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2,600 new tourist attractions - Prasanna

MAHINDA ALUTHGEDARA
Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga says that 2,600 new tourist attractions that have not yet been promoted as tourism hotspots have been identified. **TO PAGE 02**

INCREASE AGRO HARVEST TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL ECONOMY - PRESIDENT

GOVT. AND PRIVATE SECTORS SHOULD PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY SEEDS AND SAPLINGS

A NEW TREND IN FERTILIZER USAGE

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa stating that it is high time to increase agro harvest in order to strengthen the local economy has proposed a number of actions to reach this outcome.

The President emphasizes the importance of strengthening the national agricultural economy in the context of global economic collapse due to COVID 19 pandemic.

The President says that the country should focus on seed and sapling production, usage of ferti-

lizer, researches targeting innovations in agro field, storage and transportation and overcome the challenges in order to achieve targets in the next two years.

President Rajapaksa made these suggestions during a discussion to review future plans of the State Ministry of Paddy and Cereals, Organic food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onions and Potatoes, Seed Production and High Tech Agriculture at the Presidential Secretariat. Annual potato production in



Sri Lanka stands at 80,000 tons. Annual consumer demand is

250,000 tons. The President noted that it was necessary to encourage the farmers to increase production to meet the demand locally, without importing potatoes.

Head of the Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival, Basil Rajapaksa said that local productions could be increased via distribution of hybrid seeds and saplings developed using new technology to the farmers and added that they could minimize the importation of potatoes by encouraging con-

sumers towards consumption of substitutes.

He also noted that maize production next year will reach self-sufficient levels.

President Rajapaksa highlighted the importance of using modern technology in the production of seeds and sapling, and therefore the requirement for conducting research in this aspect.

Measures to minimize wastage in storage and transportation were also discussed in depth. **TO PAGE 02**

PRESIDENT INSTRUCTS UGC TO INCREASE UNI INTAKE BY 12,000

ASELA KURULAWANSA

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has instructed the University Grants Commission (UGC) to increase the intake of students admitted to the university system by 12,000. Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said.

"At present, only 31,000 students are admitted to universities and with the President's proposal this number will be increased to 43,000 per year," he said.

Minister Prof. Peiris was speak-

ing to the media after receiving blessings from the Chief Incumbent of the Gaetambe Sri Rajapavanramadhipati Kaeppeyiyagoda in Kandy.

He said that although the University Grants Commission had stated that another 7,000 students could be enrolled in addition to the current enrollment through the university system, the President had instructed them to increase it to 12,000.

Prof. G.L. Peiris said it was

the duty and responsibility of the Government to provide that opportunity to students who excel at their GCE Advanced Level but cannot gain admission to university.

He said that there are others who do not have access to universities and are reluctant to go to university even if they are given the opportunity and that alternative avenues should be provided for them to get an education, adding that the Government's aim is

to increase the quality of courses in vocational training institutes up to the degree level.

He said that there are 19 science faculties in the country and institutes have been established in each province to acquire technical knowledge.

He emphasized that the outdated courses in educational institutions should be changed to suit the needs of the time and that the education provided in schools and universities should

be effective in obtaining employment opportunities.

He said that education should be modernised in line with the values that have been cherished for a long time and that the President has merged five ministries that have been functioning independently so far to create an education system that suits the country.

"Out of these, three have already been appointed," the Minister said.

Information Dept. doing commendable job - Minister Keheliya

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella commending the role played by the Government Information Department said that it is an institution which has the power to change the ideologies of the people. **TO PAGE 02**



Passports, National ID cards, revenue license from govt. printers

RUKSHANA RIZWIE

Minister of Mass Media Keheliya Rambukwella during a meeting with officials from the state owned government printing press has instructed the department to initiate steps to issue passports, national identity card as well as revenue licenses in future. **TO PAGE 02**



The Orientation programme for the newly elected members of the 9th Parliament organized by the Parliament Secretariat was held with a participation of more than 95% of the newly elected Members yesterday. The Members showed great interest in the programme by actively engaging with the resource personnel with regards to Parliamentary proceedings. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa graced the event as its Chief Guest and called on all MPs to act with professionalism.



PM tells MPs at Orientation Programme:

Leave personal agendas and fulfill people's hopes

DISNA MUDALIGE

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa advised the newly-elected Members of Parliament (MPs) to improve their professionalism without considering

the age or the MP post as a barrier.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Orientation Programme for the MPs of the Ninth Parliament, he recalled how he attended the

lectures of the Law College while representing Parliament.

"There were no online education facilities at that time, but now you can register to follow even foreign university courses online. **TO PAGE 02**

Four arrested with 261 kilos of Turmeric



Officers of the Army Intelligence Unit and the Kalpitiya Naval Base arrested four individuals with 261 kilos of Turmeric smuggled from India by sea. The raid was carried out on a tip off received by the Army Intelligence Unit that turmeric and cardamom were being smuggled across the sea. This is the second arrest within the last two weeks. The Kalpitiya police confiscated a consignment of turmeric worth nearly Rs.7 million which was also smuggled to Sri Lanka from India by boat. Here, some of the seized turmeric. **Picture by Priyankara Kalupahana**

Import ban on turmeric to remain

The Government will continue the ban on importing turmeric. However, discussions are ongoing to ease restrictions imposed on turmeric for export purposes and not for general market consumption. **TO PAGE 02**

CA stays arrest warrant issued against Kurunegala Mayor

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal yesterday issued an Interim Order staying the operation of arrest warrants issued by the Kurunegala Magistrate's Court against the Kurunegala Mayor and four others in connection with the demolition of a building with archaeological value in Kurunegala. **TO PAGE 02**

CCTV cameras for three main prisons in Colombo

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Plans are being made to install CCTV cameras at three main prisons in Colombo - the Remand, Magazine and Welikada, according to Prisons Commissioner and Spokesman Chandana Ekanayake. **TO PAGE 02**

"Kudu Roshan's" associate arrested

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

An organized criminal gang member was arrested in Wellampitiya on Monday by the Special Task Force. **TO PAGE 02**

Australia allocates AU\$800,000 for landmine clearance

Australia has allocated a further \$800,000 in foreign aid funds toward Sri Lanka's efforts to become landmine-free by 2025. **TO PAGE 02**

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Report on sudden power outages to Cabinet today

RUKSHANA RIZWIE

The report of the committee appointed to probe the recent power cuts handed over to Minister Dullas Alahapperuma on Monday, and it will be tabled before the Cabinet today. According to reports, Prof. Rahula Attalage, the Chair of the nine mem-

ber committee appointed to investigate the blackout prepared the report after considering all factors which contributed to the island-wide blackout on August 17. The Ministry appointed a Committee to investigate the findings following unannounced islandwide power

outages which lasted for several hours on Monday (17) due to a technical fault at the Kerawalapitiya Grid Sub-station. The Committee was tasked with providing recommendations to prevent such incidents from recurring. The Ceylon Electricity Board was

prompted to restrict power supply for another four days after the Lakvijaya power plant in Norochcholai failed to function due to the power outage. The other hydropower plants in the country too were off-line as a result of the islandwide power outage.

New clay bottle for water storage mooted

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Arrangements will be made soon to stop using liquor bottles to store water in homes, offices, vehicles and Chairman of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Dr. Samadhi W. Rajapaksa said.



According to Dr. Rajapaksa, the negative culture of storing water in liquor bottles will be done away with in Sri Lanka soon through the introduction of a handy water bottle made of clay. This will be done with the support of the State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion Prasanna Ranaweera. "Initial discussions were held in connection with the project. The new clay bottle will be handy and healthy. It will offer safe

and fresh drinking water for the users. The new bottle will also be attractive," he said. "In traditional Sri Lankan culture, people stored water in clay pots which was a very novel and healthy venture. The new project will be promoted in the country," he added.



A discussion was held at the Justice Ministry on development of plans for the administration of justice in the country under the patronage of Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC. Hanaa Singer, UN Resident Coordinator, Robert Juhkam, UNDP Resident Representative Tim Sutton, UNICEF Representative, Troels Vester, UNODC Head of Office, Chandrika Karunaratne, UNDP Governance Team Leader and several others participated. Ministry Secretary P. Mayadunne was present.

Kolonnawa UC employee remanded for heroin possession

SHAVINI MADHARA

A supervisor of the Kolonnawa Urban Council, who was arrested with over a kilogramme of heroin was remanded till September 8 by Colombo Additional Magistrate Priyantha Liyanage yesterday. When the case was taken up,

the Criminal Investigations Department informed the court that they are conducting investigations with regard to the two vehicles which have been taken into custody from the suspect. The CID also told the Magistrate that they will obtain a

detailed report regarding the bank accounts and mobile phones belonging to this suspect and his relations. The suspect was produced before the Colombo Additional Magistrate's Court yesterday. The Magistrate fixed further inquiries for September 8.

Five more COVID-19 patients recover

The Ministry of Health, Epidemiology Unit had reported five new recoveries which were tested positive for COVID-19 were discharged from hospital yesterday (25).

The unit's situation reported yesterday stated one patient was discharged from the Iranawila Hospital, two from the Welikanda Base Hospital and one from the Minuwangoda Base Hospital.

The recovered patients have increased to 2816, and while 131 are being treated for novel coronavirus. Meanwhile, there are 2959 confirmed cases, with 62 suspected and hospitalized yesterday morning.

Education Ministry Circular on school hours

S.M.WIJAYARATNE,

Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Classes for students of Grade 10,11,12 and 13 in Government schools are scheduled to be held from 7.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. However, an Education Ministry Circular has instructed all principals that schools

have to be open only from 7.30 to 1.30 p.m. from September 2, states Kurunegala District Senior Director of Education W.M. Balasooriya. He was speaking at a meeting of school heads of the Kurunegala District held in Kurunegala yesterday. "It has been revealed that that

there has been a drop in students' school attendance due to the continuous closure of school canteens and the inability of students to attend tuition classes after school hours due to the longer time duration of schools that is in effect," the Circular states.

Rs. 3 bn to develop fisheries industry

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The Ministry of Fisheries will invest more than Rs. 3 billion next year to develop five important factors in the fisheries industry. Minister Douglas Devananda yesterday (25) said the mentioned amount will focus on five factors, such as marine fisheries industry, freshwater and aquaculture development, fisheries community development and welfare, village "Livelihood with a Tank", infra-

structure development programmes and introducing new technology to the fisheries industry. He added that while these factors will be the main focus, other areas related to the development will take place, the uplift of marine fisheries, port development, development of ferry access roads, expansion of fish products and marketing activities, development of marine ornamental fish industry, development of lagoon based fish-

ing industry, development and strengthening, of the coastal fishing community, encouragement plans on a scientific basis and enterprise development programmes. "Maximizing the release of fish into inland reservoirs under freshwater and aquaculture fisheries development plan, strengthening fisheries organizations and developing various other factors," he concluded.

Online business promotion event between India and Sri Lanka

The High Commission of India facilitated an online business promotion event on 21 August 2020 aimed at boosting bilateral economic engagement. The online event featured presentations on the products offered by BEML Limited, India which was followed by an interaction between the participants. BEML Limited, India is a multi-technology and multi-location company

and has supplied its products to more than 68 countries including in the Middle East, Africa and South and South-East Asia. Participants from the Sri Lankan side included representatives from the Government and the Armed Forces of Sri Lanka, apart from representatives and members from the various Chambers of Commerce and

Industry. The High Commission of India, Colombo was represented by Defence Adviser, Capt. Vikas Sood and the Head of the Economic and Commercial Wing, Dr. Rakesh Pandey. In their remarks, both officials emphasized the need to further broaden the economic linkages between India and Sri Lanka including through better understanding of

the requirements and capabilities on both sides. The High Commission of India continues to facilitate and support business promotion events and B2B interactions between the two sides, currently in online mode, as a part of its overall effort to strengthen bilateral ties and reinforce mutual efforts to mitigate the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mattala will be most active regional airport soon - State Minister

IRANGIKA RANGE

Aviation and Export Zones State Minister D.V. Chanaka said yesterday that Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) would be converted into one of the most active and safe airports in the South Indian region under an acceleration programme. He said that several international airlines have already shown willingness to bring their flights to MRIA after the Emirates-based Air lines commenced their operations in the airport which has been used as a

paddy storage during the previous government. He made these remarks during an inspection tour to the MRIA yesterday. The State Minister said that attention has been focused on the development of an investment zone adjacent to the Mattala Airport and it has been proposed in the President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa's 'Vision of Prosperity' policy programme. The Government's aim is to give opportunity for the farmers in Galle, Matara,

Hambantota, Moneragala and Nuwaraeliya to supply their products to the international market through the airport. Attention has been paid to set up cold storage rooms to store vegetables, fruits and fish of farmers in the future. The Airport is expected to handle more passenger and cargo services in coming months and thereby new PCR testing laboratory will be set up at the airport to ensure the safety of tourists entering the country," he added.

