately:

Minimum	Maximum
198,633/-	254,706/-

Age: Not more than 40 years (The age limit will not however apply to those already employed in a state sector organization)

General Conditions:

Method of Selection - Inviting applications as per the recruitment policy and procedure of the Bank. Selection by Interview

Other Benefits

- Provident fund contribution of 15% by the employer and 10% by the employee. Contribution to the ETF is made by the Bank
- Annual bonus of two months gross salary
- Housing loans at concessionary rates after confirmation in the service
- Benefits under Bank's medical scheme
- Encashment of unutilized medical leave

Closing Date for Applications: 07.09.2020

How to Apply:

Interested qualified candidates should send their Curriculum Vitae and copies of their Educational/Professional transcripts and the names, addresses and contact numbers of two professional non-related referees. Post applied for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing the application.

All applications will be treated as strict confidential and any form of canvassing will be regarded as a disqualification. The Bank reserves the right to decide the selection, postponement or cancellation of recruitment or any other action and/or change the selection criteria for this recruitment. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final and conclusive.

Applications should be sent under Registered Post to:

**General Manager / CEO,
State Mortgage and Investment Bank,
No. 269, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.**

VACANCY

PRODUCTION QUALITY CONTROLLER

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL), widely known as Lake House, is the home and heart of print media in Sri Lanka, invites experienced, young, energetic candidates who are able to work as team players.

Qualifications & Requirements :

- Passed G.C.E.(A/L) in any stream
- Good knowledge in Adobe indesign, illustrator and Photoshop Packages
- Good knowledge of Process Colours, Enhancements and calibrations to suit printing methods
- Good knowledge of Computer -To- Plate (CTP) processing
- Should be willing to work long hours/shift basis (day/night)
- Certificates in Printing technology will be an added qualification

Job Profile :

- Checking printing quality on time
- Checking advertisements with original guide
- Co-ordinate with CTP section and the press

Age : Below 30 years

Salary : Selected candidates will be offered an attractive remuneration package

Please forward your completed Curriculum Vitae within seven days of this advertisement with names and contact details of two non-related referees to the under-mentioned address stating the position on the top left hand corner of the envelope or e-mail to the following e-mail address with the subject line "Post of Production Quality Controller".



Head of Human Capital
The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited
No.35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.
dgm.hc@lakehouse.lk



PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA

VACANCIES

POST OF DEPUTY CO-ORDINATING ENGINEER

Applications are invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka who are physically sound and of excellent moral character for the post of "Deputy Co-ordinating Engineer" on the Staff of the Secretary-General of Parliament.

Applications prepared in accordance with the specimen published on the website: www.parliament.lk should be sent under registered cover to reach the "Secretary-General of Parliament, Parliament of Sri Lanka, Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte" on or before September 04, 2020. The "Post of Deputy Coordinating Engineer" should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. (This information and specimen application form are also available on government gazette dated 21 August 2020).

1. Salary Scale

According to the Schedule I of the Management Services Circular 06/2016 dated 07.11.2016, the monthly salary scale specified for this post is Rs. 62,595 - 7 x 1,630 / 6 x 2,170 - 87,025 /- (The minimum initial gross monthly remuneration together with all the allowances including chartered engineers' allowance will be approximately Rs. 150,000.00)

2. Age Limit

Should be not less than 30 years and not more than 45 years of age by the closing date for applications (Upper age limit will not be applicable for the applicants who have been confirmed in their posts in Government/Provincial Government service and on the Staff of the Secretary - General of Parliament)

3. Educational Qualifications

Should have obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical/Electronic Engineering from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission.

4. Professional Qualifications

Should be a corporate member of a recognized institute of Engineering as stated in the Engineering Council, Sri Lanka, Act No. 4 of 2017.

5. Experience

Experience in the field of Electrical/Electronic Engineering preferably in building maintenance.

Note: candidates possessing the qualifications mentioned under (3) above and having not less than 10 years of experience in the Staff of the Secretary General of Parliament can also apply for this vacancy.

6. Method of Recruitment

Through an interview

7. Terms and Conditions of Service

i. This post is permanent. Pension entitlement pertaining to this post will be determined according to policy decisions taken by the Government in future. Appointment will be made subject to a three-year (3) probation period. If a person who has been confirmed in a permanent, pensionable post in the Public/ Provincial Public service is selected, he / she will be appointed subject to an acting period of one year.

ii. Selected candidates will be subjected to the Financial and Departmental Regulations applicable to the staff of the Secretary - General of Parliament.

iii. Selected candidates should contribute to the Widows' and Orphans'/Widowers' and Orphans' Pension Fund from his/her salary with a percentage specified by the Government.

iv. Selected candidates will be subjected to a medical examination.

v. A Security Clearance Report with respect to the selected candidate will be obtained prior to his/her appointment.

8. Applicants should attach the copies of the following certificates (not originals) to their applications. Originals of the certificates should be produced, when called upon to do so.

- Birth Certificate
- Certificates of Educational Qualifications
- Certificates of Professional Qualifications
- Certificates of Experience

9. Applicants serving in the Public/ Provincial Public Service should send their applications through relevant Heads of Departments / Institutions.

10. Canvassing in any form will be a disqualification.

11. Applications received after the closing date or sent without copies of the relevant certificates or not sent through Heads of Departments / Institutions will be rejected. Applications sent through Heads of Departments / Institutions but received after the closing date, and applications not prepared in accordance with the specimen will also be rejected.

W.B.D. Dasanayake
Secretary - General of Parliament

Parliament of Sri Lanka,
Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte.
August 23, 2020



RN Vision is a diversified group specialised in Importing, marketing, Manufacturing and retailing of Anti Cancer Drugs in Sri Lanka.

Part of the diversification is RN Health retail arm with its state of the art pharmacy which will be opening soon in heart of Colombo.

Looking for dynamic, energetic self-motivated individuals who are looking for carrier development and ability to take challenges and is well motivated in work.



Pharmacist

Professional Qualified pharmacist with excellent knowledge in prescription and medicine. Ability to communicate in English with pleasing personality and strong customer care skills. Ability to work long hours when required. Previous experience is a necessity.

Assistant Pharmacist

Fully / Part qualified with strong personality. Willing to learn and with previous experience will be an added advantage.

Pharmacy Assistant

Suitable candidate with experience

All vacancies will have attractive salary and other fringe benefits.

Please forward your CV on or before 6th September 2020 to

carriers@rnvision.lk

No. 82, Barnes Place, Colombo 7



Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation Ltd

No:100, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02.



VACANCY

ASSISTANT INTERNAL AUDITOR (JM 1-1) - 01 Vacancy

We are looking for result oriented & self motivated individual with exceptional integrity & competence to result for the following position.

Job Description

- Assisting to preparation of annual audit plan.
- Conducting audit of the Organization's operations according to the annual audit plan.
- Assisting to prepare of internal audit reports.
- Monitoring of resource utilization of the organization and providing information if any need arises.
- Assisting to coordinate government audit and organization.
- Assisting to conduct audit committee of the organization.
- Assisting to conduct annual stock verification and fixed assets verification of the organization.
- Assisting to conduct audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Audit Standards.
- Doing any other duties which are assigned by the management from time to time.

External Candidates (1or 2 below) :

1. A Degree in a relevant field of Management, Commerce, Accountancy or finance which is recognized by the U.G.C.

AND

At least two (02) years post qualifying experience in a relevant field in a Corporation, Board or a Reputed Statutory Institution.

2. Having passed the Intermediate Examination of a recognized professional Chartered Institute, of which the subject area is relevant to the post.

AND

At least two (02) years post qualifying experience in a relevant field in a Corporation, Board or a Reputed Statutory Institution.

General Conditions

- Age :Age should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.
- Other:

Every Applicant

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island
- Should be of excellent moral character.

- Salary Scale (as at 01.01.2020)
Rs.51,285/- (17 X Rs.1,135/-) Rs.70,580/-
The initial salary point for the above post is Rs.51,285/-
Rs.7,800/- Cost of Living Allowance.
- Application Procedure

Applicants giving full bio- data together with copies of all certificates for academic, professional qualifications & experience with names, addresses & telephone numbers of two non related referees should be sent to reach to following address on or before 6th of September 2020 under the registered post indicating the post applied on the top left hand corner of the envelop. Applicants from Departments/Statutory Board/Public Corporations/ Fully Government Corporations should send their applications through the respective Heads of the Organizations. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Incomplete applications will be rejected without intimation.

TEL : 011 2384603 / 011 2422341 / 2440880
FAX : 011 2447970
E-MAIL : lankagen@sitnet.lk
WEB : www.stc.lk

Chairman
Sri Lanka State Trading
(General) Corporation Ltd,
No. 100, Nawam Mawatha,
Colombo 02.

VACANCY

PRODUCTION EXECUTIVE

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL), widely known as Lake House, is the home and heart of print media in Sri Lanka, invites experienced, young, energetic candidates who are able to work as team players.

Qualifications & Requirements :

- A degree from a recognized university or Diploma in Printing Technology from a recognized Institution
- Good knowledge in Adobe indesign, illustrator and Photoshop Packages
- Well conversant in English Language
- Should be willing to work long hours/shift basis
- Two years of experience in the relevant field will be a distinct advantage

Job Profile :

- Prepare monthly and weekly production plans and share them with stakeholders on time
- Prepare print templates on time
- Co-ordinate the completion of pages with Advertising/Editorial/Technical/Printing Departments
- Convert Indesign files to pdf format for checking technical errors
- On time submission to CTP
- On time quality check
- Archive digital ads and editorial pages
- Co-ordinate smooth running of production process

Age : Below 30 years

Salary : The selected candidates will be offered an attractive remuneration package

Please forward your completed Curriculum Vitae within seven days of this advertisement with names and contact details of two non-related referees to the under-mentioned address stating that position on the top left hand corner of the envelope or e-mail to the following e-mail address with the subject line "Post of Production Executive".



Head of Human Capital
The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited
No.35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.
dgm.hc@lakehouse.lk

VACANCIES

FLOOR MANAGER

We are looking for dynamic individuals who believe in results through staff motivation and team work.

Qualifications: GCE A/L and should be under 45 years. Minimum of 3 years experience in a similar capacity is preferred.

SUPERVISORS

Those with GCE A/L and under 30 years with a minimum of 2 years experience preferred.

Kindly indicate the position you wish to be considered for on the top left hand corner of the envelope and send your Resume to reach us within 10 days.

Director

Penguin Toys & Novelties (Pvt) Ltd.,
2nd Floor, Penguin Center,
106-2/1, Prince Street, Colombo 11.

Email: info@penguin toys.lk

IMMEDIATE VACANCIES AVAILABLE

1. Call Center Executives
2. Customercare Executives
3. Marketing Executives
4. Optical Sales Manager
5. Optical Sales Executives
6. Optometrist
7. Maintenance Executive

Interested candidates can mail their resume to our mail address.

vcare@vasanhealthcare.lk



Cricket Head Coach

Applications Call for Cricket Head Coach at Mahinda College, Galle.

Applicant should have.....

- Minimum of level 2 qualification with 3 years experience .
- Be an individual with strong values such as honesty, integrity, sportsmanship and work ethics.
- Be computer literate.
- Good communication skills, in Sinhala and English
- Be able to work with the college cricket administration and formulating short and long term plans for developing cricket at Mahinda College (People who are with the proven track record with lesser qualifications may consider)

How to Apply...

Pls send your bio data, address to the Principal, Mahinda College, Galle or mahindapincipal@gmail.com before 29th Aug 2020.



MESNA (CEYLON) LTD HAS VACANCIES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSSITIONS

TRAINEE PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS (Female)

Qualifications:

A sound Educational Background with G.C.E O/L Ages of 18 to 40

All Applicants should possess Fair Knowledge of English(Spoken & Written) & Computer Literacy

Applications to be posted by the 31st August 2020

Apply to :
H.R. Manager by e-mail
euroscan@slt.lk or mlesnat@sltnet.lk
H.R. Manager,
Mesna (Ceylon) Ltd,
P.O. 2072, Colombo 07.

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in the

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RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA MIHINTALE VACANCIES

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following posts.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND ALLIED SCIENCES

APPLICANTS SHOULD POSSESS MBBS OR EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATION

> Applicants with MBBS or equivalent qualification who have completed internship or are about to complete internship will also be considered.

- 1) Department of Anatomy
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 2) Department of Physiology
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 3) Department of Parasitology
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 4) Department of Forensic Medicine
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 5) Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 6) Department of Family Medicine
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 7) Department of Microbiology
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 8) Department of Pharmacology
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 9) Department of Pathology
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 10) Department of Paediatrics
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 11) Office of the Dean (in Anesthesiology/Radiology/Medical Informatics)
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 12) Department of Psychiatry
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 13) Department of Medicine
 - Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 14) Department of Surgery
 - Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)
- 15) Medical Education Unit
 - Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

> Please refer the Scheme of Recruitment in the University Web Site

1.2 FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Department of Accountancy & Finance

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialization :-

Advanced Auditing, Governance and Risk
Advanced Accounting Theory
Advanced Management Accounting
Business Valuation
Computer Based Accounting
Corporate Reporting
Data Analytics in Accounting & Finance
Financial Modeling & Forecasting
Financial Statement Analysis
Forensic Accounting
Investment & Portfolio Management
Research/Project in Accounting & Finance Taxation

Department of Information Systems

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialization :-

Data Base Management Systems
Web Application Development
Computer Programming
Information Systems Strategy and Management
Mathematics for Computing
IS Security and Risk Management
Software Quality Assurance
IS Audit and Control

- Positions: Instructor (Computer Technology) Grade II (Selection by aptitude test and interview)

> Please refer the Scheme of Recruitment in the University Web Site

Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialization :-

Professional Cookery
Food and Beverage Management
Cost Controlling and Revenue Management in Hospitality Industry

> Please refer the Scheme of Recruitment in the University Web Site

1.3 FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Required Areas - Field and Analytical Archaeology, Heritage Management, Project Management, Architectural and Material Conservation, Historical Archaeology, Irrigation Archaeology.