'Podi Lassi's' mother arrested

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The mother of organized criminal Janith Madusanka de Silva alias 'Podi Lassi' has been arrested by the officers of the Peliyagoda Western Province North Crime Division over the handling of large sums of money earned through drug trafficking. The 50-year-old woman was arrested on Monday evening around 4.30 pm while she was hiding at a location in Maya Mawatha, Pannipitiya, in the

Kottawa Police Division. During the arrest, the Police had seized Rs.51,000 in cash, five mobile phones and a bank account pass book from the suspect. She is a resident of the Thelwatte area. The suspect was produced before the Nugegoda Magistrate's Court yesterday (25). Further investigations are being carried out by the Peliyagoda Western Province North Crime Division.

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Star Fort, Matara

Polhena beach

Records indicate that the Star Fort was built in 1763. Shaped like a star, the fort was built as a forward defence post to the larger Matara Fort.

MATARA: The Southern Belle

DISHAN JOSEPH

Sri Lanka is blessed with many exotic destinations. Every province has its unique identity, supplemented by rich regional cuisine. The following narrative is based on a few visits made to Matara over the years.

Driving along the Southern Expressway is a time-efficient travel choice. The Southern Expressway offers so much of green scenery on either side. Taking the train is quite fun, but I have not tried it on this long journey. Driving along the Expressway in the morning is a rewarding experience, and without realizing that we had almost covered 160 kilometres we were in Matara in about two hours.

This expressway becomes a vital link in connecting destinations. Our first stop was Paravi Dupatha (Pigeon Island) located near the main bus stand area. It is connected to the main road by an iron bridge. Walking on the bridge we felt the refreshing sea breeze caress our faces. The small temple on the island was full of devotees and foreign visitors. Buddhist flags were fluttering, beautifully enhancing the aura of this small island. The view of the ocean was absolutely amazing. Some marine birds flew above us, though I could not identify them.

Having drunk thambili, we went to St. Mary's Church. The morning sunlight penetrated through the stained glass windows. At the rear of the church, there is a side entrance and I spotted the grotto where the statue of Blessed Mary was kept. According to ancient church records, the image was made in the 17th century using ash wood. Around 500 years ago, the statue had suddenly washed ashore and the people brought it to the parish priest. In 1911, the Bishop of Galle Rt. Rev. Dr. Van Reeth wanted the minor damage on the statue repaired and transported it by ship to Europe. After the repairs, the sacred statue was sent in a wooden crate in the ship *MV Beachy*.

The ship encountered a raging storm and ran aground somewhere in England and the statue was lost. Bishop Van Reeth subsequently visited Belgium and the statue was traced there. The jubilant Bishop carefully packed the statue and sent it on board the vessel *Princess Alice*. To everyone's surprise, the ship caught fire, and the statue was lost once again. Finally, on November 12, 1912, the blessed image was returned to the Matara Shrine, to the joy of thousands. The final saga of this statue culminated with the 2004 tsunami. As turbulent waves crashed onto the church, the parish priest saw the statue being uprooted and cast into the sea. A few weeks later, he was walking on the beach after prayers when a messenger told him that the image was found close to Browns Hill. Again the congregation was overjoyed. So this statue was lost at sea four times and found her way back to her faithful parish.

After lunch, we decided to see Star Fort which is a somewhat dainty fortified garrison in comparison to other Dutch forts which are much larger. Matara was once the administrative hub of the Dutch and a lucrative trading post for cinna-

mon. Records indicate that the Star Fort was built in 1763. Shaped like a star, the fort was built as a forward defence post to the larger Matara Fort. The bigger fort also has a beautiful church belonging to the Dutch Reformed Church (presently Christian Reformed Church).

Star Fort is guarded by a wooden drawbridge. Above its entrance, there is a coat of arms. I stood on the bridge and looked into the green waters of the moat. I spotted some black turtles. Some seniors opine that there were crocodiles in these waters during the glory days of the fort. The crocodiles were in essence a deterrent to any unwanted visitors. Inside the fort, there is a small museum. The fort has an inner defence wall that covers 360 degrees with cannon mounts opening outward.

On our return drive, we passed the Nupe Market, which is an old Dutch building with a massive courtyard in the centre. It is said to have been built in 1761. The wooden latticework on the building is stunning.

On another visit to Matara, we ventured out to see one of the famous places of religious worship in Matara. The province has many ancient Buddhist temples including Umangala Raja Maha Vihara (Third Century), Athkanda Temple (Fifth Century), Devundara Devale (Eighth Century) and Galgane Devale (Eighth Century). The Devundara Devale or Vishnu Devale is set amid a large garden.

There is a majestic stupa and another shrine painted in bright blue. The venue displays so much of colour. Pilgrims have journeyed here from every part of Sri Lanka. They offered trays laden with fruits to the kapu mahathma - a temple custodian who recites incantations. He is clad in white sarong and shirt. To the right of this temple are seven mini shrines dedicated to various gods. Vishnu devale had two resident elephants. The friendly elephants reminded me of the regal splendour of these bygone kingdoms when elephants were part of many state parades.

In the evening, we navigated our way to the southernmost tip of Sri Lanka, the point of Dondra. I wanted to explore the famous lighthouse built in 1890. The massive white tower stood like a sentinel on the southern coast. Thankfully, the gates are open and we are greeted by the lighthouse keeper. The Dondra Lighthouse at 160 feet (with eight floors) is the tallest in Asia and still fully operational. Her main light empowered with 40 large bulbs can illuminate the night with a visual beam range of 25 kilometres. The last venue for the day was a visit to Polhena beach, where children were playing. In terms of cuisine, the signature dish of the south is the ambul dhiya - a delicious preparation of seafood that goes well with rice, hoppers or string hoppers. A few shops sell traditional sweets affiliated to old southern cuisine. It is a delightful treat to anyone. Matara is a destination full of history. The views of the ocean are brilliant. As a sage had said centuries ago regarding new experiences in life - there are no endings, only pauses when we look for new beginnings.

Matara was once the administrative hub of the Dutch and a lucrative trading post for cinnamon.



Sri Vishnu Devalaya



Star Fort, Matara



The lighthouse

On our return drive, we passed the Nupe Market, which is an old Dutch building with a massive courtyard in the centre. It is said to have been built in 1761. The wooden latticework on the building is stunning.



The old Nupe Market



Sri Lanka. Australia enjoy strong relationship

- Australian High Commissioner

NIMAL WIJESINGHE, Anuradhapura Additional District Cor.

"Australia has been supporting Sri Lanka in numerous ways when the latter was undergoing difficulties. The two countries have strong relationships in many fields and will continue to do so in the future as well," Australian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka David Holly said.

He was participating in a ceremony at the Anuradhapura District Secretariat on August 24 where food and other items were provided to migrant returnees in the Anuradhapura District on Friday under the patronage of the International Organization for Migration (IMO).

Many of the returnees have been adversely affected by the COVID 19 pandemic because they have lost their livelihoods. Over 200 returnees, their



Australian High Commissioner David Holly addressing the participants.

Picture by Nimal Wijesinghe

families, and vulnerable members of the community received the items by the Anuradhapura District Secretariat. Eight shelters for orphans, differently abled persons, elders and victims of sexual and gender based violence will be supported through the project.

UN Coordinator in Sri Lanka Hanaa singer stated that the UN has been working very closely with the Government

to address the COVID 19 crisis.

Singer added that the UN's efforts have primarily included technical expertise to support the Government.

Anuradhapura District Secretary R.M.Wanninayaka thanked the donors and contributing agencies for their generous support to the vulnerable communities. IMO Chief of Mission to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Sarat Dash thanked everyone who assisted the group.

The IOM has supported the Government efforts in managing migration in a dignified manner in the country. It has initiated several COVID - 19 related activities to assist migrants, returnees, their communities, and vulnerable sectors to support the Government in the welfare of migrants.

Garment factory closed; employees stage protest



The employees in protest in front of the factory.

G.S. THALIGAMA, Kirindiwela Group Cor.

Employees of the Kirindiwela, Wathurugama and Seethawakapura garment factories in Avissawella joined together in protest over the management's decision to close down one of the garment factories of the group in Kirindiwela yesterday.

When the employees turned up for work yesterday, they found that the factory was closed, and staged a protest in front of the factory.

Kirindiwela Police arrived and held discussions with the protesting employees. They informed the protestors that the employees will be granted paid leave from September 1 to 21 and that the factory was shut down for maintenance and will be re-opened soon.

The employees were informed that they will be provided with transport to return home and that they can meet officials of the Labour Department to sort out other issues.

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Suspect arrested with pistol, bullets; car seized

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

A suspect was arrested in Upper Halmillewa in the Eppawela Police Division on Sunday (23) evening, Police Media Spokesman SSP Jaliya Senaratne said.

He was wanted in connection with a rape, abduction and assault and 18 other offences. A car was also seized and hand-

ed over to the Anuradhapura STF personnel. A foreign made micro pistol, magazine and three bullets that were concealed in the car were also seized.

The 39-year-old suspect is a resident of Gonahena, Webada. He was detained 72 hours on a court order by Eppawela Police.

'Novel medical system at selected hospitals to battle NCDs'

H.L.SUNIL SHANTHA, Kalutara Central Special Corr.

The number of people suffering from Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) gradually increasing today. Therefore, the Health Ministry has commenced a novel medical service at selected hospitals to mitigate the situation, Chief Medical Officer/DMO of the Halthota Provincial Hospital in the Kalutara District Dr. Tilak Nishantha Settinayake said.

He said that the Health Department has introduced the programme called 'Primary Healthcare Service Strengthening Programme,' (PSSP) and under this programme, a Health Service Package (HSP) has been provided to the hospital, Dr. T.N.Settinayake said.

He said that a series of medical tests on patients is carried out by specialists under the programme. Over 20,000 residents in 18 Grama Seva Divisions in

Halthota and suburbs have been registered through a computer data system and they are made to undergo screenings for cerebrovascular diseases, cancers, diabetic retinopathy, and diabetic neuropathy among others, he said.

The Halthota Divisional Hospital caters to over 11,000 people in the area, the doctor said. He said that those seek treatment from the hospital are provided with a clinic card with a bar code for any doctor to find out their health history. Urine and blood samples from patients are dispatched to the nearest hospital in a three wheeler from the Kalutara Regional Medical Services for testing and the test reports are sent to the Halthota Hospital through WhatsApp, Dr.Settinayake said.

The new medical service immensely helps save much time of those seeking treatment from the hospital, Dr. Settinayake said.

Dr.Settinayake has also started a separate therapy center at his residence in Horana free of charge.

The doctor said that the programme could be strengthened if the hospital were provided with a vehicle and a driver, a medical laboratory and adequate number of minor staff.

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Dhamma Schools education should be made compulsory - PM



RAJA WAIYASEKERA, Tissamaharama Special Corr.

Daham Pasel education should be made compulsory to build a society with virtues, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said. He was addressing a dahamhamuwa at the Kasagala Rajamaha Viharaya, which was held to mark the 125th Daham Pasel Day recently. The Prime Minister said that the missionary system of education destroyed the Buddhist education in the country. About 250,000 Buddhist students receive daham

pasel education now, he said. The Prime Minister said that he hailed the services rendered by the Maha Sangha to improve Daham Pasel education to make the future citizens of the country virtuous. The Prime Minister said he felt sad that a large number from the child generation abstain from the Daham Pasel education. "It was the bounden duty of the parents to direct their children towards the Daham Pasel education, the Premier said. "The Daham Pasel education has been

brought under the Education Ministry under a minister with great experiences so as to develop the Daham Pasel education," the Prime Minister said. "We as a Government and as individuals observe advices and proposals by the Maha Sangha. Buddhism has been given its due place in our Constitution while honouring the people of different faiths," the Prime Minister said. He said that even the President in his recent speech at Parliament endorsed it.

The Prime Minister said that the attack on the churches was carried out by unruly elements who were misled by certain quarters that wanted to rouse communal disharmony in the country. Asgiri Chapter General Secretary Ven. Dr. Medagama Dammanada Maha Nayaka Thera, Amarapura Sangha Sabha Chairman Ven. Ganthure Assaji Maha Nyake Thera Ven. Dr. Omalpe Sobitha Thera, All Ceylon Sasanakarakshaka Balamandala Deputy Chairman Ven. Prof.

Thubulle Selakkanda Thera and Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa, Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera, Daham Pasel and Bhikku Education State Minister Vijitha Berugoda, Air Service and Export Zone Development Promotion State Minister D.V. Chanaka and Parliamentarians Ajith Rajapaksa and Upul Galappathy and Southern Province Governor Willie Gamage were present.

SC reserves judgment in contempt of court case against Ranjan

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Supreme Court yesterday reserved its judgment in the contempt of court case filed against former Deputy Minister Ranjan Ramanayake for allegedly scandalising the judiciary by making statements to the media. The Supreme Court would deliver its judgment regarding this case in due course. However, the Court fixed the matter for October 21 for clarifications. Senior Additional Solicitor General Sarath Jayamanne appearing on behalf of the Attorney General informed that the Supreme Court has inherited

jurisdiction (constitutional) to hear contempt of court cases. Jayamanna stated that the Supreme Court has followed the accepted criminal procedure during this inquiry over the offence of scandalising court. President's Counsel M.A. Sumanthiran appearing for former Deputy Minister Ranjan Ramanayake informed Court that the law relating to scandalising the judiciary has been abolished as a form of contempt of court under the common law of England and Wales. He argued that law relating to scandalising Court is no longer

available in England where English common law is being practiced. The prosecution and respondent parties have already concluded testifying evidence in connection with this contempt of court case. All judges of the Supreme Court had earlier determined to proceed with contempt of court charges against the Deputy Minister after perusing the transcript of the video footage pertaining to the alleged derogatory statement. Ven. Magalkande Sudantha Thera and R.Sunil Perera, a

retired Air Force Officer, had made complaints to the Supreme Court seeking a contempt of court action against Deputy Minister Ranjan Ramanayake for allegedly making insulting remarks on the reputation of the judiciary and lawyers at a press conference held on August 21 last year. President's Counsel M.A. Sumanthiran with Senior counsel Viran Corea appeared for the respondent. Additional Solicitor General Sarath Jayamanne with Senior State Counsel Suharshi Herath Jayaweera appeared for the Attorney General.

Colombo Floating Market renovation work commences



Public Sanitation State Minister Dr. Nalaka Godaehewa and officials at the Colombo Floating Market participating in the ceremony to commence the renovation work.

DHARMASRI ABEYRATHNE

The Colombo Floating Market renovation work commenced on Monday under the guidance of the Urban Development Authority. A new development zone and a new pavement from Colombo to Maradana were started, too. The pavement links D.R. Wijewardena Mawatha and Bastiyana Mawatha near 'Colomba Gedra'. It runs through Kele Pola and the Technical Junction towards Maradana. Under the new development zone, resting places, small parks, eateries and many more facilities will be set up to improve the beauty of the area. The renovations of the Colombo Floating Market, which started under the short term development programmes, will be complete by November 17. About 80 per cent of the stalls of the Colombo Floating Market were closed during the previous government. The

Floating Market, a brainchild of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the then UDA Chairman, was opened on August 25, 2014 during the regime of President Mahinda Rajapaksa. It comprises 103 stalls set up at a cost of Rs 312 million which showcase country's heritage, local production and food culture. The Floating Market has a huge potential to attract local and foreign tourists if it is maintained properly, Chairman of Colombo Floating Market Merchants' Association Dumindu Wickramarachchi said. Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal, and Public Sanitation State Minister Dr. Nalaka Godaehewa said that the UDA activities will be carried out rapidly. "The President started all these development activities with a vision. But these projects were halted and paid less attention during the last regime," Dr. Godaehewa said.



A event titled 'Action Against Child Abuse' was held at the Colombo Independence Square recently. Shiranthi Rajapaksa, Justice Minister Ali Sabry and other dignitaries were present. Picture by Ashraff A. Samad

Special ops to locate two fishermen

WP DHARMASENA, Matara Group Corr.

A special search operation was launched by sea and air to find two missing fishermen who had left the Suduwella fishing harbour in Kotagoda for work on August 21 and had not returned yet. The Navy on the instructions of the Defence Ministry and Fisheries State Minister Kanchana Wijesekera have started the search operation. The Air Force, the Fisheries Ministry and the Disaster Management Ministry also assisted the operation. Three trawlers and a Y 12 aircraft have been deployed in the operation.

Former MPs asked to hand over official vehicles, residences

S.M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

The Provincial Councils and Local Government Ministry has informed in a letter to former Parliamentarians defeated at the last General Election to hand over their official residences and vehicles on or before August 31. Except a few former MPs,

others have already handed over their official residences and vehicles, Senior Administrative Secretary of the Ministry R.M. Jayaratne said. Legal steps will be taken against them if they fail to comply with the law in this regard, he said yesterday at a press briefing in Kurunegala.

Plywood workers demand salaries



Plantation Minister Ramesh Pathirana in conversation with the employees. Picture by Mahinda P. Liyanage

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE, Galle Central Special Corr.

Gintota Plywood Factory employees staged a protest demanding their salaries in front of the Halle De Galle, while the first District Coordinating Committee meeting under the new Government was in progress there recently.

The protesters said that they have been employed at the factory for 22 years and on March 17, the factory owner abruptly closed down the factory without paying their February salary.

They said that they were not given any compensation and the machineries of the factory are allegedly going to be sold. The workers requested the intervention of the Government to ensure them the justice. Plantation Minister Ramesh Pathirana met the protestors and listened to their grievances. He contacted the Labour Commissioner over the phone and urged him to look into the employees' issue and resolve their problems soon.

Parents demand principal's transfer

ASELA KURULUWANSHA

Parents of students of the Hatton Welioya Malai Magal Tamil Maha Vidyalaya, which is administered by the Hatton Zonal Education Office, staged a protest at the school demanding the transfer of the principal.

The parents joined the protest foregoing their work at tea estates. The protestors said that principal SA Sivapakym had been at the school for about six years and that the level of education of the students from Year 1 to

Year 11 had dropped because of his informal administration. They said that the Grade 10 student had been brutally beaten by the principal on August 20 and the injured had been treated at the Watawala and the Nawalapitiya Hospi-

itals for several days. Watawala Police OIC Chief Inspector Manjula Viraj Vithanage visited the location where the parents in the protest and told them that if there is a need to transfer the principal, the request should be sent in writ-

ing to the Hatton Zonal Director of Education. The group agreed. The principal was arrested by Watawala Police for assaulting a student and was released on bail after being produced before the Hatton Magistrate's Court.

National programme to develop 100,000 kms of ancillary roads

IRANGIKA RANGE

The national programme to develop 100,000 kilometres of ancillary roads connected to the rural roads and main roads in the country was commenced yesterday fulfilling one of the pledges made in President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa's "Saubhagayaya Dekma" Policy Manifesto. Accordingly, development activities of ancillary roads in Wattala electorate commenced yesterday under the patronage of Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga and Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister Nimal Lansa. The project also identifies and develops alternate routes and widen roads to address traffic congestion in main cities across the country. As an initial step, the Handala-Maradana Road and the Maradana-

watte alternative route will be rehabilitated at a cost of Rs.47.5 million. Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said the government has been able to launch massive road development projects under the policy manifesto Rata Hadana Saubhagayaya Dekma just three months after the General Election. The government expects to rehabilitate and modernise the country-wide road network including rural and urban roads following the international standards. Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister Nimal Lansa said one of the main priority of the government is to rehabilitate and develop the country's rural road network which will directly benefit the economy and the people's livelihood.



State Minister of Batik, Handloom Fabrics and Local Apparel Products Dayasiri Jayasekera paid a visit to Laksala where most tourists patronise to buy souvenirs. Picture by Dushmantha Mayadunne

Tanks in Yala to be renovated

RAJA WAIYASEKERA, Tissamaharama Spl. Corr.

Fourteen tanks in Yala National Park will be renovated at a cost of Rs. 1.681 billion. At the initial stage, two tanks named Gona Ganaara Wewa and Thalagoda Wewa will be renovated and the renovation work will be implemented within this year. A sum of Rs. 148 million will be spent for this project. Renovation work will be carried out under the supervision of

the Wildlife Conservation Department. Former Wildlife Director General Sumith Pilapiyitiya said that the motive behind the renovation of the 14 tanks was to provide the animals with adequate water even during the drought. He said that the human - elephant conflict could be minimised by renovating tanks because the wild elephants will not roam around the villages if they have enough food and water within the limits of the Yala National Park.

No construction in Sinharaja - Nipuna Ranawaka

RAJA WAIYASEKERA, Tissamaharama Special Corr.

Matara Parliamentarian and Matara District Development Committee Chairman Nipuna Ranawaka said that not a single new construction has been done at the Sinharaja other than widening the road. He was addressing a press conference in Matara on Tuesday. The Chairman said that those widening the road have not obtained permission for the task from the Central Environment Authority (CEA).

"That was why the President had prohibited any further construction work. A report will be called for and a decision will be arrived at thereafter whether to continue construction work, he said. The issue was discussed with the CEA, he said and denied allegations by certain section that the road is being constructed to provide transport to a hotel. He said he or any member of his family has no idea of setting up a hotel in the vicinity of Sinharaja, which is an internationally recognized world heritage.

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A clear stance

For the first time since the avalanche of 1977, a Government has been able to muster a two thirds majority on its own steam not having to depend on minority or ethno-religious parties to make up the numbers in Parliament for the purpose of passing vital legislation or drafting a new Constitution. The trend was set by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa by carrying the electorate purely on the strength of the majority vote last November.

It was only inevitable that the status quo would remain at the General Election as well. The Government can accomplish its most important task of changing the present Constitution having 151 Members – a clear two thirds majority. It is based on this strength that Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, while inviting minor or minority parties to join the new Government, qualified this by saying that they should not expect any ministerial portfolios and other perks for doing so. “They could join us and be partners in developing this country and be proud of it. However they would not be given ministerial portfolios in return,” the Premier told the media. He also said; “If there is any such request (to join the Government) we will consider accommodating them but not on their conditions. The people have given us a clear mandate and nobody can dictate terms to us,” he said.

The Prime Minister is fully justified in coming to such a decision. One recalls the enlarged Cabinets of the past where horse trading by minority political parties placed Governments against the wall in order to salvage the administration from collapsing – all due to the anomalies in the Proportional Representation (PR) system. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's 1994 Government was a typical example of this surrender. Having recorded a sweeping victory at the Parliamentary election she was yet left with only a one member majority in Government giving the opportunity for the vultures to move in and grab all the plum ministries on offer. Prime Minister Rajapaksa had to face a similar situation after falling just short of a two thirds majority in 2010 leaving him no option but to rope in a group of MPs from the UNP to ensure a stable Government.

The pitfalls of unstable Governments finding it difficult to muster working majorities in Parliament, needless to say, have their fall out on the public at large as well. They have to live in a state of suspense and political uncertainty and the efforts to fashion out stable Governments out of chaos have direct implications on their own welfare.

Coalition Governments and Governments formed with the support of minority parties have always been accompanied by huge Cabinets, as already mentioned. Needless to say, sustaining such Cabinets will directly fall on the taxpayers who feel the pinch by way of increased prices and other burdens heaped upon them as a result of having to indulge the luxuries of jumbo Cabinets. Minority parties helping to prop up Governments do not merely stop with Cabinet portfolios. They demand other favours too, such as chairmanships in State corporations for their catchers and diplomatic postings for relatives, leading to inefficiency and mediocrity all around, with the public made to suffer the consequences.

This must end and the result of this General Election has brought about sanity and a positive outcome not only for the Government but also for the tax-paying public. Not only that, now that the Government is equipped with the necessary wherewithal to effect vital changes it should immediately get down to the business of changing the PR voting system if not in toto, at least to remove its anomalies so that ethno-religious and other minority parties will no longer be able to hold Governments to ransom.