> Please refer the Scheme of Recruitment in the University Web Site

1.4 FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Department of Plant Sciences

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Areas - Bio-informatics

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Areas - Plantation Crop Production, Export Agriculture Crop Production

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Subject Areas - Crop Physiology and Abiotic Stress Management

> Please refer the Scheme of Recruitment in the University Web Site

1.5 FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

Department of Information & Communication Technology

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty : ICT / IT / Computer Science / Computer Engineering / MIT

Department of Materials Technology

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty : Materials Engineering/Mechanical Engineering/Production Engineering/Chemical Engineering/Civil Engineering

Department of Food Technology

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty : Food Physics, Food Engineering

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty : Functional Food and Food Toxicology

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty : Food Microbiology, Food, Biotechnology, Food Nutrition

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty : Food Marketing, Food Economics

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty : Food Chemistry, Food Analysis

Department of Bioprocess Technology

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty : Bioinformatics

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Area of Specialty : Drug Designing and Synthesis

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Area of Specialty : Animal Biotechnology / Animal Molecular Biology

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty : Bio-process Technology, Bioreactor design and operation; Bioprocess Optimization and Simulation and Bioprocess instrumentation and Control.

Department of Electrical and Electronic Technology

- Positions: Post of Professor, Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Specialty: Electrical / Electronic Engineering

> Please refer the Scheme of Recruitment in the University Web Site

Important

Please follow the following Circulars for the basic requirements to apply visiting University Web Site: <http://www.rjt.ac.lk/news/?cat=2> under the vacancy.

01. Post of Professor/Associate Professor - UGC Circular No. 916, 04/2010, 04/2014

02. Post of Senior Lecturer, Gr. I/II, Lecturer, Lecturer (Probationary) - UGC Circular Nos. 721, 08/2016 and 07/2018.

Applications

The application forms and relevant information could be downloaded from the University Web Site: <http://www.rjt.ac.lk/news/?cat=2>. Printed application forms can be obtained from Deputy Registrar/Academic Establishment Division, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on or before 16.09.2020.

How to apply

- I. The post applied for should be clearly mentioned in the application (one post only)
- II. The post applied for should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- III. The candidates who apply for more than one post should submit separate applications in separate covers for each post.
- IV. Permanent staff candidates in Public Service, Corporations, Statutory Boards and Universities should forward their applications through respective Heads of Institution within two weeks of the closing date of application. They should send an advance copy of the application to reach the Deputy Registrar, Academic Establishments Division, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Applications which are not received through proper channels will be rejected.
- V. Certified Photocopies of the certificates of Educational/Professional qualifications and Service Certificates etc. should be sent along with the application.

The duly completed applications on prescribed forms together with certified copies of relevant documents (degree certificates, academic transcripts, service certificates etc) should be sent under Registered Cover to reach the Deputy Registrar/Academic Establishments Division, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale on or before 21.09.2020. Additional documentation in support of any application will not be entertained after the closing date of applications.

Applications through respective Heads of Department will not be accepted after two weeks of closing date of application.

Candidates should have completed the requisite qualifications for this post in every aspect on or before the closing date of the applications.

Incomplete applications, applications without supporting documents (degree certificates, academic transcripts, Service certificates etc.) and applications received after the closing date will be rejected. Complaint that an application has been lost or delayed in post will not be considered. Applications will not be entertained if they are handed over in person. The University will not bear the responsibility for such submissions.

University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates and call for interview such candidates only.

Registrar,
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka,
Mihintale.

23.08.2020

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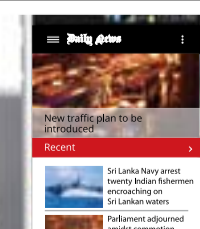
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SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA BELIHULOYA

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VACANCIES

i. Graduate Translator Grade II

Qualifications : (i). A Degree of a recognized University with Sinhala / Tamil as a subject

AND

A Credit pass in English Language or Literature at the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination or should have passed the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) or higher examination in the English medium.

Age : Not more than 45 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By Test and Interview.

Salary Scale : UMN 3(II)
Rs. 42,885 - 18x660 - 54,765/= (p.m.)

Note : Preference will be given to Graduates who have studied English as a subject for the Degree and/or who are proficient in all three Languages.

ii. Sub Warden Gr. II (Full Time)

Qualifications : A Graduate of a recognized University. Preference will be given to those with experience in administration and management of hostels.

Age : Not more than 45 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By Interview.

Salary Scale : UMN 3(II)
Rs. 42,885 - 18x660 - 54,765/= (p.m.)

iii. Audit Assistant Grade II

Qualifications : 1. Should have passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six (6) subjects at one sitting with Credit passes in :-
i. Sinhala Language / Tamil Language
ii. English Language / English Literature
iii. Mathematics

AND

2. Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Paper) at one sitting. (Passing in 3 subjects under the old syllabus at one sitting would be sufficient for this purpose)

AND

3. Post Specific Qualifications

(a) Preliminary Level/ Licentiate I/ Foundation Level/ CAB I/ Executive Level of Institute of Chartered Accountants in Sri Lanka or equivalent

OR

(b) Foundation Level of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

OR

(c) Higher National Diploma in Accountancy (HNDA) of Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE)

OR

(d) Membership of Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) of Association of Accounting Technicians of Sri Lanka

AND

4. Minimum of two (02) years experience in Auditing in State or recognized Private Organization.

Preference will be given to those who possess an acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By Interview.

Salary Scale : UMN 2(II)
Rs. 37,275 - 18x495 - 46,185/= (p.m.)

iv. Farm Supervisor Grade III

Qualifications : (i). G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination in six (6) subjects at not more than two (2) sittings with Credit passes in Sinhala / Tamil / English Language or Literature and Arithmetic / Commercial Arithmetic / Mathematics

AND

Practical Farm School Certificate or equivalent with ten years experience in a State Organization after obtaining such certificate

OR

(ii). School of Agriculture Diploma (Peradeniya or Kundasale) or equivalent with five years experience after such Diploma

Age : Not more than 45 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By Interview.

Salary Scale : UMT 1(III A)
Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275/= (p.m.)

v. Management Assistant Gr. III (Book Keeping)

Qualifications : 1. Should have passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six (6) subjects at one sitting with Credit passes in :-
i. Sinhala Language / Tamil Language
ii. English Language / English Literature
iii. Mathematics

AND

2. Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Paper) at one sitting.

Note : 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

AND

(b). Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.

* Post Specific Qualifications

(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. (Advanced Level) qualification should be in the Commerce Stream.

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By written Examination & Interview.

Salary Scale : UMN 1(III A)
Rs. 30,725 - 17x300 - 35,825/= (p.m.)

vi. Supervisor (Landscape) Grade III

Qualifications : 1. (a) (i). G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination in six (6) subjects at not more than two (2) sittings

AND

(ii). Successful completion of one year's practical training course in Agriculture conducted by the Department of Agriculture or equivalent.

Age : Not more than 45 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By Interview.

Salary Scale : UMT 1(III A)
Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275/= (p.m.)

vii. Supervisor (Maintenance) Grade III

Qualifications : i. (a). G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination in six (6) subjects at not more than two (2) sittings with Credit passes in Sinhala / Tamil / English Language or Literature and Arithmetic / Commercial Arithmetic / Mathematics.

(ii). At least 3 years' experience in Labourer supervision.

Age : Not more than 45 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By Aptitude Test & Interview

Salary Scale : UMN 1(III A)
Rs. 30,725 - 17x300 - 35,825/= (p.m.)

viii. Nursing Officer Grade II

Qualifications : (i). G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination in six (6) subjects at not more than two sittings with Credit passes in 03 subjects.

(ii). Certificate of competence as a Nurse recognised by the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

Age : Not more than 45 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By Interview

Salary Scale : UMT 1(III A)
Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275/= (p.m.)

ix. Public Health Inspector Grade III

Qualifications : (i). Should have passed the Public Health Inspectors Examination conducted by the Department of Health

Age : Not more than 45 years of age on the closing date of applications.

Selection : By Interview

Salary Scale : UMT 1(III A)
Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275/= (p.m.)

x. 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 Science subjects in the Science Stream ; Subject combination/s to be decided by the Faculty concerned upon the recommendation of the Department

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 to those 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(III A)
Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275/= (p.m.)

xi. Technical Officer (Chemical) Grade III

Qualifications : i. Should have passed in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination in one sitting in Science Stream

AND

ii. (a) Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology

OR

(b) 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 Chemistry / Chemical Engineering.

Note : Acceptability of the qualification mentioned in above (ii) (b) shall be judged by the Faculty concerned.

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 (III A)
Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275/= (p.m.)

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE :

01. These posts are 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. 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 an amount equal to ten (10%) percent of 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 to the staff where relevant.

HOW TO APPLY :

Application forms and relevant information could either be 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 **11.09.2020** 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 **18.09.2020**.

Applicants from the University system/ Government Departments/ Corporations/Statutory Boards, should channel their applications through their respective Heads of Institutions.

The University reserves 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

18.08.2020

Quantity Surveyor (Male) Wanted

- QS (Civil) - NDT / NCT
 - Age - Below 50 Years
- Ananda Constructions (PVT) Ltd
Boralesgamuwa
Tel: 0766 - 058820
E-mail CV to: anandaconcy@gmail.com

CLERICAL CLERK

- Ability to draft letters in Sinhala and English independently
- Ability to type the Sinhala and English letters using a computer
- Assist Senior Staff (such as filling forms, filing documents, etc.)

E-mail your CV to info@lhpc.com

L. H. Piyasena & Co. (Pvt) Ltd

151, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

VACANCIES

STOCK CLERK SALES ASSISTANT CASHIER

Leading Chemical Company is looking for suitable candidates for immediate employment
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The Partner,
Devi Trading Company,
125, Bankshall Street, Colombo 11.
Tel: 0112 335124-5

E-mail: devi@devitrading.com

VACANCIES

LEESONS HOSPITAL (PVT) LTD
33, Tewatta Road, Ragama.

- ❖ PHARMACIST (S.L.M.C Registered Persons)
- ❖ ASSISTANT PHARMACIST (1 Year Experience)
- ❖ ACCOUNTS CLERK (1 Year Experience) (Female)
 - Good knowledge on Accounts & Computers
 - Ability to work in flexible Hours
- ❖ NURSES (1 Year Experience-Female)
- ❖ TELEPHONE OPERATORS (Female)
- ❖ CASHIERS (Counters - Female)
- ❖ PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER (PRO) - Female

Salary Negotiable
Walk-in Interview - from 24th to 28th August 2020
From 9.30 am to 11.30am.

Career Opportunity

The leading Value Engineering Solutions Provider in Sri Lanka is pleased to invite applications for the following positions for their new project.

HR Executive / Officer

- Degree in HR
- 2-3 years' experience in similar capacity
- Proficiency in English / Sinhala Computing (Priority if Tamil is known)

The ideal candidate(s) should be a team player, having positive interpersonal and communication skills with willingness to work extended hours when necessary. Contact within 07 days.

Tel : 0773951229 - Sudath
E-Mail : tharakasudath@gmail.com

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**MINISTRY OF TRADE
COOPERATIVE WHOLESALE
ESTABLISHMENT (CWE)**



**INVITATION OF QUOTATIONS TO MAKE AVAILABLE
OFFICE PREMISES ON LEASE BASIS**

Tenders will be received to lease-out the following office premises belonging to the Cooperative Wholesale Establishment.

S/No	Place	Sq.Ft Area
01	274, Sri Jayewardenepura Road, Rajagiriya.	508
02	165, Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10 - Building No. 1	1,560
	- Building No. 2	4,977
	- Building No. 3	6,400
	- Building No. 4	223.44
	- Building No. 5	90.44
	- Building No. 6	130
	- Building No. 7	3,450.6
03	160, CWE Stores Complex, Maligawatta, Colombo 10.	
	- Building No. 1	2,190
	- Building No. 2	117
04	- Building No. 3	100
	595, CWE Stores Complex, Negombo Road, Welisara.	286

Relevant Bid documents can be obtained from the Procurement Section on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00, made to the Cashier. A refundable tender deposit of Rs. 10,000.00 should be paid at or before 10.00 a.m. on 11.09.2020 when submitting Bids.

Tender applications should be placed in the Tender Box No. 01 at or before 12.00 noon on 11.09.2020 and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidder or one of his authorized representatives can be present at the opening.

Premises inspections can be done from 24.08.2020 up to 10.09.2020, between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on Government Office working days. To obtain further details and for premises inspection, contact on the following Telephone Number :

Mr R.M. Dissanayake (Regional Supervisor) - 071-4952323

The Tender Board retains the right to the final decision with regard to this Tender.

**Chairman
Procurement Committee,
Cooperative Wholesale Establishment,
No. 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.**



**STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites sealed quotations from registered and previous sources for following items and bids will be closed at the respective times on the dates given below and will be opened immediately thereafter.