Nip this in the bud

While the ongoing shenanigans in the filling of the single National List slot of the Ape Janabala Pakshaya (AJP) is drawing much public attention, there is also much manoeuvring to have defeated TNA candidate Mavai Senathiraja in Parliament albeit to function on a rotation basis with the present TNA choice for the National List representing the Ampara district. While these knotty political threads are strictly left to respective parties concerned to untangle, their implications are bound to have their fallout on the taxpayer, however negligible that maybe. For, if the rotational arrangement (two and half years for each MP, in the TNA imbroglio) works, won't this mean that both MPs will be entitled to the Duty Free vehicle permit which will be a revenue loss twice over to the Government? Again, what if Ven. Rathana Thera who was once an MP and has already availed himself of the facility and now front-runner of the AJP vying for the vacant National List slot, also decides to adopt the same formula? The new Government, under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, should seriously consider scrapping the Duty Free vehicle permit entitlement to MPs after the first one, if it is not altogether abolished.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. - John C. Maxwell

Constitutional Reforms in the offing

MIDWEEK POLITICS

with Disna Mudalige

“Constantly I will review the progress of the achievement of the goals of the Government that are implemented through Ministries and the public sector. If I find any Ministry failing to achieve its set targets, I will not hesitate to effect necessary changes to implement policies of the Government.”

Known as a result-oriented leader with exacting standards who persistently urges his team to live up to the people's expectations, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's above message at the inaugural session of the new Parliament was clear and forthright.

The President's 30-minute speech was indicative that he was determined to set a high-performance culture for the Government, so that it would not to miss the rare window of opportunity that has opened up with the people's solid mandate to craft a success story of its own. It was reported that he had asked for progress review reports from Ministries once every six months.

“We have a clear understanding of the expectations with which the people gave such a powerful mandate to the Government. We will leave no room for such expectations to be dashed for any reason. We will be sensitive to fulfilling the needs of the people, keeping in mind that all these positions are responsibilities and not privileges,” said the President while delivering the Policy Statement of the Government.

Explaining the rationale behind the line-up of Ministries and State Ministries, he said those were devised to pursue a people-centric economy.

“Out of the box thinking is required in order to meet the economic challenges. This time, the ministries have been formed with this thought in mind. Our basic aims are to strengthen the local economy and to increase export income,” he added outlining the Government's blueprint for the next five years also taking the time to elucidate on main issues identified in key areas such as agriculture, fisheries, education, health, employment generation and traditional industries.

Contours of reforms

The President before winding up his speech touched on the topic of Constitutional reforms in the making, stating that the withdrawal of the 19th Amendment (19A) would be a priority task of the Government. He said the Government would, thereafter, bring in a new Constitution to give effect to far-reaching changes, including electoral reforms, with inputs of all stakeholders.

The Members, who took the floor the following day to place their views on record on the Policy Statement of the President, began a vibrant debate on matters related to the Constitution.

The Members of the Government side pointed out that the country's administration was a mess following the passage of the 19A and the country and its people were at a loss under the previous administration. They pointed out the confusion at the highest level of the Government led to anarchy, which proved costly in terms of national security. “Despite the people's disappointment, they had to wait four and half years to change the Government because of an absurd provision inserted into the Constitution,” said Leader of the House and Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

What can be understood from the information available in the public domain as at now is that the 19A would be rescinded except for a few clauses including the five-year term of the Presidency and its two-term limitation, the recognition of Right to Information (RTI) as a fundamental right, and the functioning of Independent Commissions. The role of Constitutional Council, the embargo on dual citizens to enter Parliament, the composition of the Election Commission, and the inability to dissolve Parliament until the completion of four and half years are being reviewed and likely to be changed. The provisions for the Government to bring in urgent bills and for the President to hold the Defence Ministry portfolio, which were removed under the 19A, could be re-introduced. The Government will put the 20th Amendment on the Table next month to make the relevant changes.

The Opposition parties too were in agreement that the 19A was incomplete in its current status and that a new Constitution was a long felt need.



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa addressing the inaugural session of the Ninth Parliament. Picture by Sulochana Gamage



Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa



Former Speaker Karu Jayasuriya



State Minister Sarath Weerasekara



MP C. V. Vigneswaran

Taking part in the first formal debate in the new Parliament, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and the National People's Power (NPP) Members expressed the need to retain the progressive features of the 19A when rectifying its shortcomings. Sceptical of the Government's motives, they however said that any move to reverse the democratic gains of the 19A would be objected.

13th Amendment

At the same time, a fresh debate has sparked on the 13th Amendment (13A), a controversial piece of Amendment that introduced the Provincial Councils (PCs) to the local administrative system in 1987 following the Indo-Lanka Accord between then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and then President J.R. Jayewardene.

The complaint that the PCs are a white elephant and the colossal sum of money spent for their upkeep is a waste has persisted for some time now. However, the Tamil political parties in the North and the East are mainly supportive of that system as they see it as a devolved unit of power that paves the way for power sharing.

Newly appointed Provincial Coun-

cils and Local Government State Minister Rear Admiral (Rtd) Sarath Weerasekara had already registered his opposition against the 13A. In his very first remarks to Media after assuming duties, he said in no uncertain terms that the much debated Police and Land Powers would not be given to the PCs.

He vowed to push for abolition of “all detrimental Clauses” in the 13A. He added that the level of PCs' contribution to the country's administration over the past years was being evaluated. On the other hand, Tamil People's National Alliance MP C. V. Vigneswaran was up in arms against removing this Amendment, and told the House that the Government could not arbitrarily put it away without discussing with India. Later, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) led by R. Sampanthan also corroborated that stance.

Opposition's role

In the meantime, Parliament has begun selecting Members for its many Committees including the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) and the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) to get started with their oversight duties.



Parliament proceedings in progress. - Picture by Sulochana Gamage

“We have a clear understanding of the expectations with which the people gave such a powerful mandate to the Government. We will leave no room for such expectations to be dashed for any reason. We will be sensitive to fulfilling the needs of the people, keeping in mind that all these positions are responsibilities and not privileges,” said the President while delivering the Policy Statement of the Government.

The Parliamentary Watchdog Committees play a prominent role when it comes to keeping tabs on public finances and ensuring healthy functioning of public institutions. The Opposition, however weak it may be, has a bigger responsibility in them, and has already requested the chairmanship of the COPE and the COPA.

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa, well aware that his Party is facing a long winter in the Opposition with the unprecedented electoral win of the ruling party, assumed duties in his post also appointing Party senior Lakshman Kiriella as the Chief Opposition Whip. He also handed out five Deputy and Assistant Chief Opposition Whip posts to his Party stalwarts.

Premadasa, while admitting the development goals mentioned in the President's statement were good, questioned how those could be implemented with an ailing economy. The economic issues will be discussed extensively in the House tomorrow and day after when it takes up a Vote on Account to a tune of Rs 1.7 trillion to provide for the public expenditure for the remainder of the year. This is the fourth Vote on Account in a row and the Government plans to present a proper Budget in November for the next year.

Karu's offer

Outside Parliament, the United National Party (UNP) was struggling to resolve its internal issues which have precipitated following the Election debacle. In a new development, former Speaker and senior-most UNP member Karu Jayasuriya has come forward to accept the Party's leadership to ease its internal strife, giving a glimmer of hope for the Party's rank and file.

Jayasuriya turns octogenarian next month, and he opted out of the Election race when his calls for peace between the warring factions of the ‘Grand Old Party’ went unheeded. Issuing a media statement on Monday, he said he is ready for the challenge of steering the Party to overcome its current predicament. He said his decision was after careful consideration of the many requests that came his way, and that it has been conveyed to UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe and the Party seniors.

Three weeks since the conclusion of the Parliamentary Poll, the UNP is still to fill the only National List seat available for the Party, as is the Apeyana Bala Pakshaya (AJP), embroiled in infighting over who should be nominated for its solitary Parliamentary Seat.

OPPOSITION INTROSPECTION NEEDED, NOT TANTRUMS ABOUT CABINET

RAJPAL ABEYNAAYAKE

So much ado about the so called new structure of the Cabinet, and it's about nothing. The commentariat has made the Cabinet a target, now that the new Parliament is a *fait accompli*, much against their fondest wishes. They say that the structure of the Cabinet does not give sufficient weightage to new blood and relies too much on the older hands in the new Parliament. They have also ridiculed the State Ministers' portfolios calling the Ministries given 'hilarious' because of what they perceive as narrowed down subject descriptions.

Here is news, guys. Cabinet level or State Ministry level structures don't last forever. It is likely that the current subject allocations were a direct response to the post-pandemic economic fallout. With world markets essentially shut in our face, the economy has to survive with some sagacity and quick thinking.

The domestic economy has to self-sustain to a very large extent, and there is no choice in the matter. These things may not matter to the cigar chomping pundits and the graybeards who have Gramsci for breakfast, lunch and dinner. But the rice eating ordinary folk have children to bring up, and livelihoods to sustain in extraordinary times of strain.

They can be spared the lectures on horizontal and vertical Cabinet arrangements and homilies on structural politics, whatever those things mean.

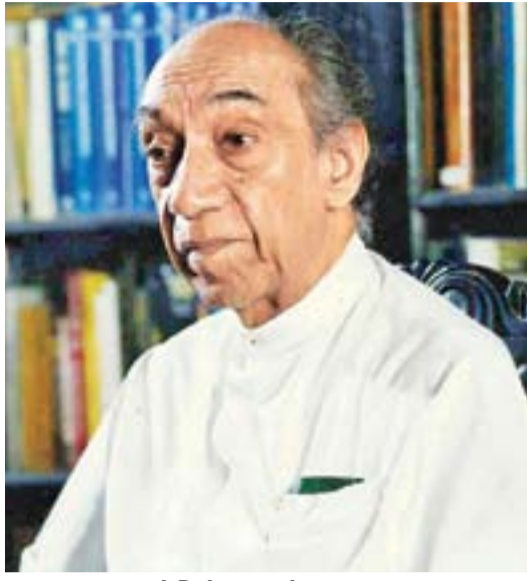
PERENNIAL

The point is that these specific subjects may not be State ministry allocations for until Kingdom Come. They are the imperative of these times. As the economy moves on from the challenging post Covid period, the subject allocations would probably change to accommodate a different set of circumstances.

Gramsci will be still chomping cigars, or at least something like that. People and politics keeps moving on, and the old order changeth, all the time. What's fixated are mindsets — and probably how some folks enjoy their perennial Gramsci-gaze.

The militarization cry now largely being threadbare, particularly after the people responded to it with the courtesy of a two-thirds majority no less for the alleged militarist government, some have nudged their criticism over to something else — dubbed familial politics — hoping nobody would notice the transition to softer weaponry. They have been counting and recounting the number of certain clan members in Parliament.

It's strange that they point to all this after the most powerful mandate has been handed to a Government since JRJ. If there are some clan members in the House, the people voted for them. If anyone says the people voted for them because they have been



Former President J. R. Jayewardene



UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe



Ruwan Wijewardene

given nominations in the first place, let them explain how these certain clan members came on top of the list in several districts. Was that with people voting with a gun at their heads?

It was no secret that Ranil Wickremesinghe was grooming his nephew for the top spot in the UNP, and it's probably true that he still desires that — except that now that UNP leadership slot is not worth two pol sambol pancakes. The then UNP and now SJB when in Government governed under members' only club-related affiliations, and there were interweaving clubs, the Royal College Club, and other extended clan clubs such as the Wijewardene-Wickremesinghe clan club, and shouldn't that ring a bell about the time a cousin was sent as High Commissioner to the UK — while the top Defence portfolio was held by the greenhorn nephew, still taking his baby steps in politics?

But no Gramscis or graybeards were howling about vertical and horizontal top heaviness or bombastically then, so why now?

LINCOLN

Their slip shows. There is no introspection within Opposition party ranks or among their ideologues. Sajith Premadasa is talking to reporters about the mandate ('Jana Warama') he received. As an Opposition party that failed miserably and conceded a two thirds majority to the winning party, Premadasa should know that he got no 'mandate'. There is no point in declaiming in Parliament with a theatrical head tilt about Benjamin Disraeli and Abraham Lincoln if he doesn't know that a losing party, and one that loses so badly as his, has no 'mandate.'

This is where Sri Lanka's so-called 'liberal' Opposition lost its way. They don't have the power to look inward or to self-correct. They may have to reconcile eventually to the fate of a one party State much against their wishes. They already seem to be in one.

The SLPP's lead in the seat count is so humongous that by default the Opposition parties have to consider that they are in a quasi one-party arrangement. They will in their unfaltering style try to connote that trend with creeping militarization or familial politics or some such idea, but that association of assorted ideas with a one party state by default, will not help them in the least.

If they are staring down the barrel of a one party State, they brought it upon themselves, and their continued effort to boast of mandates and to act as if they are always right even when they are repudiated, will only make the one party arrangement a more permanent feature in Sri Lankan politics.

Such one party arrangements are difficult to get rid of when they are established. In Malaysia, Mahathir Mohomed, the sage grand personage of the country's politics is at the sprightly age of 95 now trying to dethrone once more the longest serving party in Malaysian politics, the Barisan Nasional.

Mahathir was himself once in power as the country's longest serving prime minister, as head of the Barisan. But when he rebelled against his old party when it was caught up in a massive corruption scandal involving his successor Najib Razak, Malaysians thought the one party political dynamic had been swept away for good.

But the Barisan is back in Government. This writer is not saying that's anything to be celebrated, but that's the way it is. Even Mahathir with all his political capital has not been able to dislodge the nationalist credentials of the Barisan, despite the taint of corruption associated with that party.

CONSCIOUS

So if the Sri Lankan Opposition has brought on itself a one party arrangement by default, they will not be able to wish away that reality anytime soon. Not for one moment is the current SLPP to be associated with corruption as the Barisan is, and of course there isn't any one party state because democracy is

healthy, alive and kicking in this country.

All that can be said is that the opposition may feel as if they are staring at the reality of a one party state because of the sheer numbers that they are up against, and that perception is due to their own doing — and will continue due to their own doing into the future.

They are not conscious of the fact that political alignments and formations change. Nobody thought of the emergence of Emmanuel Macron's single party that emerged from nowhere and took over French politics. In India, the extended Congress dominance is so much a thing of the past that people can only talk of — or remember — BJP and Modi dominance these days. The Nehru dynasty is more or less a quaint memory from the past.

In Japan, every now and then — for instance a brief two years from 1994 — a new party is returned to power, and whenever that happens the Japanese feel the virtual one party dominance of the Liberal Democrats has been challenged.

The domestic economy has to self-sustain to a very large extent, and there is no choice in the matter. These things may not matter to the cigar chomping pundits and the graybeards who have Gramsci for breakfast, lunch and dinner. But the rice eating ordinary folk have children to bring up, and livelihoods to sustain in extraordinary times of strain.

But it turns out, the Liberal Democrats always regain power, and as in the present time they are firmly in saddle, these days under Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest serving premier.

The Sri Lankan Opposition may be looking down the barrel at that kind of dominance but yet all Sajith Premadasa can manage is his head tilt, his struggle with the English language that he is clumsily straining to articulate, and his faux pas about a mandate when he and his party has been relegated to a miserable rump in Parliament. One does feel sorry for those whom he calls his supporters, at least such as those that exist for the time being.



Voters waiting to cast their ballots in the 2020 Parliamentary Election on August 5. Picture by Sulochana Gamage

Black and white AND/OR colour?



by Malinda Seneviratne

First of all, contrary to popular assumption, black and white ARE colours. 'In black and white' of course has connotations that have little to do with colour. This, then, is about metaphor.

Ajith Fernando has penned a pertinent note on an old theme: 'If one's world is black-white then colouring it is your responsibility. If you lament the lack of colours, the first accused in this crime is no one else but you.'

Black-white, needless to say, is colour-poor. Richer would it be if things were splashed with a full palette. Ajith's mild admonishment is for those who bemoan but do nothing, not even the can-be-done parts of dispelling the gloom.

In essence, it's a different way of saying 'stop cursing the darkness and light a candle.' But no, even when there are candles around, there are those who will suffer the darkness until power is restored (in the case of a power failure in the middle of the night, for example). We never have enough, but we don't bother to consider the possibility of making do with what we do have. We don't say, 'it's not enough, but let's do our best to make it enough.'

We don't have a full palette, but we are not completely without colour. We can use them or wait for eternity for that magical set of crayons, pencils, watercolours or oils that can give us every conceivable shade. I am willing to wager that even in the unlikely event of being gifted such a complete range, we are unlikely to use them all. Think back on the first set of crayons someone gave you. Weren't there some which disappeared from constant use, others that shortened to stubs and still others that retained original length? That's how it is in colouring. We can colour with what we have but we will complain



until we are in possession of a wider set of option, to most of which we won't give a second thought.

There's a flip side to this as well. A lot of colour is also a lot of noise. We are blinded to the details when we are forced to gaze on a bright flush of colour. There are separating lines which define things, but colour has a way of pushing them to margins of the invisible. What we are left with is a blur, a handsome swish of different brushes dipped in different cans of paint; and we lose the faculty of distinguishing one thing from another. We end up misnaming, misdefining and being misled.

There are times when we have to retire a lot of colours so we can obtain something at least half-way stark to facilitate comprehension. We need to break things down to constituent parts. Colour, metaphorically, can and does gloss over a lot of injustice, for example.

In fact colour can turn falsehood into truth, injustice into justice, nightmare into the sweetest of dreams, vile and selfish intent into benevolent compulsion.

Black-white to Colour or vice versa, as Ajith would say, it's all up to us. Well, we are not in total control of course for we neither have a complete palette nor a delicate eraser that can push aside lie and distortion.

Nevertheless as long as there's mind and heart, as long as we can imagine and have the strength to scratch away certain deceiving surfaces, we can unravel the real.

As Ajith's observation implies, there could be more than one culprit for the crime of lamenting beyond reason, but we can only deal with that which we can control. Things are seldom completely out of control.

There's a brush and some colours we can use to turn life from dismal to palatable.

There's an eraser that allows us to get things or say things in black and white — just so it's not all gray.

Up to us. To the extent possible.

malindasenevi@gmail.com.
www.malindawords.blogspot.com.

Black-white, needless to say, is colour-poor. Richer would it be if things were splashed with a full palette. Ajith's mild admonishment is for those who bemoan but do nothing, not even the can-be-done parts of dispelling the gloom.



Ajith Fernando



COVID-19 lockdowns limit IS attacks - UN

UN: Coronavirus lockdowns appear to have reduced the threat of Islamic State (IS) group attacks in many countries, but the risk is greater in Iraq and Syria, a UN official said Monday.

While IS is now a shadow of the organization that occupied swathes of Iraq and Syria just a few years ago, it still has an estimated 10,000 fighters between those two countries.

However, movement curbs against the virus pandemic have reduced IS's ability to launch raids elsewhere.

"Measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19, such as

lockdowns and restrictions on movement, seem to have reduced the risk of terrorist attacks in many countries," said Vladimir Voronkov, under secretary general for counter-terrorism.

He did not specify which nations, but IS has claimed attacks in countries ranging from France to the Philippines.

Voronkov said the pandemic's impact on the group's recruitment and finances is unclear, though the threat of cybercrime as a funding source has increased as more people are online due to the contagion.

He added there is evidence IS jihadists are regrouping in conflict zones like Iraq and Syria.

Yet for the moment, authorities have not seen a clear indication of a strategy change under new leader Amir Mohammed Said Abd al-Rahman al-Mawla, who replaced Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi after his death in a raid by US special forces in October.

A former officer in the army of Saddam Hussein, Mawla joined the ranks of Al-Qaeda after the US invasion of Iraq and Hussein's capture in 2003, according to the Counter

Extremism Project (CEP) think-tank.

Voronkov also provided an update on the group's activities elsewhere, saying IS has an estimated 3,500 fighters in West Africa, and has continued to build ties with local jihadist groups.

In Libya IS jihadists number only in the hundreds, but the group remains a threat to the region.

It also has capacity to launch devastating attacks in parts of Afghanistan, despite the arrest of some leaders and the loss of some of its territory, Voronkov said. - AFP

Outrage over police shooting of black man in front of his children



The shooting of Jacob Blake (R) in the US State of Wisconsin, another victim of Police brutality?

US: A video showing Wisconsin Police shooting a black man in the back in front of his children sparked outrage across the United States on Monday, with officials calling in the national guard as they girded for a second night of violent protests.

Wisconsin's Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes said the shooting of Jacob Blake in the city of Kenosha reflected a pattern of police violence nationwide against African Americans.

Kenosha County, on the shores of Lake Michigan, declared a "state of emergency curfew" as angry citizens planned demonstrations.

Video footage showed Blake, 29, being shot in the back seven times at extremely close range by two officers Sunday as he tried to enter his car following what some observers said was his attempt to break up a fight.

The footage and the lack of any immediate explanation provoked painful memories of the police killing of African American George Floyd three months ago in Minneapolis, which sparked massive nationwide protests.

Blake was airlifted to hospital in Milwaukee in a serious condition, but local media reported Monday afternoon that his family said he was out of surgery and improving.

"Tonight, Jacob Blake was shot in the back multiple times, in broad daylight, in Kenosha, Wisconsin," Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers said Sunday.

"Yesterday, Jacob Blake was shot seven times in the back by police. His kids watched from the car. Today, we woke to grieve yet again. We need a full and transparent investigation," he said.

"This was not an accident. This wasn't bad police work... This is familiar violence to too many of us. This didn't start with George Floyd."

Kenosha police though pushed back at criticism, and urged the public to wait for the results of an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

The officers involved in the incident were placed on administrative leave, according to the justice department.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who represents the families of Floyd and other black victims of Police violence, said Blake had been trying to break up a fight between two women, and that his three sons were in the car at the time.

He urged protesters to be peaceful, adding: "We must see the trauma, fear and exhaustion of being black in our state and our country." - AFP

Bolsonaro blasts "malevolent" media

BRAZIL: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro lashed out again at journalists Monday, a day after threatening to punch a reporter who questioned him about corruption accusations involving the First Lady.

Speaking at an event called "Brazil Beating COVID," Bolsonaro accused journalists of "malevolence" and "debauchery," and added that they were "fat-asses" at high risk from the new coronavirus.

The far-right leader, who caught the virus himself in July, said he had recovered thanks to his past as an "athlete" in the army, where he served as captain.

"But when one of you fat-asses catches it, the chances of survival are far less. You only know how to use your pens malevolently," he told journalists covering the event.

The outburst came a day after Bolsonaro, 65, threatened a reporter who asked him about allegations his wife, Michelle, received money from a political operative targeted in a corruption investigation.

"I so want to pound your mouth with punches," Bolsonaro told the reporter from leading newspaper O Globo.

Known as the "Tropical Trump," Bolsonaro has had a tense relationship with the press since taking office in January 2019.



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro poses with a doctor before the "Brazil beating COVID-19" event at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia on Monday. - AFP

Brazil's National Journalists' Federation counted 116 times he attacked the news media last year. Bolsonaro also used Monday's event to reiterate his praise for the drug hydroxychloroquine against the coronavirus. Bolsonaro has railed against the use of lockdown measures to contain COVID-19, instead pushing the anti-malaria drug, despite a slate of scientific studies finding it ineffective against the virus.

"You've saved thousands and thousands of lives in Brazil," he told a group of doctors that, like him, backs using the drug on COVID-19 patients. - AFP

China, US to 'push forward' phase one economic deal

CHINA: Top Chinese and US negotiators spoke on the phone Tuesday and agreed to "push forward" their phase one economic deal.

The US and China signed the accord in January, bringing a partial truce in their lingering trade war and obliging Beijing to import an additional \$200 billion in American products over two years, ranging from cars and machinery to oil and farm products.

But the COVID-19 pandemic has put pressure on the agreement and obliging Beijing to import an additional \$200 billion in American products over two years, ranging from cars and machinery to oil and farm products.

The two countries confirmed the talks in separate statements.

Washington said the parties "addressed steps that China has taken to

effectuate structural changes called for by the agreement".

Those changes, it said, would "ensure greater protection for intellectual property rights, remove impediments to American companies in the areas of financial services and agriculture, and eliminate forced technology transfer".

It added that both sides "see progress and are committed to taking the steps necessary to ensure the success of the agreement".

Beijing's statement said a "constructive dialogue" between the two sides had "agreed to create conditions and atmosphere to continue to push forward the implementation of phase one of the China-US economic and trade agreement".



The phase one deal called for officials to hold a "check-in" every six months.

But US President Don-

ald Trump in recent weeks has stepped up his rhetoric against China ahead of what is expected to be a tough re-election

fight, raising questions about the deal's fate as well as the possibility of a phase two agreement. - AFP



Students practice social distancing at an elementary school in Daejeon, South Korea.

Seoul schools go back online over virus fears

SOUTH KOREA: South Korea on Tuesday ordered all schools and kindergartens in the greater Seoul region - home to half the country's 52 million population - to switch to online classes as they battle multiple coronavirus clusters.

The country's "trace, test and treat" approach to curbing the virus has been held up as a global model, but it is now trying to contain several outbreaks, mostly linked to Protestant churches.