(E. mail /Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable).

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 the mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

LAB ITEMS

TENDER NO./BID REFERENCE	CLOSING DATE	CLOSING TIME	ITEM	QTY
DHS/RL/4NK/21	07.09.2020	02.30 P.M.	1/45200103-Quality control serum for clinical chemistry, assayed, freeze dried ; normal range 5ml / vial	375 vials
			2/45200203-Quality control serum for clinical chemistry, assayed, freeze dried ; pathological range 5ml / vial	375 vials
DHS/RL/51NK/20	07.09.2020	02.30 P.M.	3/56604401-Microtome blade holder for disposable blades	10 Nos

SURGICAL ANNUAL ITEMS

Tender No./Bid Reference	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item	Quantity
DHS/RS/RQ/60/20	28.08.2020	2.00 pm	Blood Lines Set	200,000 Nos.

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available at the Head Office of State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1.

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 award.

**CHAIRMAN - PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA
COLOMBO 1
SRI LANKA.**

FAX : 00 94-11- 2335008/2344082
TELEPHONE : 00 94-11- 2335008/2326227/2335374
E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Constructions Contracts, University of Colombo

Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major / Minor) , University of Colombo, Colombo 03 invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following Constructions Contracts.

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from places indicated in Column 04 of the below table from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. free of charge or by visiting the university website <http://www.cmb.ac.lk> to inspect the document.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written request upon payment of a non-refundable fee indicated in Column 05 of the below table for each set of bid documents during office hours (9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on any working day) till the day prior to the bid closing date. Non-refundable fee can be paid to the University of Colombo Main Collection Account of the People's Bank at Thimbrigasyaya Branch using the reference number 505170600013 from any branch of People's Bank.

The bids shall be deposited in the 'Tender Box' available in the Registrar's Office of the University of Colombo or sent under registered cover to be received before the deadline to reach **"The office of the Registrar, College House, University of Colombo, No. 94, Cumarathunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo- 03"**. Bids will be opened immediately after the bid closing time and date as indicated in Column 02, in the presence of Bidders and their authorized representatives. Late Bids will be rejected.

DPC - Department Procurement Committee

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bid Number / Item Description	Bid Closing Date & Time	Procurement Committee	Place of the Purchase of Bid Documents / T.P. Numbers	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Value of Bid Security (Rs.)	Source of Funding	Cost Estimate (Rs.)
MD/MR/C/16/2020 Repairing Roof of the Main Building of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo	17.09.2020 Time : 2.30 p.m.	DPC	Senior Assistant Registrar / Deans Office Faculty of Law University of Colombo Senior Assistant Registrar T.P. 0112500942	Rs. 5,000/=	Rs. 200,000/=	Treasury Funds	Rs. 23,000,000/=
MD/MR/B/17/2020 Refurbishing Smart Class Room (Room 118) Faculty of Arts	17.09.2020 Time : 2.30 p.m.	DPC	DR/Deans Office Faculty of Arts University of Colombo Deputy Registrar T.P. 0112500442	Rs. 1,500/=	Rs. 50,000/=	Confucius Institute Funds	Rs. 4,000,000/=

**The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
University of Colombo
94, Cumarathunga Munidasa Mawatha,
Colombo - 03.**

United Nations Development Programme



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Leading the Integrated Design and Delivery of the Social Innovation Camps 2020 in Sri Lanka

(RFP/PID/2020/53)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka wishes to call for Request for Proposals from qualified service providers to provide a Proposal for Leading the Integrated Design and Delivery of the Social Innovation Camps 2020 in Sri Lanka.

This procurement process is being conducted through Online Tendering System of UNDP and detailed instructions and link to the e tendering event can be accessed from www.lk.undp.org Procurement > Procurement Notices.

A virtual pre bid meeting will be conducted on 25th August 2020 at 2.30 pm (Sri Lanka Time) via ZOOM. The Link to Zoom meeting is provided in the above web advertisement and in the e tendering event.

Bid Submission deadline appearing on e-Tendering portal will be FINAL and prevail on the ones appearing on other websites.

Proposals submitted via email or by hard copies will not be accepted.

Head of Procurement/Administration
United Nations Development Programme
202-204, Baudhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal. The procurement process will be governed by the rules and regulations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AGENCY OF SRI LANKA

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

Selection and Employment of an Individual Consultants

ICTA/GOSL/CON/IC/2020/02

We, Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka is the apex ICT institution of the Government. In terms of the Information and Communication Technology amended Act No. 33 of 2008, (ICT Act) ICTA has been mandated to take all necessary measures to implement the Government's Policy and Action Plan in relation to ICT. In terms of Section 6 of the ICT Act, ICTA is required to assist the Cabinet of Ministers in the formulation of the National Policy on ICT and provide all information necessary for its formulation are in the process of **Selecting and Employment of an Individual Consultants to execute the Communication activities of ICTA (Full Time)**

The "Terms of Reference" and other document are now available at ICTA website, interested consultants may download them through <https://www.icta.lk/procurement> and respond accordingly before 3 p.m on 4th September 2020.

Chairman,
Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka
160/24, Kirimandala Mawatha,
Colombo 5.
Sri Lanka.

Phone: +94 11 2369099 Fax: 94 11 2369091 www.icta.lk

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Background: The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPA Sri Lanka), the pioneer in Family Planning and Reproductive Health Education is an accredited member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in United Kingdom

CONSULTANT/CONSULTANCY AGENCY

Evaluation of the Governance Process of FPA Sri Lanka.

The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka, the leading non-governmental organization working on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, is on the lookout for a Consultant/Consultancy Agency to carry out a review of its Governance Body and Governing processes, as a part of an ongoing process of Governance Reforms of International Planned Parenthood Federation, the global federation of national organizations working in the SRHR space.

The first analytical phase of the reforms will involve an evaluation or SWOT analysis to review the existing governance model and its effectiveness against set criteria, including the effectiveness of governance oversight, the cost of governance and other factors. The consultant is expected to conduct an in-depth analysis of FPA Sri Lanka's governance structure and its functioning.

Objectives of the consultancy:

- To analyse FPA Sri Lanka's governance structures against international governance best practices, evaluating their cost-effectiveness, and the fulfilment of their governance roles including but not limited to setting the strategic direction, approving policy frameworks, and overseeing the financial situation of the organizations.
- To provide recommendations and an action plan to improve the governance structures.

Scope of Work

- Conduct a thorough diagnosis of the governance of the MA through a SWOT analysis or using similar tools, appreciative inquiry analysis (learning from what works well and exploring how to scale FPA Sri Lanka's good practice at different levels)
- Analysis of the different roles and responsibilities (including communication flow) – between governance and management roles; this could include:
 - The official and formal roles and relationships within the organization
 - All informal roles and practices that play a key role in the governance dynamics:
- Review of the MA constitution/regulations/statutes/bylaws/meeting minutes etc.
- Analysis and selection/recruitment/appointment/election/evaluation process and challenges related to appointment of the relevant profiles of "talents" – making the FPA Sri Lanka more responsive to the needs of its beneficiaries.
- Analysis of good governance practice relevant for similar governance dynamics in comparison with global and national good practises.
- Consultation with key stake-holders within FPA Sri Lanka, IPPF, partners and donors.
- Propose a governance structure that fits the purpose and mandate of FPA Sri Lanka.

Expected results (deliverables):

- A detailed report with findings and recommendations that captures the main features of the governance review, contains analysis of specific findings, presents comparative studies from other similar structures etc.
- A clear proposal for improved and agile governance structures including the proposed changes required in the constitution/regulations of FPA Sri Lanka.
- An action plan for implementation of the governance reforms in consultation with the current Leadership.

Project Timeline: This project is expected to be carried within eight weeks of commencement.

Required qualifications and expertise:

The consultant or agency should have the following qualifications:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in social/political sciences, economics, business administration, engineering, and relevant proven experience working directly with Boards or consulting for governance reform, combined with at least 7 years of experience.
- Desired Master's degree in public policy, public administration, governance, development studies, international development or any other related field of study
- Expertise and experience in the area of governance or organisational development
- Familiarity with not for profit sector and preferably in the field of sexual and reproductive health
- Knowledge in statutory regulations and compliances for civil society organisations in Sri Lanka will be added advantage

Criteria for Selection

- Scope and appropriateness of services proposed; clear understanding by the applicant of work to be performed.
- Prior experience of working on similar assignments in the field of organization development or governance assessments.
- Experience of working with NGOs.
- Prior experience or familiarity with IPPF and exposure to the IPPF Member Associations in the past is an added advantage, **though not mandatory.**

The evaluation of the proposal will be based on a combined scoring method – where the technical evaluation is given 70% weightage and financial offer with be given 30% weightage. Interested parties are requested to send in an Expression of Interest with the proposed methodology for this assignment to:

The President,
The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka,
No : 37/27, Bullers Lane, Colombo 7
Email address: governance@fpasrilanka.org
Closing date: 1 September 2020



SALE OF USED VEHICLES

Handicap International Federation- HI, (Humanity & Inclusion is our new operating name), is an independent International Humanitarian Organization working in Sri Lanka since 2004, invites sealed bids for the sale used vehicles as per details listed below,

Reg No	Vehicle	Mak & Model	YOM
WP KV - XXXX	Station wagon	TOYOTA Avanza 1495 cc	2012
EP JD - XXXX	Dual Purpose Van Diesel	TOYOTA LH119 -0106184	1998
WP HH - XXXX	4 WD Double cab	Toyota Hilux	2002

Terms and Conditions

- The vehicles listed 1-3 can be inspected between 10am - 3pm on weekdays by prior appointment with logistic unit from 24/Aug/2020 to 07/Sep/2020 at 97/8, Jambugasmulla Mawatha, Nugegoda, contact Tel Phone: 011 582 5022 ext 13 or 23.
- Sealed offers should be sent either by registered post or deposited in the tender box at the same address not later than 12.00hrs on or before 07/Sep/2020. Any bids / offers received after the closing date and time will be automatically rejected.
- The vehicle registration number should be clearly written on top left hand corner of the sealed envelope.
- The above said vehicles will be sold "As it is" basis. HI will not hold any responsibility after handing over of the vehicle concerning any technical defect or any other quality issue.
- The HI's Committee will open sealed bids on 07th Sep 2020 at 14:30 hrs. The HI will consider the highest and acceptable bidding amount to be the winner. Bidders also have to present to the HI the original his/her Identification Card.
- The bid winner MUST deposit the bid price in cash immediately at the bank recommended by HI. If the bid winner is unable to pay in whole amount, he must deposit at least 25% of the bid price and pay the remaining amount within 24 hours from the date of the auction.
- Transfer of ownership fee, registration fee, tax and other expenses must be paid by the bidder. The winning bidder can pick up the vehicle after the transfer of ownership is completed.
- HI reserves the rights to reject or accept any of the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Logistics Manager
Handicap International Federation
97/8, Jambugasmulla Mawatha,
Nugegoda.

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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/2020/08

Communications campaign to address Violence Against Women and Girls.

This Request for Quotation is open to all legally-constituted companies that can provide the requested services and have legal capacity to perform in Sri Lanka, or through an authorized representative.

To view the detailed RFQ please visit the following website:

<https://srilanka.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.



MINISTRY OF TRADE

COOPERATIVE WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENT (CWE)

Korean Donyan AM 15 - Single Phase, 140 Nos. Small Scale Rice Processing Machines, imported by the CWE, will be sold by Tender

The above rice processing machines can be inspected at the CWE McCullum Stores Complex from **24.08.2020** up to **11.09.2020**, on government working days, between **9.00 a.m.** and **3.00 p.m.**. Relevant tender forms can be obtained from the Procurement Section on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 and a refundable deposit of Rs. 5,000.00, made to the Shroff.

Completed tender applications should be placed in the Tender Box, to be received at or before 14.00 hrs on 14.09.2020 and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidder or one of this authorized representatives can be present at the opening.

To obtain further details and for inspections, contact on the following telephone number.

- Mr. D.G.M. Chandana - 071-4420427

The Tender Board retains the right to the final decision with regard to this tender.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee
Cooperative Wholesale Establishment,
No. 27, Vauxhall Street,
Colombo 02.**

A land with a house for sale in Madulawa, Padukka

The house comprises five bedrooms, three bathrooms, a large kitchen, store room, two extra rooms and two garages, well water facility available. If necessary, road water can be obtained. The land one acre in extent consisting of several fruits with Thambili and Coconut plantation while bordering two bus routes. Can be inspected.

**For more details
Contact: 072-6951852**



UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

For the establishment of modern agribusiness venture at the Gamudawa site of the University of Ruhuna

The above "Expressions of Interest" was published in Dinamina, Daily News and Thinakaran on 09th July 2020 and the same was published in Sunday Observer and Sunday Lankadeepa on 12th July 2020. The closing date of that Advertisement was mentioned as 11th August 2020 and it is hereby notified that the same is extended for another one (01) month up to 11th September 2020.

**Registrar
University of Ruhuna**

NOTICE!

Ministry of Ports and Shipping

It is hereby notified that on instructions and guidance of Hon. Minister of Ports and Shipping, Rohitha Abeygunawardana, the following Telephone Numbers can be contacted to provide information aiming at elimination of financial and other type of various fraudulent acts being committed using the names of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Ceylon Shipping Corporation and Merchant Shipping Secretariat which function under the Ministry of Ports and Shipping.