South Korea reported 280 new infections on Tuesday, taking the country's total to 17,945. The numbers are low in global terms but represent the South's 12th consecutive

day of triple-digit increases after several weeks with numbers generally in the 30s and 40s.

Most of the new cases have been centred in the greater Seoul region that accounts for half the country's population. Authorities are now scrambling to tighten social distancing rules and said that schools and kindergartens in Seoul, Incheon and neighbouring Gyeonggi province will switch to online classes from Wednesday until September 11.

"The alarming emergence of mass infections since August is turning up as infections of our students and staff members," education

minister Yoo Eun-hae told reporters. Nearly 200 students and school staff had been infected with the virus in the past two weeks, she said. The only exception is for senior students in their final year of high school, who are due to take crucial university entrance exams in early December.

Virus curbs were tightened in the Seoul region last week and were further expanded to the rest of the country on Sunday.

The measures include restrictions on large gatherings such as religious services and the closing of nightclubs, karaoke bars and cybercafes. - AFP

Alexei Navalny

Top opponent of the Kremlin



AFP Photo/Maxim Zmeyev

Born June 4, 1976, Moscow region

Organised major demonstrations against Russian President Vladimir Putin, sentenced to numerous short prison terms

2011-2012

Emerges as opposition leader, critics call him a nationalist



2017

Jailed 3 times for organising protests against Putin

July 2019

Sentenced to 30 days in prison for calling for protest at Moscow city hall

Rushed to hospital suffering acute allergic reaction and said he may have been poisoned

October 2019

His organisation, Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK), is declared as a "foreign agent"

July 2020

Calls the vote to extend Putin's rule a "huge lie"

Offices are raided

August 20

Hospitalised in suspected poisoning

August 22

In a stable condition in hospital after being flown to Berlin

Alexei Navalny tests 'indicate poisoning'

GERMANY: The Berlin hospital treating leading Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny said Monday that test results indicated he had been poisoned, although Russian doctors quickly responded that they had not found the toxin in question.

The revelation prompted German Chancellor Angela Merkel to call for the Russian authorities to ensure those responsible are held accountable.

The 44-year-old opposition leader and anti-corruption campaigner was brought to the German capital on Saturday after falling ill in Siberia last week with what Russian doctors blamed on a metabolic disorder.

But on Monday, Berlin's renowned Charite hospital said its clinical tests on Navalny "indicate poisoning with a substance from the group of cholinesterase inhibitors".

Cholinesterase is an enzyme needed for the central nervous system to function properly. Its inhibitors are used to make

medicines and insecticides, but also nerve agents such as sarin.

"Alexei Navalny's prognosis remains unclear; the possibility of long-term effects, particularly those affecting the nervous system, cannot be excluded," the hospital said on Twitter.

Navalny is being treated in intensive care and remains in medically induced coma, it said, adding: "While his condition is serious, it is not currently life-threatening."

He was transferred to Berlin by a German NGO after Merkel had extended an offer to treat him in the country.

Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said on Twitter that his poisoning was "no longer a hypothesis but a fact."

The European Union's diplomatic chief Josep Borrell called on the Russian authorities to launch an "independent and transparent investigation" into the apparent poisoning of Navalny.

"The European Union strongly condemns what seems to be an attempt on Mr Navalny's life," Borrell said in Brussels.

Navalny, Russia's most prominent opposition figure, was rushed into intensive care in Siberia on Thursday after his plane made an emergency landing in the city of Omsk.

His supporters have said they believe he was poisoned by something in his cup of tea at the airport before he took off, pointing the finger of blame at President Vladimir Putin.

But Alexandre Sabayev, the chief toxicologist at Omsk Emergency Hospital No. 1, told Russian agencies that he had tested Navalny for "a broad range of narcotics, synthetic, psychotropic and medicinal substances including cholinesterase inhibitors."

"The results were negative," he said.

Navalny was flown to Berlin on a medical plane chartered by German NGO Cinema for Peace, an initiative financed by private donations.

-AFP



Belarus questions Nobel winner Alexievich over protests

BELARUS: Belarus on Monday summoned Nobel Literature Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich for questioning over her ties to the opposition as the authorities cracked down on protest leaders following the latest unprecedented demonstration against President Alexander Lukashenko's disputed re-election.

Alexievich, who won the Nobel Prize in 2015, has supported the opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya and is a member of the Coordination Council set up by her allies to oversee a peaceful transition of power, although the 72-year-old writer has not attended its sessions.

The Investigative Committee summoned Alexievich for questioning on Wednesday as a witness in an ongoing criminal probe into the council's creation, focusing on alleged calls for seizing power.

Another presidium member, former arts minister and diplomat Pavel Latushko, faces questioning on Tuesday.



Belarusian Svetlana Alexievich who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2015.

The announcement came hours after police reported the detention of two other Coordination Council members on suspicion of organising illegal strikes.

The detentions came as a top US diplomat met Tikhanovskaya in Lithuania and after tens of thousands took part in some of the largest protests in the country's recent history for a second Sunday in a row.

Tikhanovskaya fled to neighbouring Lithuania after August 9 polls that she claims to have won against

Lukashenko. His insistence on his own landslide victory and police violence against demonstrators have sparked huge protests against his rule.

The opposition said two members of its Coordination Council were detained on Monday: Sergei Dylevsky, a tractor plant worker who has come to prominence as a strike leader and Olga Kovalkova, a member of Tikhanovskaya's staff.

Allies of Tikhanovskaya formed the council this month to oversee efforts for a peaceful transition of power. "We are under pressure. This morning two members of the presidium of the Coordination Council were detained," another presidium member, Liliya Vlasova, told a press conference.

-AFP

Pompeo, Netanyahu hopeful more Arab states will forge Israel ties

ISRAEL: Israel's Prime Minister and Washington's top diplomat voiced hope Monday the Jewish state would soon build ties with more Arab countries, following its landmark move to normalise relations with the United Arab Emirates.

Benjamin Netanyahu and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was starting a Mideast tour in Jerusalem, both praised the US-brokered deal as a major step toward stability in the turbulent region.

"I'm very hopeful that we will see other Arab nations join in this," said Pompeo, who was also set to visit Sudan, Bahrain and the UAE on his five-day trip.

Netanyahu hailed the Israel-UAE agreement as "a boon to peace and regional stability" which "heralds a new era where we could have other nations join".



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (L) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu bump elbows ahead of making a joint statement to the press after meeting in Jerusalem on Monday. -AFP

"I hope we'll have good news in the future, maybe in the near future," he said.

Washington and its close ally Israel hope that more such ties with other regional countries traditionally hostile to the Jewish state will help forge a stronger regional alliance against their common foe, Iran.

Under the US-brokered agreement with the Emirates announced on August 13, Israel pledged to suspend its previous

plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank, without saying for how long.

The Palestinians slammed the UAE's move as a "stab in the back" while their own conflict with the Jewish state remains unresolved.

The Islamist group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, charged Monday that the Israel-UAE deal helps "maintain crimes and violations" against the Palestinians.

-AFP

Mega Power Official Results. Draw Number: 591. Date: 2020.08.24. English Letter: G. Super Number: 21, 42, 49, 74, 78. Prize structure table with 8 prizes. Next Mega Super Prize: Rs.230,410,856.35.

24.08.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 756,137. TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 33,837,610.00. Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 02. Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 03. Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 31.

Govisetha Official Results. Draw Number: 2519. Draw Date: 24.08.2020. English Letter: Y. Winning Numbers: 49, 74, 77, 78. Prize structure table with 8 prizes. Total prize money won: Rs. 8,171,740.00. Super prize for next draw: Rs. 62,022,154.80.

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA. Draw Number: 4224. Official Results. Date: 24-08-2020. English Letter: U. Winning Numbers: 1, 2, 6, 8, 6, 3. Prize structure table with 11 prizes. Total prize money won: Rs. 12,169,210.00. Super prize for next draw: Rs. 25,318,058.00.

Vasana Sampatha Official Results. Draw No. 1607. Date: 2020.08.24. English Letter: Z. Winning Nos. 09, 22, 26, 52. Prize structure table with 8 prizes. Total prize money won: Rs. 3,510,060.00. Next Super Prize: Rs. 23,038,038.40.

Official Results. Draw Date: 24/08/2020. Draw Number: 1529. Super Number: 05. Winning Numbers: 11, 30, 35, 55. Prize structure table with 8 prizes. Total prizes won: Rs. 3,343,300.00. Super prize of the next draw: Rs. 20,701,199.08.

AFTER GETTING REPUBLICAN NOMINATION

TRUMP SAYS DEMOCRATS WANT TO "STEAL" ELECTION

US: US President Donald Trump opened his bid for a second term after securing the Republican nomination Monday, with his party launching its national convention as the US President claims Democrats want to "steal" the election that polls currently show him losing.

Minutes after the party completed the nomination vote confirming Trump as the candidate on November 3, he appeared at the convention in Charlotte, North

Carolina, to deliver a rambling, often dark speech lasting close to an hour.

From the opening words, he told Republicans to be on alert for what he claimed was a Democratic plan to rig the contest through increased use of mail-in voting – a measure Democrats say is needed to protect people from catching COVID-19 in crowded polling stations.

"They are trying to steal the election," he told party delegates, many of whom

were wearing masks. "The only way they can take this election away from us is if this is a rigged election."

Opponents say Trump's increasingly extreme resistance to expanded mail-in voting – a method already used widely in the United States – is an attempt to suppress voter turnout, while setting up an excuse to challenge the result if he is defeated.

Polls show Trump trailing Democratic candidate Joe Biden, who had his con-

vention last week, as Americans turn on the President's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent economic chaos.

Trump hopes the convention, which concludes Thursday with his formal acceptance of the nomination, will shift voters' attention from the coronavirus to what he says is the "super V" shaped economic recovery.

While incumbents usually keep away from their party conventions until the

final night, Trump immediately took over the event in Charlotte, which had been drastically scaled back due to COVID-19 precautions.

Trump is expected to make more live television appearances on each of the four days ahead of his acceptance speech at the White House.

His children, including Ivanka and right-wing firebrand son Don Jr, are also giving convention speeches. First Lady Melania Trump was scheduled to



US President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence give a thumbs up after speaking during the first day of the Republican National Convention on Monday in Charlotte, North Carolina.

address the nation from the White House's Rose Garden on Tuesday.

"This week we will take our case to the American people," Vice President Mike Pence told delegates ahead of Trump's arrival, promising to "Make America great again – again."

Biden is tapping into unhappiness with the president's handling of the pandemic, unrest over racial inequality and fear of long-term economic damage from the coronavirus shutdown. - AFP



Omar Nabi, whose father Daoud Nabi was killed during the 2019 Al Noor mosque attack in New Zealand demonstrating outside the Christchurch High Court building, ahead of the first day of Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant's sentencing hearing in Christchurch. - AFP

Christchurch victims decry 'devil' mosque shooter

NEW ZEALAND: A woman whose husband was shot dead by the white supremacist who murdered 51 Muslims in last year's New Zealand mosque massacre pleaded with a Christchurch court Tuesday for the gunman's punishment "to continue forever".

Amreen Naeem said her husband died a hero while trying to tackle Brenton Tarrant inside a city mosque, branding the gunman "the biggest loser" during day two of the convicted terrorist's sentencing.

Her testimony comes amid an outpouring of emotion among New Zealand's Muslim community as Tarrant comes face-to-face with victims.

Tarrant, an Australian, has admitted 51 charges of murder, 40 of attempted murder and one of terrorism over the attacks at two Christchurch mosques on March 15, 2019.

The 29-year-old – who is expected to be the first person jailed for life without parole in New Zealand – maintained his impassive demeanour as grief-stricken witnesses told how his actions tore their lives apart.

Amreen Naeem lost both her husband

Naeem Rashid and son Talha in the rampage.

Naeem Rashid was hailed as a hero and prosecutor Barnaby Hawes said he "allowed a number of other worshippers to escape" when he charged at Tarrant in Christchurch's central Al Noor mosque and partially knocked him down.

"Since my husband and son passed away, I've never had a proper, normal sleep. I don't think I ever will," Amreen Naeem said.

"It is an irreparable damage to me, that is why his punishment should continue forever."

"Every time I think of him, I think of the biggest loser. For myself and my family, I feel victorious."

Mohammad Siddiqui was shot in the arm when "the devil" arrived at Al Noor mosque.