Designation	Institution	Contact No.
Senior Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Ports and Shipping	011-2323258
Director(Logistics)	Sri Lanka Ports Authority	011-2324096
Assistant General Manager (Human Resources)	Ceylon Shipping Corporation	011-2394624
Law Officer	Merchant Shipping Secretariat	011-2449236

**Secretary
Ministry of Ports and Shipping**

Replies to Classifieds

&

Casual Advertisements published C/o the

Daily News

should only be sent by ordinary post.

Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.



TENDER NOTICE

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
Gliclazide Modified Release Tablets 60mg In 10 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	36,000 Packs	RES/07/09/A/2020	07.09.2020
Budesonide 400mcg + Formoterol Fumarate 6mcg Capsules. In 10 x 10 Capsules (Blister)	18,000 Packs	RES/07/09/B/2020	07.09.2020
Donepezil Hydrochloride Tablets 5mg In 3 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	4,000 Packs	RES/07/09/C/2020	07.09.2020

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.

**Chairman - Procurement Committee,
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka,
75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha,
Colombo 01.
Phone : 00 94 11 2320 356 - 9**



CALLING 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' (EOI) FOR 'SCORING SOFTWARE SOLUTION'

SRI LANKA CRICKET (SLC), an International Brand with Global Recognition wishes to invite renowned organizations in the field of Software Developers/Solution Providers to provide Internet scoring and statistical solution for Sri Lanka Cricket for either of the following modules;

- 1). To develop a sophisticated Software Solution for SLC to capture, store and analyze the real-time scoring for domestic/ international Cricket matches.
- 2). partnering with SLC to offer fully-fledged score capturing, managing and analyzing services using the Software Solutions owned, managed and controlled by the Partner for domestic, international Cricket matches of SLC for the next three years.

Interested firms are invited to submit their letters of Expression of Interest [EOI] (indicating the module which it wishes to submit the EOI) together with a brief introduction and summary of credentials of the organization via e-mail to SLC on it@srilankacricicket.lk to reach on or before 1.00 p.m. on 31st August 2020. If you require any further information in relation to this EOI, please contact Assistant Manager - IT Digital Services - SLC via 0770241072.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) detailing SLC's Requirements, benefits offered and guidelines in relation to the captioned Tender process will be notified to the parties who submit Letters of EOI.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this invitation for EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Chief Executive Officer
Sri Lanka Cricket**



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 Department of Health Services for year 2020.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of Issuing of Bidding Documents	Non-refundable Bid Fee
DHS/P/WW/398/18	06.10.2020 at 9.00 a.m.	400 Bottles of Oxybutynine Hydrochloride oral solution 1mg/5ml, 100ml bottle	24.08.2020	Rs. 3,000/= + Taxes

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours & 1500 hours at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bid fee per set as mentioned above. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever applicable potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bidding 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 the mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake 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 also.

**CHAIRMAN - DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA
COLOMBO 1
SRI LANKA.**

**FAX : 00 94-11- 2344082
TELEPHONE : 00 94-11- 2326227/94-11-2335374
E-MAIL : pharma.manager@spc.lk**

Sri Lanka Insurance

BID NOTICE

CALL FOR BIDS TO SELECT A CONTRACTOR FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT

BID REF : SLIC/PREM/001/2020

Invitation for Bid- Supply and installation of Passenger Lifts(04Nos)
for Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd. Head Office

Expected Duration:- within 150 days from the commencement
Project will be funded by Sri Lanka Insurance

Eligibility Criteria

- Bidder should be a registered contractor to the Government of Sri Lanka.
- Bidder should be specialized in Electrical and Mechanical service (EM)
- Bidder should be registered with Construction industry development authority (CIDA) under Electrical and Mechanical services (EM) category (EM 03 or above), (Document proof should be submitted with the bid)
- Bidder should have not been blacklisted previously.

Terms & Conditions

- Prospective contractors who fulfill the above criteria can collect the Bid documents on a submission of letter of request by paying a non-refundable tender fee of Rs. 9000/-, from below mentioned address.

Bid Particulars:-

- Issuing Period : 24.08.2020 to 14.09.2020 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
- Pre Bid meeting : 04.09.2020 at 2.00 p.m Procurement Department Meeting Room(8th Floor)
- Bid Closing Date : 15.09.2020 at 1.00 pm
- Bid Opening Date : 15.09.2020 at 1.00 pm
- Bid Security : Rs. 500,000/- irrevocable, encashable bid bond drawn on a Commercial Bank in Sri Lanka, valid until 15.12.2020
- Bid Submission Location : Procurement Department,8th Floor, Sri Lanka Insurance, No. 21 Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.
- Bidding documents can be inspected free of charge at the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head Office during normal working hours. (from 24.08.2020 to 14.09.2020, 9am to 4.00pm)
- Late bids will be returned unopened.
- The final decision in this regard will be with Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd.

Contact Details - 011-2357964

AGM Procurement & Property Management
Procurement Department
Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd
08th Floor
No.21, Vauxhall Street
Colombo 02.
Web: www.srilankainsurance.com
Email: deshapiyag@srilankainsurance.com
Company Registration Number - PB 289



Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha

Procurement Notice

Construction of Moronthota Public Market Complex Project Stage Two

- (1) Saled bids will be received by me, Chairman of the Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha from qualified Bidders for the construction of the Moronthota Public Market Project Complex in the Kegalle Division, Kegalle District.
- (2) Bidders should be registered in C7 or above Grade at the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the buildings field and successfully completed at least one building construction similar in nature and complexity to the proposed work during the last three years. These facts will be treated as the minimum qualifications required.

- (3) Purchasing of Bid Documents:

Qualified contractors or their authorized representatives can purchase a complete set of bid documents in two copies (original and duplicate) from **24.08.2020** up to **11.09.2020** on normal working days, between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 3000/-** along with a written request made to the Chairman of the Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha. Relevant bid documents will only be issued to bidders who prove their qualifications and submit the CIDA Registration Book and the National Identity Card. If a representative is to collect the bid documents, he should compulsorily bring an authorization letter.

- (4) Handing over of bids:

Address : Chairman, Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha, Kegalle

Bids will be accepted up to 10.00 a.m. on 15.09.2020. Bids could either be sent by mail or placed in the Tender Box, to be received before the deadline. The two copies of the bid should be placed in a single cover marked the **Contractor Name at the left side top corner.**

- (5) Opening of Bids:

Bids received will be opened at the same place immediately after closing of acceptance of bids. Bidders or their representatives can be present at the bid opening.

- (6) The Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha shall not be held liable for any costs or expenses incurred on preparation or delivery of bids. The decision of the Tender Board of the Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha retains the final decision with regard to any issues that may arise.

- (7) Further details relevant to this can be obtained from the Secretary of the Pradeshiya Sabha during office hours. **Tel No. 035-2222631.**

I. Jagath Ravindra Jayasinghe
Chairman
Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha

Date - 18.08.2020



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Lab Equipment and Machineries / Computers / Tablet PCs / Laptops

Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major / Minor), University of Colombo, Colombo 03 invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply and Delivery of above goods and services.

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from places indicated in Column 04 of the below table from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. free of charge or by visiting the university website <http://www.cmb.ac.lk> to inspect the document.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written request upon payment of a non-refundable fee indicated in Column 05 of the below table for each set of bid documents during office hours (9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on any working day) till the day prior to the bid closing date. Non-refundable fee can be paid to the University of Colombo Main Collection Account of the People's Bank at Thimbrigasyaya Branch using the reference number 505170600013 from any branch of People's Bank.

The bids shall be deposited in the 'Tender Box' available in the Registrar's Office of the University of Colombo or sent under registered cover to be received before the deadline to reach **"The Office of the Registrar, College House, University of Colombo, No. 94, Cumarathunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo- 03"**. Bids will be opened immediately after the bid closing time and date as indicated in Column 02, in the presence of Bidders and their authorized representatives. Late Bids will be rejected.

DPC- Department Procurement Committee

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bid Number / Item Description	Bid Closing Date & Time	Procurement Committee	Place of the Purchase of Bid Documents / T.P. Numbers	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Value of Bid Security (Rs.)	Source of Funding	Cost Estimate (Rs.)
SAB/FOT/NCB/2020/07 Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Plant and Machinery for the Mechanical Workshop (No. 01) of Department of Instrumentation & Automation Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo.	17.09.2020 Time : 2.30 p.m.	DPC	Accounts Branch, Faculty of Technology University of Colombo Senior Assistant Bursar T.P. 0112078646	Rs. 12,500/=	Rs. 505,000/=	Treasury Funds	Rs. 50,200,000/=
SAB/FOT/NCB/2020/08 Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Plant and Machinery for the Mechanical Workshop (No. 02) of Department of Instrumentation & Automation Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo.	17.09.2020 Time : 2.30 p.m.	DPC	Accounts Branch, Faculty of Technology University of Colombo Senior Assistant Bursar T.P. 0112078646	Rs. 12,500/=	Rs. 540,000/=	Treasury Funds	Rs. 54,000,000/=
SAB/FS/NCB/2020/01 Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Training of 01 No. FTIR Spectrophotometer for Dept. of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo.	17.09.2020 Time : 2.30 p.m.	DPC	Accounts Branch, Faculty of Technology University of Colombo Senior Assistant Bursar T.P. 0112078646	Rs. 2,000/=	Rs. 55,000/=	Chemistry Department Development Funds	Rs. 5,500,000/=
CCUC/AB/NCB/2020/01 Supply and Delivery of All in One Computer, Tablets PC and Laptops for the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo	17.09.2020 Time : 2.30 p.m.	DPC	RMU University of Colombo Assistant Bursar T.P. 0112505759	Rs. 3,500/=	Rs. 100,000/=	Generated Funds	Rs. 6,225,000/=

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
University of Colombo
94, Cumarathunga Munidasa Mawatha,
Colombo - 03.

FOR SALE
Mazda – 3
Brand new – Japan

C.W. Mackie PLC has for sale a Company Maintained **Mazda – 3, Brand new – Japan** in Good Mechanical Condition, Year of Manufacture - 2011

Inspection 9.00 a.m to 4.30 p.m from 24th August 2020 to 04th September 2020

Tender forms will be issued on a non refundable deposit of Rs. 200/-

Tender will be closed at 4.30 p.m. on 04th September 2020

General Manager - Group Treasury
C.W. Mackie PLC
 36, D.R. Wijewardena Maw, Colombo 10.
 Telephone: 011 2423554

Lease or Rent
 Business Premises in Malabe
 Facing New Kandy Road, About
 250m to Malabe Town.

» 1st Block - 4405 sq ft
 » 2nd Block - 4704 sq ft
 » 3rd Block - 6047 sq ft

General Facilities
 Tiled Floor, Bulk Supply Transformer Pipe borne Water Service, Newly Build Building,
Hotline - 0777-304647/0717-304647



No: 382, New Kandy Rd, Malabe

WWW.ADZ.LK
 it's what you want

 **ICTA**
 ideas actioned

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AGENCY OF SRI LANKA

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

Selection and Employment of an Individual Consultant

ICTA/GOSL/CON/IC/2020/02

We, **Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka** is the apex ICT institution of the Government. In terms of the Information and Communication Technology amended Act No. 33 of 2008, (ICT Act) ICTA has been mandated to take all necessary measures to implement the Government's Policy and Action Plan in relation to ICT. In terms of Section 6 of the ICT Act, ICTA is required to assist the Cabinet of Ministers in the formulation of the National Policy on ICT and provide all information necessary for its formulation are in the process of **Selecting and Employment of an Individual Consultant to execute the Communication activities of ICTA (Full Time)**

The "Terms of Reference" and other document are now available at ICTA website. Interested consultants may download them through <https://www.icta.lk/procurement> and respond accordingly **before 3 p.m on 4th September 2020.**

Chairman
Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka
160/24, Kirimandala Mawatha,
Colombo 5,
Sri Lanka.
Phone : +94 11 2369099 Fax : 94 11 2369091, www.icta.lk

 **MINISTRY OF POWER & ENERGY**
LANKA COAL COMPANY (PRIVATE) LIMITED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

LCC/HV/CH/20-22/2

HIRING A TOYOTA DOUBLE CAB ON DRY LEASE BASIS FOR LCC - KOHUWALA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee (PC), Lanka Coal Company (Pvt) Ltd, Kohuwala is inviting to bid for a TOYOTA DOUBLE CAB on dry lease basis for a period of Two year.

- Lanka Coal Company (pvt) Ltd required to hire a TOYOTA DOUBLE CAB above 2000 cc on dry lease basis.
 • Registered year should be 2019/2020 or Unregistered
- A complete set of bidding document can be collected at Procurement Division of Lanka Coal Company (Pvt) Ltd from 26th August 2020 at 9.00 am - 4.00 pm for Rs.500.00
- Sealed bid documents shall be delivered to the address given below, on or before 10.00 am on 9th September 2020 and Bids will be opened immediately after.
Chairman/ Procurement Committee
Lanka Coal Company (Pvt) Ltd
51/3, Suranimala Place, Off - Dutugemunu Street,
Kohuwala/Dehiwala
Sri Lanka 10350
- Bidders or their authorized representatives (only one persons) may witness the opening of bids
- For further details, please contact Procurement Manager, LCC on 011 2824681/2 or +94 77 78 75219 Fax: 011 2824689, e-mail: sujantha.prn@lankacoal.lk

Chairman/ Procurement Committee
C/O Chairman and Managing Director
LANKA COAL COMPANY (PVT.) LTD
51/3, Suranimala Place, Off - Dutugemunu Street
Kohuwala/Dehiwala
Sri Lanka 10350.

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

MATARA BODHI ARAKSHAKA SABHAWA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Matara Bodhi Arakshaka Sabhawa, will receive sealed Bids till 10.30 a.m. on 14th September 2020 at Matara Bodhi Arakshaka Sabha Office, Matara Bodhiya for the following items of work.

The Bids will be opened at 11.00 a.m. on 14th September 2020 at Matara Bodhi Arakshaka Sabha Office in the presence of Bidders or their authorized representatives.

Description	Required Registration Grade	Refundable Tender Deposit Rs.	Construction Period (Days)	Non Refundable Tender Fee Rs.	Engineer Estimate (Without VAT)
Construction of "Apeksha Piyasa - Matara" Ward at Kotawila Stage I	C4 Or Above	300,000.00	180	2000.00	Rs. 36 Million

- The bidding documents can be obtained from Matara Bodhi Arakshaka Sabha Office at Matara Bodhiya (during office hours) up to 4.30 p.m. on 10th September 2020 by producing this invitation letter and registration books.
- Name of the work should be clearly written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing the Bid. The Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Matara Bodhi Arakshaka Sabhawa on or before 10.30 a.m. on 14th September 2020. Bidders or their authorized Representatives are requested to be present at the opening of Bids. All incomplete Bids will be rejected.
- Bid validity period is 3 months.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security from a bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka or Construction Guarantee Fund (CGF) of the amount of Rs. 300,000.00. Bid security should be valid up to 11th January 2021.

Hon. Secretary
Matara Bodhi Arakshaka Sabhawa.

Hon. Chairman
Matara Bodhi Arakshaka Sabhawa.
Tel. 041-2222983
 23.08.2020

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

PURCHASE OF ELECTRICAL ITEMS FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2020/ELE/35/1

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Purchase of Electrical Items for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 12 Million** (excluding VAT).

The tender consists of Supply of Electrical Items – Cable, Conduit, PVC Junctions Box etc. for Block 04 of 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 (Minor), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **24th August 2020 until 13th September 2020 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during working days.**
- Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **24th August 2020 until 13th September 2020 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 up to **13th December 2020** (91 days from the date of Bid Opening, both days inclusive).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Rupees (LKR 120,000.00)** 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 **10th January 2021** (119 days from the date of Bid Opening, both days inclusive).
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 14th September 2020. 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 (Minor), 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 (09) is;

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (Minor),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-2787047
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhq@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

PURCHASE OF ELECTRICAL ITEMS FOR BLOCK 01 & 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2020/ELE/69

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Purchase of Electrical Items for Block 01 & 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 18 Million** (excluding VAT).

The tender consists of Supply of Electrical Items – Cables, Ceiling Rocc, Sunk Box etc. for Block 01 & 02 of 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 (Minor), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **24th August 2020 until 13th September 2020 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during working days.**
- Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **24th August 2020 until 13th September 2020 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 up to **13th December 2020** (91 days from the date of Bid Opening, both days inclusive).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Rupees (LKR 180,000.00)** 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 **10th January 2021** (119 days from the date of Bid Opening, both days inclusive).
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 14th September 2020. 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 (Minor), 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 (09) is;

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (Minor),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-2787047
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhq@gmail.com



**UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO INSTITUTE FOR AGRO-
TECHNOLOGY AND RURAL SCIENCES, WELIGATTA NEW TOWN,
HAMBANTOTA**

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

**INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR JANITORIAL, CLEANING &
MAINTENANCE SERVICES - 2020/2021**

Sealed Bids for providing Janitorial, Cleaning & Maintenance Services in the University of Colombo Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences, Weligatta New Town, Hambantota will be entertained by the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee from registered and reputed firms for Janitorial, Cleaning & Maintenance Services up to **2.30 p.m. on 15th September 2020**.

Bidding documents could be inspected free of charge and the same could be purchased at the Administration Branch [Tel : 0472034209/211] on producing the receipt for payment of **Rs. 2,000/-** (Non-refundable fee). This payment could be made to the **Account No. 007100120005006** at any **People's Bank branch or to the Assistant Bursar, Accounts Division, University of Colombo Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences, Weligatta New Town, Hambantota**. The document may be purchased from Administration Branch during normal working days from **24th August 2020 up to 14th September 2020** and during normal office hours (except Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays).

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **07th September 2020 at 10.30 a.m.** at the Board Room, University of Colombo Institute for Agro-Technology & Rural Sciences, Weligatta New Town, Hambantota.

Sealed Bids in duplicate addressed to the **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee**, University of Colombo Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences, Weligatta New Town, Hambantota should be sent by registered post or deposited into the Tender Box at the Senior Assistant Registrar's office before **2.30 p.m. on 15th September 2020**. Amount of the bid bond is given in the bid document. Envelope containing the bids should be marked "**Invitation for Bids for Janitorial, Cleaning & Maintenance Services**" on the top **left hand** corner. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person on **15th September 2020 at 2.30 p.m.** at the Board Room, University of Colombo Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences, Weligatta New Town, Hambantota.

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences
University of Colombo,
Weligatta New Town,
Hambantota.**

21st August 2020

INVITATION FOR BIDS



**PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES 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 and services.

Procurement Identification Number	Description	Date and time of Bid closing / opening	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)
AHQ/20/PUB/CLO/1008	Purchase of Chevrons & Shoulder Flashers for Annual Kit Issue Year - 2021	09 th September 2020 at 1030 Hrs	Rs. 2,000/-
AHQ/20/PUB/CLO/1009	Purchase of Track Bottom - Male Officers, Lady Officers, Airwomen and Warrant Officers for Annual Kit Issue Year - 2021	09 th September 2020 at 1030 Hrs	Rs. 2,000/-
AHQ/20/PUB/CLO/1011	Stitching of Shirt Short Sleeve Working Dress - Lady Officers and Male Officers with Double Stuffed Collar for Annual Kit Exchange Year - 2021	09 th September 2020 at 1030 Hrs	Rs. 2,000/-
AHQ/20/PUB/CLO/1012	Stitching of Working Dress Trouser - Lady Officers and Male Officers for Year - 2021 Kit Issue	09 th September 2020 at 1030 Hrs	Rs. 2,000/-

2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
3. Complete set of bidding documents 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 **19th August 2020 between 1000 hrs and 1400 hrs** on every working day before **08th September 2020** 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 procurement condition and required items are listed in the "Schedule of Prices" of the each bidding document and the applicable rates of supplies shall be indicated for each item listed therein. The rates quoted by each bidder in the Schedule of Prices shall not be subjected to variation on any account.
6. The supplies shall be made to Sri Lanka Air Force Base Katunayake. The prospective bidders shall be aware that they shall include all their expenses with all taxes including VAT and other levies in the quotations submitted.
7. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Procurement Officer (Tel. 011 - 2325468) 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
No.140
Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha
Colombo 02

**Air Force Headquarters,
P.O. Box 1592
Colombo 02**

COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE



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 Department of Health Services.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of issuing of Bid Documents	Non-refundable Bid Fee LKR
DHS/S/WW/222/21	06.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Artery/Haemostatis Forceps	25.08.2020	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/223/21	06.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Surgical Non Consumables	25.08.2020	20,000/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/224/21	06.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Surgical Non Consumables	25.08.2020	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/225/21	06.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Ophthalmic Surgery Instruments	25.08.2020	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/226/21	09.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Ophthalmic Consumables	25.08.2020	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/227/21	09.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Surgical Sutures, various types	25.08.2020	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/228/21	09.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Auto Disable Syringes, 0.5ml	25.08.2020	20,000/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/229/21	09.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Needle Holders, various sizes	25.08.2020	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/230/21	09.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Ophthalmic Consumables	25.08.2020	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/231/21	09.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Forceps for Introducing Magill Type Endotracheal Tubes and New Empty Cylinders	25.08.2020	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/232/21	09.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Surgical Non Consumables	25.08.2020	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/233/21	09.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Scissors	25.08.2020	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/S/WW/234/21	09.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Dissecting & Tissue Forceps	25.08.2020	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/259/21	07.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Non Absorbable Surgical Suture, various sizes	25.08.2020	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/260/21	07.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Non Absorbable Surgical Suture, various sizes	25.08.2020	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/261/21	07.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Soft Cloth Linner Tape	25.08.2020	35,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/262/21	07.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Surgical Consumables	25.08.2020	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/L/WW/168/21	05.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Laboratory Consumables	25.08.2020	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/L/WW/169/21	05.10.2020 At 9.00 am	Laboratory Consumables	25.08.2020	3,000/- + taxes

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours and 1500 hours at the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Head Office, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake 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 Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bidding 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 the mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake 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 authorised 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
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Above 5'8" tall academically professionally qualified well employed partner sought by affluent educated well settled B/G parents Colombo suburbs for BSc IT professional educated in leading girls' school in Colombo and overseas, 5'8" tall slim 1983 born dual citizen Australia inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details copy of horoscope. Email: m atchbrd@gmail.com OB149685

Academically and professionally compatible partner sought for 1980 born daughter 5'3" MBBS/MD Doctor continuing post graduate studies mixed family father S/B/K. Mother Tamil Hindu Vellalar. Please reply with horoscope and family details. pr oposedaughter2020@gmail.com OB149682

Academically and professionally compatible, well-mannered (teetotaler / non-smoker) well-established Christian son from a respectable family is sought by a Sinhala Christian parents for their academically and professionally qualified born in 1996, height 5'5" pretty fair daughter. Methodist, Anglican and any other Christian background considered. Email: lanka2020@yahoo.com OB149574

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 OB149653

Academically and professionally qualified caring, well-mannered son is sought by B/K parents for their youngest daughter. She is medium complexioned and attractive born in 1991, 5'3", slim, educated at a leading school in Colombo and also completed her Postgraduate Master's Degree in Australia. She is legally separated from a proposed Registration. Please send family details to email only. proposalj91@gmail.com OB149651

Academically and professionally qualified handsome son is sought by Buddhist/Sinhala parents living in Canada for their 5'5" tall, pretty slim daughter born in November 1996, completing her MSc in Health Studies. Son living in Canada/USA is preferred. Please reply with horoscope and family details to: kmg5655@gmail.com OB148248

Academically and professionally qualified partner (teetotaler/non-smoker) from a respectable family is sought by professional parents for their only daughter age 38, graduate, divorced with no encumbrances. kekkon27@gmail.com OB149443

Academically and professionally qualified son below 30 years and living in the UK only is sought by Sinhala Govi Catholic parents for our daughter 26 years height 5'5" fair and very pretty. She's amiable girl who loves travelling and sports. She is a Technology Consultant working for a firm in London. Our daughter is legally divorced after a two months unsuccessful marriage due to incompatibilities, innocent party, no encumbrances. Interested parties please send your son's details to email ukpro94@gmail.com OB149669

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Buddhist parents for their youngest daughter. She is 5'2", attractive, 1988 August born and with a degree in UK. Please reply with family details and horoscope to: marriageproposals821@gmail.com OB149580

Academically and professionally qualified son with Sinhala Buddhist values is sought by GB parents for their Law Graduate daughter, employed, living with parents in London. Dual National, 36 years, 5'2", fair, pretty, modest. Father Doctor. Properties in Sri Lanka and London. Reply with family details and horoscope. mint 789green@gmail.com OB149373

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by B/G respectable parents for their 5'1" 29+ well-accomplished daughter MBBS (SL), studied at leading girls' school in Colombo. Please reply with horoscope. prop 2019dec@gmail.com OB149636

Academically and professionally qualified son, preferably a Doctor, working and resident in the UK is sought by G/B Doctor parents living in the UK for their 31 year old daughter. She is a Doctor working in the NHS as a Specialist Registrar in London. She is 5'6" tall, slim and fair. She is a dual UK and Sri Lankan citizen and has been brought-up with Sinhala Buddhist values. Please reply with details. m angalayojana1965@gmail.com OB149488

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son with sound family is sought by respectable B/G parents for their one and only daughter born in 1994, She is BSc (Hons) graduate and currently Reading for MSc. Age below 30 years are preferred. Send details with horoscope matching Kuja 2 and Shani 8. iamgishan@gmail.com OB149637

Marriage Proposals

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered committed son with good family background and preferably living in Australia sought by G/B mother from Kandy for her well accomplished pleasant youngest daughter born in 1992 Sep. height 5'. Works in Admin sector & doing Master's in Australia. Inherits substantial assets. Please respond family details with H/scope copy. Malefic H/cops consider. mprop56@gmail.com OB149643

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son from a respectable family is sought by B/G professional parents for their daughter UK qualified Doctor (GP) working in England. She is pretty, slim, 34 years, 5'9" with an excellent character. She is also qualified to work in Australia. She has substantial assets in UK and Sri Lanka. Reply with family details and horoscope. E-mail: ven27@live.com OB148618

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/G respectable parents for their 5'1" 29+ well-accomplished daughter MBBS (SL), studied at leading girls' school in Colombo. Please reply with horoscope. prop 2019dec@gmail.com OB149636

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Southern Province retired parents for their Bodu, Govi 1985, 5' slim, pretty daughter studied at leading girls' school and completed her BSc Degree in Sri Lanka and currently studying for her MSc in Canada (Kuja in the 7th house) and one brother in Engineering from Moratuwa University and currently working in Australia and second brother is an MBBS doctor and married. Please reply with horoscope and family details. chami1000@gmail.com OB149561