"Yes, I call him a devil because you entered the house of God with evil intentions to kill innocent people. You've killed the dreams of my friends and family with ... your gutless action." - AFP



MALI: Talks between West African (ECOWAS) envoys and Mali's new military rulers on Monday failed to yield an agreement on how the country should return to civilian rule after last week's coup, negotiators said.

Separately, both sides said ousted President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita – whose return to office had initially been demanded by the regional bloc ECOWAS – no longer wished to govern.

Deadlock on the key issue of civilian transition emerged after the fledgling junta denied it wanted a three-year handover period overseen by a soldier.

The new junta's spokesman, Colonel Ismael Wague, told reporters that "there were discussions on both sides, given that at this stage nothing has been set down, nothing has been decided, and that as far as we are concerned, the final architecture of the transition will be discussed and defined by us".

The Chief ECOWAS Envoy, former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said: "We have agreed on a number of issues, but there are



Colonel Ismael Wague, the junta's spokesman of the National Committee for the Salvation of the People (CNSP) which overthrew Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, walks out after the meeting with Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) mediators in Bamako, Mali.

some issues that we have not agreed. So on those issues we told the military officers the thinking of ECOWAS and we asked them to go and review."

The August 18 coup has shocked Mali's neighbours, who fear that a

press its demands for the "immediate return to Constitutional order".

ECOWAS has stood by Keita and called for him to be restored to office, but this issue seems to have elapsed.

He told the envoys that he no longer wanted to return as president, both sides said.

Jonathan said Monday that the 75-year-old former leader told him "he was not forced to resign but he has resigned and he is not interested in governance again. He wants a good transition so that the country will go back to a democratically-elected government".

The junta's spokesman Wague shared a similar account of Keita's position: "He said that for him it's over, he never wants to return to power again, he resigned voluntarily, without pressure."

Keita's current whereabouts remain unclear, with rumours swirling that he may leave Mali with the ECOWAS mission. After taking power on August 18, the junta had pledged elections would be held within a "reasonable" timeframe. - AFP

Toronto seeks to save 300 year-old oak tree

CANADA: In the shadow of Canada's largest cluster of skyscrapers, Toronto is looking to preserve a majestic, centuries-old oak tree – but efforts have become complicated by the pandemic.

The towering 24-metre (79-foot) high Northern Red Oak is one of the oldest trees in these parts, having sprouted an estimated 300 years ago, around the time that French explorers set up a trading post on the nearby shores of Lake Ontario.

The tree now finds itself in the back yard of a nondescript bungalow on a winding street in the heart of a residential North York neighborhood.

Its huge trunk has a circumference of five meters and brushes up against the back of the 1960s house.

In summer, its long leafy branches shade the entire lot from the sun's rays.

But in recent years, a new homeowner expressed concerns about being able to afford proper tree maintenance and its roots cracking the house's foundation.

Neighbours also worry that this awesome specimen may one day be damaged by strong winds or felled in a storm.

To protect it and make it accessible to everyone in this city of six million people, Toronto's city council voted in 2018 to buy the property, raze the house and turn the land into a small public park.

A deal was reached with the

homeowner last year to sell the property to the city.

That outcome delighted Edith George, a local resident who lobbied over 14 years to preserve the oak tree, whose beauty she says "just takes your breath away."

"It's the Rolls-Royce of heritage trees. No other tree in Canada has the heritage value that this tree has," the 68-year-old retiree told AFP.

Experts say that with care and under the right conditions, the tree could live another 200 years or more.

"A tree like this is expensive to maintain. If the lot is a public space, the city will be able to take care of it better than I can," says Ali Simaga, who purchased the home in 2015.

"I don't want to be selfish and keep it to myself, either," he adds.

The deal, however, is not done yet. The city's purchase offer is conditional on private donations to cover half of the price tag for the property.

Fund-raising started in December 2019, with a target of raising Can\$430,000 (US\$325,000) by the end of this year.

After a promising start, including a Can\$100,000 pledge by a couple of local philanthropists, contributions slowed to a trickle during the pandemic.

As of mid-July, about Can\$125,000, or nearly 30 percent of the goal, had been collected. - AFP



An oak tree estimated to be about 300 years old, or twice as old as modern Canada itself, is viewed on July 12, 2020 in North York, Ontario. - AFP



High school student Vanessa Villegas, takes a class in front of her television at her house in Mexico City on Monday. - AFP

Mexican children begin new school year via television

MEXICO: Tens of millions of Mexican children began a new school year with lessons via television Monday in a nationwide experiment in distance learning prompted by the coronavirus pandemic.

The government has teamed up with four private television stations to broadcast classes across the Latin American country, which has suffered more than 60,000 deaths from the virus.

Under the ambitious plan, around 30 million public school students between the ages of four and 18 will learn through their TV sets until the situation has improved enough for them to return to the classroom.

"Despite the pandemic, the pain, the suffering it has caused, which unfortunately it continues to cause, we are... standing," President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said as he declared the new school year open.

Face-to-face lessons have been suspended since March in Mexico, which has the world's third-highest fatality toll from the coronavirus after the United States and Brazil.

Cooped up in a 50-square-meter (540-square-foot) apartment in the capital's hard-hit Iztapalapa neighbourhood for months, 11-year-old Emiliano is "like a caged lion," said his mother Monica Gonzalez, a 49-year-old receptionist.

In front of the television, Emiliano wrote down the answers to the questions he was asked during his first class of the year, though without any sign of great enthusiasm.

To cheer him up, his parents had put up a sign reading: "Happy Back to School 2020-2021."

The government said it chose television for distance learning because it reaches 94 percent of the country, compared with between 70 and 80 percent for the internet.

The content will also be available in 22 indigenous languages, and in remote areas it will be broadcast on the radio, too, said Education Minister Esteban

Moctezuma. But some parents fear standards are bound to slip.

"I'm worried about how good the (lessons) can be through television," said Emiliano's father, Alfredo Urdiain.

Earlier versions of distance-learning videos provided by the authorities "were bad" and looked like they were "taken from YouTube," added the 45-year-old manager of an architectural firm.

Learning requires interaction and not just a stream of information, said Juan Martin Perez, head of the Child Rights Network in Mexico, an alliance of dozens of civil society groups helping vulnerable children. - AFP

Rescuers pull 4-year-old survivor from collapsed Mumbai building



INDIA: Rescuers in India pulled a four-year-old boy from the rubble of a collapsed building to loud cheers on Tuesday, hours after the five-storey apartment block came down "like a house of cards", burying up to 70 people.

The accident late Monday in the western town of Mahad, south of Mumbai, led three disaster-response teams and sniffer dogs to work through the night, combing tin sheets, twisted metal and broken bricks.

Officials said many residents of the 47 flats inside the building were spared because they had already fled the town to escape the coronavirus pandemic.

The cause of the accident was not immediately clear but building collapses are common during India's June-September monsoon, with old and rickety structures buckling after days of non-stop rain.

National Disaster Response Force spokesman Sachidanand Gawde told reporters that emergency workers had so far retrieved the bodies of two victims in addition to the little boy who survived the collapse.

Video of the rescue effort showed onlookers applauding and cheering as the child was plucked out of the wreckage and hauled up on a stretcher.

Estimates of the number still trapped ranged from 20 to 70 after dozens managed to flee when the building began to shake.

"No one knows how many people are actually stuck inside," a Mahad police official told AFP on condition of anonymity, adding that authorities had initially feared the worst, with early estimates as high as 200.

Mahad legislator Bharat Gogawale told AFP that many of the building's occupants appeared to have been out shopping when the accident occurred around 7:00 pm.

"As per latest estimates, we think 20 people are trapped inside," he said.

Others had left the town altogether, preferring to wait out the pandemic in their home villages.

"Many families were not residing in the building as they went to their native places due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown," district official Nidhi Choudhari told the Press Trust of India.

Mustafa Chafekar, a resident who had been in home quarantine after testing positive for the virus, told the Mumbai Mirror that he and his family of five initially thought they were experiencing an earthquake.

"We ran down immediately... The whole (structure) collapsed right in front of us," the 39-year-old said of their escape.

He said residents had previously complained to the builders about the condition of the complex.

Local politician Manik Motiram Jagtap told TV9 Marathi that the structure was 10 years old and built on "weak" foundations. "It fell like a house of cards," Jagtap said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that he was "saddened".

"My thoughts are with the families of those who lost their dear ones. I pray the injured recover soon," he said. - AFP



A rescue worker along with a sniffer dog searches for survivors in the rubble of a collapsed five-storey apartment building in Mahad, India on Tuesday. - AFP

Greta Thunberg returns to school

SWEDEN: Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg said Monday she has returned to school after a year off campaigning to curb climate change.

"My gap year from school is over, and it feels so great to finally be back in school again!" the 17-year-old tweeted, attaching a smiling photo of herself with a schoolbag on her back and her hands resting on a bicycle.

Thunberg did not say in which city or school she would be continuing her studies. Since her last school year finished in June 2019, the teenager's travels around the world meant that she ended up doing lessons remotely.

Rather than head into the final years of secondary school, she travelled across the Atlantic by sailing boat -- hoping to highlight the carbon emissions of flying. Her ultimate destination had been the COP25 UN climate conference in Chilean capital Santiago.

But the event was ultimately shifted to Madrid because of massive unrest in Chile, leaving Thunberg to sail back from the US to Europe on board a catamaran belonging to a young Australian couple. - AFP



Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg on her way to school.

Employment Opportunities



UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA, SRI LANKA

VACANCIES

University of Jaffna will entertain applications from qualified persons for the under mentioned posts.

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

Senior Lecturer Grade I / Senior Lecturer Grade II / Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in **Engineering Technology** / **Bio Systems Technology** / **Inter Disciplinary Studies**

Note 01:

* For positions in **Engineering Technology** special consideration will be given to those who have degrees in Technology or Engineering specialized in one or more of the following fields;

- Building Construction / Civil Engineering
- Automobile Technology / Mechanical Engineering
- Electro Technology / Electrical & Electronic Engineering

** For positions in **Bio Systems Technology** special consideration will be given to those who have degrees in Bio Systems Technology or any other related degrees specialized in Food Production Technology / Food Science and Technology / Food Science.

*** For positions in **Inter Disciplinary Studies** special consideration will be given to the **physical science graduates** with competency and teaching ability in Information Communication Technology, Physics, Statistics and Mathematics.

SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS

Post	Salary Scale
Senior Lecturer Grade I	Rs.91,310-7 x 2,170-106,500/-p.m
Senior Lecturer Grade II	Rs.79,360-11 x 1,630-97,290/-p.m
Lecturer (Unconfirmed)	Rs.69,580-5 x 1,630-77,730 / -p.m
Lecturer (Probationary)	Rs.54,600-10 x 1,335-67,950/-p.m

In addition to the above salary,

1. The following allowances will be paid as the percentage of the basic salary to the academic staff:

- Academic allowance
 - Senior Lecturer Gr.I/Gr.II - 151%
 - Lecturer (Unconfirmed) - 131%
 - Lecturer (Probationary) - 115%
- Research allowance - 35% (Payable to the Academic Staff based on the research activity)
- Additional monthly allowance - 20%

2. Cost of living allowance of Rs.7,800/-p.m.

Statutory Benefits:

- Sabbatical leave entitlement for the holder of the Post of Senior Lecturer Gr.II and above
- Membership in Universities Provident Fund and Pension Scheme in the University system
- Gratuity payments
- Employees' Trust Fund benefits
- Free Medical Services

Closing Dates:

Application should reach us on or before **25.09.2020**.

Applications for the posts, completed applications along with **copies of the statement of the Degrees** should be sent to the **Deputy Registrar/Academic Establishments**, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Application forms and other details will be available in the University website www.jfn.ac.lk. Downloaded application forms should accompany with the paid Bank Slip for the deposit of a sum of Rs.100/- credited to the Peoples Bank Account No: **162-1-001-6-000880** of Bursar, University of Jaffna.

Application forms and other details may be obtained from the office of the Deputy Registrar, Academic Establishments, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, on a payment of Rs.100/- per application form. Those who wish to obtain application forms by post are requested to send a self-addressed stamped envelope 23x10 c.m. in size along with the paid Bank Slip to the above address.

The candidates who apply for **more than one** position should submit **separate application** along with separate **Bank slip**. The post applied for should be marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Applicants from the University System/Government Departments /Corporations and Statutory Boards should channel their applications through the Head of respective Institutions, but may send an advance copy in the first instance. However, no such applicant will be considered for interview, if the application channeled through the Head of the Department is not received.