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son (age between 25-28) is sought by G/B parents (holding senior positions in Government sector) from Colombo suburbs for their pretty, well accomplished 24 years (1996) daughter, 5'2" tall. She is final year undergraduate at Sri Jayewardenepura University, studied at a leading girls' school in Colombo, inherits valuable assets. Please respond with family details and a horoscope to: wisers1010@gmail.com OB149484

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered, employed son is sought by B/G retired parents from Colombo suburbs for their well accomplished daughter, born in 1991 July 5'5" in height, pretty, slim and fair. Graduated from RMT Uni (Aus) in B App. Sc and employed as a Senior Executive in a leading company. She inherits substantial assets. Please send horoscope and family details with contact No. Email - proposal119917@gmail.com or 0112898763 (after 8.00 pm). OB149628

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered, smart son especially an Engineer, is sought by Bodu Govi respectable professional parents from Colombo suburb, for their 29 years, 5'4", fair, slim, pretty, MBBS Doctor daughter working in a government hospital in Colombo. She is Kataka lagna - Rahu in 7. Please reply with family details and a copy of horoscope (slpfc1996@gmail.com). OB149635

Academically and/or professionally qualified son preferably from Melbourne is sought by B/D/G parents from Colombo for their 5'6" pretty and fair daughter born in March 1986. She is an Australian citizen and a Solicitor by profession and works for a Semi Government Institution. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email - lalalya25@gmail.com OB149500

Academically professionally qualified committed Christian partner (born again) is sought by Sinhala Christian parents (Colombo) for their daughter 28 years, 5'2" height, completed her Masters Degree overseas. Please reply with details. Email - universal1122@yahoo.com OB149407

Academically professionally qualified well-mannered son from Sri Lanka or Australia sought by respectable G/B parents from Colombo for their slim pretty attractive 5'2" daughter born in 1991 studied at leading girls' school Colombo graduated with BSc (Hons) Software Engineering employed as an Executive in reputed firm currently pursuing her Masters Degree in Australian University, Sydney. She inherits substantial assets and a car only brother is working as an Optics Engineer Sydney, Australia. Kuja 1247812. Reply with horoscope and family details. pr opdhammi@gmail.com OB149359

Academically qualified son sought by retired parents for pretty daughter 1990 B.Pharm (BSc). Reply msm050080@gmail.com OB149406

Academically qualified, kind son is sought by Sinhalese Govi Buddhist parents for their 5'3", pretty, slim daughter born in 1985, a dual citizen of Australia and SL. She is working as a Senior Engineer in a leading company in Australia. She is divorced from a short incompatible marriage with no encumbrances, Sri Lankan living in New Zealand or Australia preferred. Contact Email: pereraproposal98@gmail.com OB149617

Academically & professionally qualified handsome partner age below 41 sought by B/G parents of a business family from Colombo 3 for their 36 y. 5'2" young looking pretty daughter. She is highly qualified in law field, working in an MNC earning 6 figure salary, possesses assets. shanama2005@gmail.com. OB149439

Academically / professionally qualified NS/TT son is sought by B/G parents from Colombo suburbs for 83/8 born, slim, fair, pretty, 5'5" daughter BSc / MSc (Bio Medical Science) working in semi-government hospital as Senior Executive owns new car, inherits new house and valuable family assets. Horoscope, full family details. No migration. proposals7923@gmail.com OB149565

Academically & professionally qualified son is sought by Bodu Govi parents for their daughter 1993 born she is persuading her higher education in the field of Accounting, she inherits upstairs house in Colombo, a new car and other substantial assets. Reply with horoscope and other details. Contact 0112807689 / 0112806486. OB149346

Academically & professionally qualified, a handsome son is sought by G/B respectable parents in Colombo for their daughter 1993 June born, 5'3", slim, fair & pretty. She is a Graduate & working as an Executive in a leading Company in SL prefer a partner who is willing to reside in SL. Please reply with a horoscope copy. marriage2020proposals@gmail.com OB149356

Accomplished, educated, occupied, age 33+, height 5'3", pretty daughter from a G/B respectable family in Gampaha District. Partners seek a suitable son with sober habits for their daughter. Email: proposals1999@outlook.com OB149665

A Buddhist, employed educated / professional partner sought by Colombo professional parents for 39 yrs., 5'7", MBBS Doctor / Consultant daughter presently employed in UK. Send full family particulars and horoscope to tmjaya123@gmail.com OB148887

A good natured handsome qualified son below 37 from a reputed family is sought by highly respectable Sinhala, Buddhist Business parents from Colombo suburbs for their 32 years, 5'3" very beautiful, fair, slim daughter brought up with Sinhala, Buddhist values. She holds a B.Com graduate degree from the highest ranked business university in Australia. She is a PR holder in Australia and is currently employed in a reputed multinational company in Melbourne. Inherits valuable properties with substantial income and assets. Please reply with full details and horoscope. Email: ranw.proposal@gmail.com OB149611

A suitable partner is sought for Chartered Engineer sister of 49 years age. ajithagam age27@gmail.com OB149559

A suitable partner sought by a B/G family for their Software Engineer daughter born in 1985, 5'6" tall, pretty, well-mannered girl. Pls. reply with family details, horoscope & contact details. isachin thanai@gmail.com OB149655

A suitable partner sought by respectable Colombo suburbs B/G parents for 1983 fair pretty 5'2" presently employed in USA. She is divorced after an incompatible marriage and no encumbrances. Please reply with family details and a contact number. proposal20@gmail.com OB149301

Bodu Govi educated parents Colombo seek suitable son for pretty daughter 25, academically qualified works for foreign mission in Colombo substantial assets. Reply with horoscope and family details. OB149454

Bodu Govi from Galle with a reputable family background Doctor parents seek professionally qualified son for our only daughter. She was born in 1994 Oct. 5'4" height slim, fair and pretty, educated at a leading school in Galle. Obtained BSc degree from a State University. 091-2225396 (after 7.00 p.m.) Email - gamage ranjani3@gmail.com OB149556

Bodu Govi suburb Colombo Government retired parents seek professionally qualified partner for their 1989 June fair pretty daughter (MBBS working for Government Hospital) Prefer M.B.B.S. Doctor Engineer or similar capacity height over 5'6" from a respectable Buddhist Govi family. OB149603

Bodu/Govi respectable parents from Gampaha District seek well-mannered educated son for their pretty slim fair 5'1" height daughter, born 1991 Jan, qualified with BSc Management, working in a leading bank in executive grade. Reply with details to: proposalhps@gmail.com OB149503

Born in 1992 Govi Roman Catholic Sinhala height 5'2" parents of respectable business family seek for their younger daughter living Wattala studied at university of Kelaniya following degree. She has dowry, owns property available. Pleasant looking educated son from a respectable family. Reply with family details to neluni014@gmail.com OB149569

Buddhist Govi parents from business family Colombo seek high well-mannered son for their daughter 1995, very pretty kind hearted own upstairs luxury house & car. Email: proposalmarriage2020@gmail.com OB149433

Buddhist Salagama Western Province retired Government Executive father seeks a handsome humble, religious minded with sober habits son daughter born in March 1989, 5'3" in height, Degree and Postgraduate Degree holder from England University and presently working in Private firm, Mithuna Lagna, Saturn in 7th House, Suwana Nekatha with respectable family background a son from Business Engineering, Medical, Legal Profession or administrative service private sector of foreign employed also considered. OB149394

Buddhist Sri Lankan parents living in Europe seek a suitable partner below 35, for their 29 years, 5'3" in height, slim, fair and pleasant daughter, holding BSc and MSc Degrees, brought up with Sri Lankan values. Please reply with details and a copy of horoscope. Email: ranjani@gmx.at OB149533

B/D Doctor mother seeks suitable partner for daughter 5'4" born in 1990 June (MBBS SL) Email - w ajra2020@gmail.com OB149633

B/G parents living in Colombo seek a suitable partner for their 1986 born 5'5" fair down to earth younger daughter. She is academically and professionally qualified, graduated from a UK University and working as a Designer and a Lecturer, kindly reply with full family details and copy of horoscope. Email: arachchisamaranayake@gmail.com OB149448

B/G respectable Kandyan parents in Colombo, seek professionally qualified, well-mannered, kind hearted son (below 33 yrs) from a respectable G/B family for their daughter born in 1991 October, 5'3", pretty, slim studied in a leading girls' school in Colombo. She graduated with Masters in Engineering (UK), currently holding a Managerial position in a multinational company in London (PR holder). She has been brought up with Buddhist values & has assets in UK & Sri Lanka. Please reply with full family details & horoscope. e-mail: mprop61@gmail.com OB147031

B/G retired parents Kandy wish a qualified son for the 2nd daughter Mathematics trained teacher, BSc Dip. in Edu. 5'1" fair looking 1986 May. Inherits a land (50m) and a car, working as an Assistant Principal. krsbkoswatte@gmail.com OB149305

B/K respectable family from Kalutara seeks academically professionally, well-employed son for their absolutely pretty, well brought up daughter born in 1986, 5'3", BSc, IT, following MSc employed as a Teacher in Government school inherits assets. dk.p oposal6@gmail.com OB149367

B/K respectable family from Kalutara seeks academically, professionally, well-employed son for their well brought up daughter born in 1978, 5'2", BSc IT, employed as a Sri Lanka Administrative Service Officer. Inherits assets. dm.p roposal7@gmail.com OB149368

Canadian citizen Buddhist / Govi parents seek an academically qualified well-mannered son from Canada or USA for daughter age 26 and 5'4" pretty, fair, Canadian degree holder, works in Ontario. Respond with horoscope or birth time. canadaprop22@gmail.com OB149468

Catholic / Buddhist parents living in Melbourne Australia, citizens seek a good partner to introduce to their elder daughter, 37, very educated, holds a good post in the Optical field, very pretty, slim and very family oriented, owns her own house, divorced after a very short marriage many years ago with no encumbrances, very innocent party. Prefer someone living in Melbourne. Please forward recent picture and horoscope. Email: mrratnay@gmail.com OB149680

Christian mother seeks a respectable husband with sober habits for her daughter born in 1995, younger looking, slim, pretty, fair height 5'5", executive officer, possessing a postgraduate degree. Dowry available. Religion immaterial. OB149504

Close to Colombo Bodu Govi MBBS (SAITM) Intern Medical Officer. 1989 5'2" pleasant daughter having 2 storey house with assets. Professional parents seek equally qualified NSTT son from similar caste lakshmanan278a@gmail.com OB149606

Close to Colombo B/G respectable family background 1992 born 5'7" fair pretty educated (MBA, LLB, AAL) daughter holding a managerial position in a foreign Company owning fully furnished newly built luxury house and inherits other valuable assets, parents seek Engineer, Lawyer or educated businessman son. Reply with H/C and Phone Number to de ejayasinghe@gmail.com OB149268

Colombo Bodu Govi respectable family seeks professionally qualified or educated entrepreneurial son for their 31, 5'3" pretty and well brought up M.B.B.S. Doctor daughter, with assets. Reply with family details and horoscope. Caste immaterial. marriage.props56@gmail.com OB149687

Colombo Bodu Karawa 1990, 5'4" employee in private company CIMA management graduate pretty daughter, parents seek suitable partner. nelufernando@yahoo.com OB149431

Continued on page 66

Sunday Observer Marriage Proposals

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Continued from page 66



B/G middle class parents living in Gampaha District seek an academically qualified kind-hearted, daughter leading to marriage for our son who is currently studying in Australia. 1988/12, 5'7" a daughter who lives in Australia or any other country will be preferred. Please reply with full family details. Email : proposalson1988@gmail.com OG149607

B/G professionally qualified parents Colombo suburbs seek professionally qualified partner for their son 33, 5'9" TT/NS BSc. (USA) Engineer employed. Reply with family details and horoscope. proposal2083@gmail.com OG149409

B/G respectable Kandyan parents living in Colombo, seek an academically qualified, pretty kind hearted daughter below 24 yrs of similar caste & religion for a decent association leading to marriage for their son, born in 1995 April, 5'5", handsome, well-mannered, studied in Colombo, obtained, B.Sc Honors in Sri Lanka & currently pursuing Masters in Australia. He inherits substantial family assets. Please reply with full family details & horoscope. e-mail: otn ugegoda91@gmail.com OG147039

B/K youngest in the family 34 years 5'6" BSc in Mathematics & Economics, inherits assets, managing family own outsourcing company giving services to Australia, senior lawyer, father & mother look for an educated bride from a good family background. marriageproposal22@yahoo.com OG149444

Christian (born again) devoid of all vices 32 years old 5'11" fair smart good looking son executive grade employee in the tourism field and export field. No family encumbrances. Retired father and mother seek Christian educated pretty employee daughter. (No barriers). email address: christianmailbox7777@gmail.com OG149490

Colombo suburbs bodu Karawe, age 42, 5'10" in height, from a respectable family employed as a Cricket Coach / Cricket Master in Charge / Sports Officer in a private reputed school in Colombo, teetotaler, non-smoker with a pleasing personality. Religious, loving and caring - Kuja Guru 3 Shukra 12 Berana nekatha. Reply with horoscope. arosaha_a@yahoo.com Contact No. 0112714487. Call between 8.00 - 10.00 pm. OG149572

Colombo suburbs S/B/G mother from a respectable family father (deceased) was in most senior position in a govt. department. Son born in March 1981 smart 5'9" tall well mannered Royalist S.L. hotel school graduate, now doing private business. Has a steady month income. He inherits substantial assets, coconut land, house in Rajagiriya, seek a pretty looking well mannered educated daughter for her son. Please reply with family details & horoscope. OG149690

Colombo Sinhala Buddhist born 1970 height 5'6" Businessman wife passed away looking for a fair, beautiful partner age around 38-45 divorced widowed are not an issue preferably Buddhist, Christian or Catholic. Email: dgnp5555@gmail.com OG149388

Colombo suburb B/G professional parents seek kind cultured academically qualified slim pretty daughter of same caste for their handsome NS/TT son up to A/L leading school Colombo, graduated and working as an Engineer in Australia dual citizen 29 yrs. 5'10". Reply with horoscope contact No. and all details. sdeprop@yahoo.com OG149476

Doctor father seeks a beautiful daughter only from a business family in Sri Lanka for eldest son 1986, 5'5" B.Sc, M.Sc, Royalist, Monash University. Employed and entrepreneurial. Smart, handsome. Legally separated from a signed only marriage. Inherited substantial properties. Settled in Sri Lanka. Migration is not considered. proposal2020@gmail.com OG149570

Educated, handsome, established businessman, NS/TT, only son, age 31+, height 5'11", in a respectable affluent Govt/Buddhist family. Parents seek a suitable daughter for their son. E-mail: proposal1999@outlook.com OG149667

Educated, pleasant daughter is sought by Sinhala Karawa Roman Catholic/Buddhist parents from Colombo for son 33 yrs. Roman Catholic 5'5" in height NS/TT, educated at Royal College, Colombo. BSc Eng. in Electronics and Telecommunication from Moratuwa Campus, MSc and PhD from USA. Recently returned to Sri Lanka to work in Sri Lanka. Both parents Doctors. Caste and religion immaterial. Email: nelunkanthisamarasiri@gmail.com m TN: 0112682607. OG149385

Elders are looking for a pretty girl around 23 yrs. preferably Christian for their handsome graduate son to get marry in about 6-12 months, Age 25 yrs. from a business family with many assets. She must be from Colombo, well travelled, good school and fairly educated. For the elders to first discuss on the phone and meet before introducing to the boy. Pl. send phone number with details. mproposal2020@gmail.com OG149661

Fair handsome NS/TT 31 yrs. 5'9" MBBS Doctor son postgraduate Trainee working in a teaching hospital respectable G/B parents seek pretty fair slim accomplished and well educated G/B daughter with a good family background. Write with all details and horoscope. svnr3968@gmail.com OG149460

GB Kandyan family looking for pretty educated daughter above 5'3" height. Proposed son values Sri Lankan culture and Buddhist principles. He is 5'7" tall and born in 1982 professionally qualified Chartered Management Accountant and a CFA Charter Holder. He holds dual citizenship in United Kingdom and Sri Lanka and well-employed at Management Level in a reputed company in London and lives in his own house in Surrey. Reply with family details and horoscope to: kandyangh88@gmail.com OG149351

Govi Buddhist parents residing in Canada seek a pleasant professionally qualified bride for their eldest son born in 1995 January, 5'11" height. He is graduated and works as an Engineer in Canada. Please email with family details and copy of horoscope. thmpmaya@gmail.com OG149537

Govi Buddhist 44 1976 Lawyer Senior position leading corporate teetotaler NS, 5'6 1/2". OG149284

G/B leading business parents living in Colombo suburbs seeking well educated well mannered, pretty, kind hearted and caring daughter from a respectable family for their son. He is 1990 born, 5'8", handsome, fair, well-educated, Director in our leading business. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email : lucky-tck@yahoo.com OG149322

G/B upcountry respectable parents living in a Colombo suburb seek an academically and professionally qualified slim, pretty, fair daughter brought up according to Sinhala Buddhist values, for their 5'9", NS/TT religious, smart, 1989 Sept born Graduate Senior Software Engineer son having an unblemished character and all rounder with considerable assets and a non-malefic horoscope. Please write with complete family details, FB and a copy of a non-malefic horoscope. E-Mail: kodymang@gmail.com OG149692

G/K Buddhist parents living in Colombo suburbs seek an educated, pretty, slim, well mannered daughter for their son. Born in 1988, 5'8" tall, smart, handsome, BSc. IT Graduate, well employed as a Senior Engineer in a reputed IT Company in Colombo. Caste is immaterial, please reply with family details & horoscope (Non-malefic horoscopes are preferred). Email : marriageproposal600@gmail.com OG149339

Hindu parents of Indian origin in Colombo seek for their son in U.S.A., a kind well educated partner, preferably employed in U.S.A. son is 5'11" aged 39, very smart, younger looking. He has PR and also holding higher position in a leading bank in U.S.A. Religion immaterial. Contact with full particulars. Email: wathseev@gmail.com OG149520

Jaffna high caste Christian Tamil (49) teetotaler educated at St. Thomas College. H R professional working in a leading private sector organisation in Colombo as group H R Manager seeks pretty English educated working partner in view of marriage from a respectable family. Parents not living. Contact uncle 011-2527951 after 7 p.m. OG149354

Kalutara B/K respectable parents seek academically and professionally qualified pretty and well-mannered daughter living in Melbourne or willing to migrate for their son graduated in Monash University, Melbourne. Age 30, 5'10", handsome smart, brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values (NS/TT). He is working as a Software Development Manager to a recognized Company in Melbourne. Respond with family details, a photo and horoscope (non-malefic). Confidentiality assured. Email - gamala28@gmail.com Tel. 034-2229474. OG148860

Kandy Catholic Tamil parents seeking a pretty and well-mannered qualified daughter for their professionally and academically qualified handsome son born 1988 5'10" employed for a leading multinational organization at Colombo. OG149392

Moor parents very respectable from Colombo (Sunnath Jamath) seek for son 32 years 6 ft. fair CIM qualified working for a well establishment as Manager, a fair bride with a religious background. Reply to : murshidnz@yahoo.com OG149430

Moor respectable family residing in Kandy looking for a fair, pretty girl for unmarried 31 years MBBS Doctor son. Contact: sgnikah@gmail.com OG149335

Mother seeks daughter for her professionally qualified son born 1984, 5'8" holding a managerial post in a leading company in USA. Race immaterial preferred residents or working in USA. E-mail: indrani49@hotmail.com Ph: 0112816395. OG149512

Parents seek academically qualified pleasant pretty slim daughter from a respectable family for their 34 years, 5'7" tall kind-hearted Software Engineer son. Please reply only residing, studying or work in Canada. 202 Ogrooms@gmail.com OG149647

Pretty educated daughter below 35 sought by Catholic mother for her handsome son 40 yrs. Doctor working N.H.S. U.K. He is a Canadian citizen. Those who are willing to migrate please reply to wish2018@yahoo.com OG149446

Professionally qualified well-mannered daughter is sought by Govi Buddhist parents for their son born in 1992, 5'5" MSc Civil Engineer, working for a Government Department of America. PR holder. Reply with family details horoscope Telephone No. proposal2019@gmail.com OG149671

RC Tamil Colombo 41 years single mother. Looking good partner for his son. Good education background. He is proprietor his own company. He has own properties. 0112333673. OG149658

Respectable Buddhist / Salagama business parents from Down South seek an academically qualified kind hearted fair, slim daughter for their only son born 1995 June, 5'5" handsome non smoker graduated with Bachelor's and Master's in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Melbourne, Australia. He inherits substantial assets included a 3 luxury vehicles 5 luxury buildings / houses and 50 acres of real estate, eldest sister BSc (Chemistry Special) graduate (University of Colombo) and former University Demonstrator married and settled in Colombo, second elder sister MBBS Doctor (University of Peradeniya) married and settled in Colombo. Please reply with your daughter's and family details. Email: mendis2420@gmail.com 091-4935631. OG149453

Respectable Kandyan Bodu Govi parents living in Canada seek a fair suitable partner an undergraduate or a student seeking further studies for their eldest son teetotaler, 23 years fair 5'6". After graduation, he is currently working in a reputed Engineering Company. The daughter should be willing to reside in Canada. Please reply with the horoscope and other details. chulakanthij@gmail.com OG149599

Respectable Govi/Buddhist parents with a high social standing living in Gampaha District looking for a pretty, well educated partner for their Doctor son of Specialist Cadre 5'10" fair and handsome who has recently returned to SL after overseas training in UK if interested please reply to E-Mail : kelanudk@gmail.com with a copy of the horoscope you may call us on Tel. 0112911076 after 8 p.m. on weekdays. OG149482

Sinhala Bodu Govi Kandyan educated parents Colombo suburbs seek partner for their son 5'6", 29 yrs currently in Melbourne Hospitality Management, Graduation pending. Employed at a reputable hotel chain. Family wishes to find a respectable qualified caring and pleasant daughter of under 27 yrs. Preferably with a similar background, willing to migrate or living in Australia. Please reply with family details & horoscope. Email - chandisri17@gmail.com 0112563448. OG149549

Sinhala B/G professional parents living in Australia seek an educated daughter for their son. Professionally qualified B.Acc (Monash), Chartered Accountant (CA Australia/NZ) working as Senior Auditor in a leading global Accounting organization in Melbourne. He is 25 years old (1995), 5'10", kind and caring smart looking boy, familiar with Sri Lankan values and traditions, can speak Sinhala. Inherits assets in Australia and Sri Lanka. A daughter from a good family background or family living in Australia is preferred. Please send details with horoscope to: Email: wishers1010@gmail.com OG149480

Well educated Govi/Buddhist parents with a high social standing living in Gampaha District looking for a pretty, well educated partner for their Doctor son of Specialist Cadre 5'10" fair and handsome who has recently returned to SL after overseas training in UK if interested please reply to E-Mail : kelanudk@gmail.com with a copy of the horoscope you may call us on Tel. 0112911076 after 8 p.m. on weekdays. OG149482

Well established, Sinhala, Catholic parents seek academically qualified pretty and well accomplished daughter living in Sri Lanka for their only child born in 1993 June. He studied in a leading school in Colombo. He is well built, handsome and 5'10" in height. A graduate of APIIT and is employed as a Senior Executive (Business Development) in a Multinational Company. He inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details along with horoscope or date of birth and time. Email: bsguru967@gmail.com OG149399

1980 born Sinhala Catholic, established bachelor from Colombo with MSc and reading for LLB, 5'9" in height, seeks a partner for marriage. Self replies are welcome. wickrema123@gmail.com OG149472

1986 B/G parents seek an academically qualified slim fair pleasant kind hearted daughter for their only son BSc (Hons) MSc Australia CIM passed finalist 5'7" NS/TT working in Global Company Colombo as an Assistant Manager Shani-7 Kuja-8 proposal86@gmail.com OG149591

1986 Galle Bodu Vishwakula 5'4" B.Sc. MBA Senior IT Engineer from respectable family inherits considerable assets including house land and motor car working for an international company Colombo drawing six figure salary, retired parents seek pretty daughter differences immaterial. proposalgalle1986@gmail.com OG149554

1992/08 Kandy Govi/Vishwa 5'6" height son graduated in Australia currently working as an Executive Officer in a leading bank in Colombo. Parents seek a pretty virtuous qualified employee partner. Inherits assets, send horoscope with all family details with contact Nos. proposalkandy1961@gmail.com OG149365

41+, B/G never married, handsome, highly talented gentleman studied in Australia inherits, family property, only sister is a Doctor, mother was a Teacher father (deceased) willing to settle overseas with a compatible like minded girl (late twenties or early thirties) who is planning to migrate or already settled as soon as I'm done with my CIMA. buddhika1122@gmail.com OG149466

A Govi Buddhist respectable business parents seek fair pretty character daughter from a respectable religious family for their handsome son educated 31 years, 5'8" non-smoker and teetotaler and a person with good religious and cultural values. He owns a well recognized and established vehicle importing enterprise and owns multiple luxury vehicles and a house, at present she is following a NBA. Please respond with horoscope details and contact number. 037-4941388

BRIDE
Respectable B/K parents in Colombo seek professionally qualified well-mannered, kind hearted partner with sober habits, for only daughter 5'2" born in 1994 pretty and fair, excellent character. She studied at leading girls' school in Colombo and graduated in Business Administration (UK), from a private university. She is presently involved as Company Director of a family owned group of companies therefore it is preferred that the proposed partner would settle down in Sri Lanka. She owns substantial wealth, other than the other assets she would obviously inherit from her parents. Please send all family details including horoscope and contact number. Email: pleasuredlife13@outlook.com Box No: 0149393 C/o Sunday Observer Lake House Colombo 10

BRIDE GROOMS
A very wealthy, respectable, Sinhala Buddhist family, of a well-known ancestry from Colombo is searching for a kind-hearted and beautiful daughter (caste is not important) between the ages of 23 and 31 and taller than 5'1", for 34-year-old (born in 1986), 6'2" tall, intelligent, very handsome son with Buddhist values. He has an excellent personality, is highly educated (university education was in the UK) and does not drink alcohol or smoke. He owns a Company and is a Shareholder and Director of another Company in Colombo and hopes to continue to live in Sri Lanka. He owns a house in Colombo 3 and will inherit a large amount of wealth, including very valuable income-generating commercial buildings in Colombo and many other assets. Please email relevant details, which will be treated as confidential, to happymarprop@gmail.com or write to SOB Box No. 0149678 C/o Sunday Observer, Lake House, Colombo.

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Commercial Leasing and Finance records Rs. 1.5 b PAT

Commercial Leasing and Finance PLC (CLC) concluded FY2019/20 on an impressive note, consistently performing well year on year despite the extremely challenging events that marked the financial year.