Illegible & incomplete applications, and applications received by the University after the closing date will be rejected without intimation. Only short-listed applicants will be called for an interview.

REGISTRAR
UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA
SRI LANKA
25.08.2020

CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

Mannar Wind Power Project

VACANCIES

POST OF APPRENTICE TRAINEE (15 Posts)

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka having the following qualifications and experience in relevant fields.

Qualifications :

The applicants should have following basic qualifications.

- Shall have six (6) Passes in G.C.E.(O/L) Examination including mathematics and mother language in a single attempt **or** Shall have National Vocational Qualification Level 3 (NVQ-3) or above certification in electrical or mechanical fields such as;
 - National Certificate - Electrician (household/industrial), National Certificate - Electric motor winder, National Certificate - Pneumatic technician, National Certificate - Electronic appliances technician, Machine Operator (lathe, milling, grinding), Welder, Fitter.
- The above qualifications shall be obtained through an affiliated institute under Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training.
- Age should be between 18 - 25 years.
- Preference will be given to applicants residing in Mannar, Anuradhapura, Puttalam Districts or Northern Province / possessing National Vocational Qualification Level 4 (NVQ-4) as above.

Closing Date : 17.09.2020

Selection Criteria : by an interview or competitive examination.

Terms and Conditions of Service :

- The selected candidate will be assigned to Mannar Wind Power Project for a four years (4) training.
- After successful completion of the training period, the selected candidates will have the opportunity to be absorbed to permanent cadre of CEB, subjected to conditions.

Remuneration :

- Daily Allowance will be paid to the selected candidates as per GM's Circular 2018/GM/08/Pers dated 07th March 2018 during the training period. After absorbing to the permanent cadre, existing salary scales for Junior Technical Mates will be applied.

Other Benefits :

- As per the relevant circulars.

Application giving full name, private and official addresses, contact numbers with such details of two non-related referees, with a complete CV (filled in English or Sinhala) should be sent by Registered Post with the following words on upper left hand corner "**Post of Apprentice Trainee - MWPP**" to reach the undermentioned address on or before the closing date.

Those applicants who are already in the Public Service / Public Institutions should forward their applications through their Head of Department and it should herein be clearly indicated whether the applicant will be released in case of selection for the post.

For More Information :

Additional General Manager (Projects)
Ceylon Electricity Board,
No. 385, 4th Floor,
Landmark Building,
Colombo 03.

Project Director (MWPP)
Tel No : 0112889640
Fax No : 0112869631



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கிழங்கை மின்சார சபை
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

Classifieds



Vans
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Professional Consultancy Services

SG NA-8687 Tata Winger, 2010, van for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No.310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0714542958, 0714515236. 048071

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NW LN-4312 Mahindra Bolero Cab, 2017, for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No.310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0714542958, 0714515236. 048071

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE is hereby given in terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
Name of the Company: WESTERN DIGITAL COMPUTER SYSTEMS & ELECTRONICS (PVT) LTD.,
Company No. PV 00224973
Incorporated Date: 26.07.2020
Registered Address of the Company: No. 128, E4, High Level Road, Kottawa..
Company Secretary

VEHICLE SALE

THREE WHEELERS			YARD		
AAV-4412	BAJAJ	2015	RAGAMA		
ABF-5854	BAJAJ	2015	KEGALLE		
ABH-9676	BAJAJ	2015	RAGAMA		
YZ-1292	BAJAJ	2012	RAGAMA		
YR-4870	BAJAJ	2011	EMBILIPITIYA		
QX-6344	BAJAJ	2010	RATHNAPURA		
MOTOR CAR			YARD		
KU-8743	MARUTI / A - STAR	2012	RAGAMA		
KM-8263	TOYOTA / PREMIO	2007	RAGAMA		
64-4499	MITSUBISHI / LANCER	1993	RAGAMA		
DUAL PURPOSE			YARD		
PG-8382	TOYOTA / HIACE	2012	RAGAMA		
PT-3349	TATA / ACE	2012	RAGAMA		
PD-3293	TOYOTA / HILUX	2006	EMBILIPITIYA		
MOTOR COACH			YARD		
NB-0467	ASHOK LEYLAND / VIKING	2011	RAGAMA		

The above vehicles can be inspected at the yards and those are on Tender Basis.

RAGAMA 0113-288893	RATNAPURA 0454-929635	KURUNEGALA 0374-943738
EMBILIPITIYA - 0773-038137 HIRAN		KEGALLE - 0777-381375 CHATHURA

Employment Opportunities

CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD Mannar Wind Power Project VACANCIES

POST OF ELECTRICAL / MECHANICAL SUPERINTENDENTS on Contract Basis for 12 months (4 Posts)

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka having the following qualifications and experience in power sector / electrical, mechanical or other industrial construction projects.

Duties :
The incumbent should provide relevant technical inputs for the installation, operation and maintenance of Mannar Wind Power Project.

Qualifications & Experience :
Shall have one of the following educational qualifications in the relevant scheme i.e. Electrical or Mechanical;
National Diploma in Technology (NDT) or National Diploma in Engineering Science (NDES) or Diploma in Technology – Open University of Sri Lanka or Higher National Diploma in Engineering (HNDE) or National Certificate in Technology (NCT) with 5 years post qualifying experience in relevant field.

- Age should be between 18 – 25 years.
- Experience on construction, operation & maintenance of wind farms will be an added qualification.
- Should be able to work in English and Sinhala or/and Tamil.
- Preference will be given to applicants residing in Mannar, Anuradhapura, Puttalam Districts or Northern Province.

Closing Date : 17.09.2020
Selection Criteria : by an interview or competitive examination.

Terms and Conditions of Service :
The appointment will be on contract basis for a period of twelve (12) months.
The work place is at Mannar Island.
Candidates should be able to work at the project site in Mannar Island for extended hours.

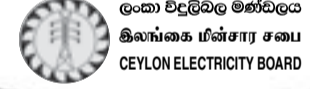
Remuneration :
As per the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019.
Other Benefits :
As per the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019.

Application giving full name, private and official addresses, contact numbers with such details of two non-related referees, with a complete CV (filled in English or Sinhala) should be sent by Registered Post with the following words on the upper left hand corner **"Post of Electrical / Mechanical Superintendent – Mannar Wind Power Project"** to reach the undermentioned address on or before the closing date.

Those applicants who are already in the Public Service / Public Institutions should forward their applications through their Heads of Departments and it should herein be clearly indicated whether the applicant will be released in case of selection for the post.

For More Information :
Additional General Manager (Projects)
Ceylon Electricity Board,
No. 385, 4th Floor, Landmark Building,
Colombo 03.

Project Director (MWPP)
Tel No : 0112889640
Fax No : 0112869631



STATE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL DEFENCE, HOME AFFAIRS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Providing of Cleaning and Janitorial services for the Department of Immigration and Emigration

Contract No.: DIE/PRO/08/2020/21

01. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC), on behalf of the Department Of Immigration and Emigration now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for providing of Cleaning and Janitorial services for the following offices as described below.

- Head Office "Suhurupaya", Sri Subhuthipura Rd, Battaramulla.
- Matara - Regional Office
- Kandy - Regional Office
- Vavuniya - Regional Office
- Kurunegala - Regional Office
- Officers' Restroom at the Trincomalee Port
- Officers' Restroom at the Bandaranaikie International Airport, Katunayake
- Officers' Restroom at the Hambantota Port
- Officers' Restroom at the Jaffna International Airport
- Officers' Restroom at the Mattala International Airport
- Detention Camp at Mirihana
- Office of the Colombo Port
- Office of the Galle Port

03. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

04. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Assistant Controller (Procurement), Procurement Division, 'B' Wing, 5th Floor, Department Of Immigration and Emigration, 'Suhurupaya', Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla and inspect the bidding documents at the same address on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs.

Contact Numbers are: Tel: 0115359530 Fax: 0112885358

05. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Assistant Controller (Procurement), 5th Floor, 'B' Wing, Procurement Division, Department Of Immigration and Emigration, 'Suhurupaya', Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla from **26.08.2020 until 16.09.2020 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rupees Five Thousand Five Hundred (Rs.5,500.00).

06. Completed bids with two copies as Original and Duplicate shall be hand delivered or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, 5th Floor, 'B' Wing, Procurement Division, Department Of Immigration and Emigration, 'Suhurupaya', Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla to reach on or before **1400 hrs on 16.09.2020**. Late bids will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.

07. Bids shall be valid for a period of 105 days from the date fixed for receiving of bids or any extended period.

08. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be;

- In the form included in the 3.4 of the Bidding document
- In favor of Controller General of Immigration and Emigration
- For an amount of **Rs. 400,000.00**
- Valid up to **28.12.2020**
- Issued by a Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka and registered under the Central Bank Of Sri Lanka

09. A Pre- Bid Meeting in this regard will be held on **09.09.2020 at 2.00p.m** at the Controller General's Office, Department of Immigration and Emigration, 'Suhurupaya', Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla.

U.V. Sarath Rupasiri
Controller General,
Department Of Immigration and Emigration,
'Suhurupaya'
Sri Subhuthipura Road,
Battaramulla.

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Matara Branch MATARA No.29, Upper Floor, Main Bus Stand 041 223 5412	Nugegoda Branch NUGEGODA 4th Floor Saviri Complex, High Level Road 011 282 8114
Jaffna Branch JAFFNA No.06, Srangirady, Off Starling Road 077 616 4901	Maradana k/v Branch MARADANA No.383, DR Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10 011 242 9336
Kataragama Branch KATARAGAMA Opposite Kataragama Bus Stand, Postadewa Mawatha 047 223 5291	

LAKE HOUSE 1949, 011 242 9342, 011 242 9333
No.25, O.R.Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING
SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SUPPLY OF 06 NOS OF FIBER GLASS DINGHY BOATS AND 25HP OUTBOARD MOTOR ENGINE FOR WERAS GANGA STORM WATER AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLDLC) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following contracts.

Procurement No.	Item Description	Closing Date & Time	Bid Issuing Dates	Bid Security	Non-refundable Fee
S/286/20	Supply of 06 Nos of Fiber Glass Dinghy Boats and 25hp Outboard Motor Engine for Werar Ganga Storm Water and Drainage Improvement Project	16 th September, 2020 13.30 hrs	From 26 th August 2020 to 15 th September 2020	Rs 40,000.00	Rs. 3,500.00

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language could be inspected and purchased upon submission of a written request to the Deputy General Manager (Supplies & Stores) during 9.00 Hrs. to 15.30 Hrs. upon payment of non-refundable fee as mentioned above. The method of payment will be only by cash to the cashier at Accounts Division (3rd Floor, New Building).
- Procurement No. and the subject should be clearly mentioned on the top left-hand corner of the envelope and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division (1st Floor, New Building).
- Bid shall be delivered to the address given below on or before **Closing date (mentioned above) at 13:30 hrs**. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time, in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted on **3rd September, 2020 at 10.00 a.m** at SLLDC Board Room
- Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy Project Director(WSWDEIP) of SLLDC Tel: +94 11 2872877 Fax: +94 11 2074421 email : wgsweip@gmail.com

Chairman
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation
No.03, Sri Jayewardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.
Head office Tel: 0112 889485-7 Web: www.landdevelopment.lk

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Senarath Bandara to take over reigns of Cargills Bank

Veteran banker Senarath Bandara has been appointed as the Managing Director/CEO designate of Cargills Bank Limited, and will commence his new role with effect from September 8, 2020.



Bandara will take over as MD/CEO of the Bank with effect from October 1, 2020, subject to regulatory clearance. He succeeds Rajendra Theagarajah who is due to step down on September 30, 2020.

Prior to his appointment, Bandara served as the General Manager/CEO of Bank of Ceylon (BOC), retiring from BOC after a service of 30 years. During this period, he gained substantial experience in areas such as general banking, retail banking, retail credit, development banking, corporate lending, investment and treasury management and international banking operations.

Commenting on the appointment of Bandara, Cargills Bank Chairman Ranjit Page stated "We are delighted to welcome Senarath Bandara to the Cargills family. The wealth of experience Bandara brings to Cargills Bank will be of great value to all our stakeholders as we continue towards our vision to be the most inclusive retail bank in Sri Lanka, contributing to the upliftment of all Sri Lankans and the development of the country. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to Theagarajah for his significant contribution to the bank over the past three years."

INGINE South Korea invests USD 8 mn to generate Green energy in