CLC was reaffirmed as SL (A) stable by ICRA Lanka Limited, which guarantees trust, security and stability for its customers. During the year, CLC also became the 1st Finance Company in Sri Lanka to be granted a licence by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for accepting micro savings through digital platforms.

CLC recorded Profit After Tax of Rs. 1,547 mn, an increase of 29% from Rs. 1198 Mn in the previous year even as revenue declined marginally by %. Cost of funds reduced by 8% and overheads by 12%.

Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) for the year stood at 7.05%, whereas industry NPLs exceeded 11%. One of the key reasons for the faster recovery of CLC after the Easter Sunday attacks in April 2019 was its port-

folio, which consists of over 95% asset-backed products that served to absorb any possible shocks.

Executive Director/CEO of CLC Krishan Thilakarathne said, "Despite the tough operating conditions in the industry, CLC succeeded in sustaining its financial performance on par with the previous year whilst enhancing Profit after Tax figures.

This was no mean feat considering the rise in NPLs across the industry."

"It will be a survival of the fittest - how companies manage internal and external stakeholder relationships, systems and processes, and leverage communication and branding, will determine how they come through this challenging period. Companies will not only have to build strong balance sheets, but might also have to challenge and question their business models, cost and overhead structures, and conventional revenue streams and capital adequacy to

face this unprecedented disruption," he said.

The Chairman of CLC, Priyantha Fernando said, "What gives me pride is how CLC has sustained the previous year's performance amidst a challenging 2019/20 by curtailing NPLs within reasonable levels and acquiring an 'A' Stable rating reaffirmed by ICRA Lanka.

"Many sectors in which our clients are engaged were affected due to the violence that ensued after the Easter Sunday bombings in April 2019. In most cases, the disruption of supply



Priyantha Fernando



Krishan Thilakarathne

chains made it difficult for customers to recover their livelihoods. Nevertheless, our experience of handling tough situations came to the fore. Since the Company had the digital and physical infrastructure and trained staff to handle the crisis, we continued to provide uninterrupted services to clients, while ensuring the safety and health of staff and customers when the lockdown was lifted and 66 CLC branches opened their doors," he said.

CLC is a member of the LOLC Group.

CLC is a member of the LOLC Group.

Laugfs Holdings turns 25

Laugfs Holdings Limited celebrates 25 years in business. Its inception was Gas Auto Lanka, a revolutionary business that introduced LPG as an alternate fuel for motor vehicles. Propelled by this entrepreneurial spirit, Laugfs went on to become trailblazers in many industries in Sri Lanka.

Today, the Group is present in 20 industries and has expanded beyond Sri Lankan borders. Its annual revenue exceeds USD 300 million and is backed by an employee cadre of 3,500.

Group Chairman of Laugfs Holdings Limited, W. K. H. Wegapitiya said, "Though we had humble beginnings, we were filled with the determination to achieve greatness. Twenty-five years later, we have touched the lives of millions of Sri Lankans and are a leading name across the industries in which we operate."

Though the origins of Laugfs was Gas

Auto Lanka set up in 1995; in its 25 year journey, it evolved and diversified to progress from local to global.

Group Deputy Chairman of Laugfs Holdings Limited, Piyadasa Kudabalage, said, "We wanted to be more than just another national corporate entity in the market; we wanted to truly drive the nation forward and extend the innovative zeal of Laugfs across Sri Lanka and internationally."

Group Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of Laugfs Holdings Limited, Piyadasa Kudabalage, said, "The history of Laugfs has always been driven by innovation, entrepreneurship and the willingness to take risks.

As we work towards the future, we will continue to grow with these tenants at the core of our organization and further enhance our operations towards empowering the growth of the nation."

Hunt for your perfect outfits at Daraz Fashion Week

Sri Lanka's largest online market, Daraz, will open its best fashion deals on Daraz Fashion Week from 25th to 31st August. Powered by Emerald as the main partner, Daraz Fashion Week Sri Lanka will bring about the best deals for some of the most favoured fashion brands in Sri Lanka.

This year promises the largest variety of men's and women's clothing, fashion accessories, jewellery, bags, shoes, watches, sunglasses and many more fashionable items. With mega deals and offers of vouchers valued up to Rs. 1 million, all purchases on Daraz Fashion Week come with island-wide free shipping.

The best value online fashion event is also giving off an out of this world offer where shoppers can enjoy 25% discount from 25 leading fashion brands. will be part of the One-rupee game, in which shoppers who take part stand a chance to win vouchers worth Rs. 7,500. In addition, those who guess the nearest price of the LICC, Emerald and MIKA gift boxes, also have an opportunity to walk away with the gift box.

DarazMall, the exclusive platform featuring leading brands by authorized dealers, gives a 14 days return policy for all fashion



purchases during this period. One of the key brands from DarazMall, Emerald, has tied up with Daraz Fashion Week as Platinum partner, while LICC, P. G. Martin, Signature and Giordano join as Gold partners. The Silver partners are Zara Garments, MIKA, Avirate, Vantage, Trendy Clothing and Zanzea. Daraz Fashion Week is further enabled by leading Sri Lankan banks who have partnered to offer 10% off on credit cards.

FHA, pioneers in financial inclusion

BY ROSHAN ABEYGOONWARDENA

The Finance Houses Association of Sri Lanka (FHA), as the apex body of 39 Regulated Finance Companies registered with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), plays an important role in the finance and banking sector of Sri Lanka.

The association acts as the mediator to the Non-Banking Financial Institutes (NBFI) sector and is driven by its passion to facilitate financial inclusion in Sri Lanka which is vital to achieve sustainable economic development.

For 62 years, the FHA has been a key influencer for Sri Lanka's economy by guiding its member companies and representing them at all times.

Contribution to the NBFI sector The FHA is actively engaged in creating a positive vibe about RFCs, which are under the regulation and supervision of the CBSL, while holding them intact with solidarity. The association continues to encourage people to embrace RFCs and points out the anomalies related to Non-regulated Finance companies, making sure that people turn away from

them. RFCs are regulated by the CBSL by enacting key acts such as Finance Business Act and Finance Leasing Act. The FHA has also taken a great stride forward to facilitate self-regulation among its members including enhancing ethical practices, monitoring malpractices to uplift the NBFI sector. It continues to shelter all its member companies and enable them to thrive within the financial system of Sri Lanka.

Financial literacy

The FHA has clearly identified that financial literacy is vital to stay competitive in this industry, so it has constantly come up with training sessions to empower the employees of finance companies with knowledge, making sure that they keep on learning and contribute to this industry in a meaningful way. Bearing it as a primary responsibility, the FHA continues to work in line with CBSL while representing the NBFI sector in discussions with the Central Bank, the Commissioner of Motor Traffic, Ministries and Chamber of Commerce.

It also provides a legal circle

for legal officers of member companies to discuss common legal issues, suggest amendments and improvements to the present laws and administration of justice and take concerted action. It is endowed with legal and financial expertise to drive the NBFI sector while adhering to corporate values and ethical practices. The association continues to stick to the fundamentals that helped it reach this far amidst many challenges and remains buoyant to overcome them successfully.

Potential

To delve deeper into the NBFI sector, it represents companies of all sizes, ranging from small, medium to large scale, as well as national and regional. Each company plays a vital role in the segment of the economy in which it operates irrespective of the size and scope.

Despite the challenges in the recent past, the sector has expanded up to 1358 branches making sure that it reaches out to the public and facilitates them with a trusted service. Every batch of 14,900 people of the population is

provided with a Non-Banking Financial Industry branch, which demonstrates the expansion of this industry.

NBFIs provide financial services to the citizens at the grass root levels which is a segment continuously forsaken by the banking sector. NBFIs also enhance the economic growth of the poor through finance leasing and Loans. The NBFI sector has largely contributed to the betterment of the country and the most recent being, approximately Rs. 16.6 billion was paid in the last financial year in the form of direct taxes. Alongside the above contribution to the nation, NBFIs as an industry has made an enormous impact on the living standards of the people and per capita income of the country.

The FHA is the successor of The Ceylon Hire Purchase and Finance Association, founded in 1958.



The writer is the Chairman of the FHA with 25 years of experience in the finance industry.

G.M.A. de Silva Jewellers turns 100

G.M.A. de Silva, one of the most trusted jewellers for the consumers in Southern Sri Lanka, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

GMA de Silva (Pvt) Ltd. was founded in 1920 by late G.M.A de Silva as a trusted gold pawning operation in Ambalangoda. In 1956, the son of the founding chairman G.M.S de Silva incorporated manufacturing and retail of fine jewellery into GMA de Silva Jewellers. Since then GMA's jewellery brand has stood synonymous with G.M.S. de Silva who was a prominent personality in

Ambalangoda. "Following the demise of late G.M.S de Silva, it was my brothers and my personal goal to make sure that the 100 years of excellence and integrity has been kept intact along with the originality of the product," said Chavinka Sumanatilleke, Managing Director, who represents the third generation of management of the family-owned company.

"As we enter our 100th anniversary, we are of the progressive mindset to being able to service our original loyal southern clientele who have moved on to other parts of Sri Lanka as well as



G.M.A. de Silva - Founder

G.M.S. de Silva - Past Managing Director

Chavinka Sumanatilleke - Managing Director

other countries such as the USA, UK, Italy and Australia. We will keep expanding to reach our cus-

tomers especially through modern online platforms," said Sumanatilleke.

Union Assurance launches education protection plan

Union Assurance unveiled Sisumaga+, a protection-based plan to ensure uninterrupted education from childhood through university.

Sisumaga+ is for parents who wish to make provision for their child's academic expenses for University or tertiary education, ensuring that the higher education costs are met, even in the unfortunate circumstance of a possible demise of the parent.

The new policy was launched at the Cinnamon Grand Colombo. Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Prof. Kapila Perera, John Keells Group Chairman, Krishan Balendra, Lanka Impact Investing Network Founder and Chairman,

provide essential support for children to actively pursue their ambitions for higher education while providing a buffer against the continuing escalation in associated costs," Union Assurance Chief Executive Officer, Jude Gomes said.

"At a time when Sri Lanka and the entire world is faced with severe economic disruptions, many can expect to face difficulties in establishing savings sufficient to lay a strong financial foundation for their child's educational aspirations.

Given the rising costs of everything from tuition to text books, boarding fees and transport, this can be a source of serious concern

for parents and families. Sisumaga+ is a plan that can directly address these concerns," he said.

Source: Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd

Through a combination of savings and investment, this plan will provide essential support for children to actively pursue their ambitions for higher education while providing a buffer against the continuing escalation in associated costs," Union Assurance Chief Executive Officer, Jude Gomes said.

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An official speaks at the launch of Sisumaga+

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TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO.32 AUGUST 18-19, 2020

■ This week's auction (Sale No.32) was conducted on August 18-19 (Tue/Wed) with a weight of 6.9 m/kgs. The Low Grown Leafy/Semi leafy/Tippy/Premium Flowery Grades comprised a weight of 3.1 m/kgs, while Main Sale High Medium category teas amounted to 0.9 m/kgs. Ex-Estate offerings totalled 0.9 m/kgs.

■ There was less demand and consequently an easier market for Ex-Estate teas. A limited range of the best western BOP's were about firm but others eased Rs. 30 to 50 per kg while at the lower end prices shed up to Rs. 20 The better western BOPF lost Rs. 30 - 40 and much more for last week's top range teas. Below best and plainer teas declined Rs. 10 to 30 per kg. A small selection of improved Uva BOP's gained on last following special demand while others were barely firm. Uva BOPF generally lost Rs. 30 to 40 per kg. CTC PF1's from the High and Medium elevations were barely steady and often lower with low grown teas also following a similar trend. There was more selective demand from Hong Kong, China and other Far Eastern markets. Subdued interest was seen from buyers for Europe.

■ Low grown leafy teas continued to encounter fair demand. Stylish, wiry OP1's were fully firm to dearer, but lower quality offerings were irregular. Better OP/OPA's were firm to at times easier, though secondary teas held firm. In the semi leafy category, there was good demand and select high priced BOP1's were fully firm while Pek/Pek1's followed a similar trend. In the Tippy Catalogue, well-made FBOP's were a little easier as were their corresponding FBOPF1's. The best tippy FBOPF's were firm. There was good demand from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Libya, Jordan, Kuwait and the UAE while Russia, the CIS and Turkey were also forceful.

■ This week's auction comprised 11,764 lots totalling of 6,946,838 kgs.

■ The catalogue-wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	2,174	989,773
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,791	934,604
Low Grown Tippy	2,073	1,152,075
High and Medium	1,721	909,902
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,115	1,242,618
Dust	649	680,653
Premium Flowery	442	90,862
Ex-Estate	799	946,351
Total	11,764	6,946,838

Crop and weather from August 10-16, 2020

■ **Western Region:** The Western Region reported dull weather with occasional showers during the week. The Department of Meteorology forecasts light showers in the week ahead. **Nuwara Eliya Region:** Bright weather was reported throughout the week. **Uva/ Udapussellawa Regions:** Clear weather was reported in the Uva and Udapussellawa regions. According to the Department of Meteorology, fair weather is forecast during the week ahead. **Low Grown:** Bright weather was reported throughout the week. Light showers are predicted in the Sabaragamuwa Region by the Department of Meteorology in the week ahead.

■ **Crop Intake:** Western and Nuwara Eliya regions maintained the crop intake, while the Uva, Udapussellawa and Low Grown regions showed a decrease.

Source: Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd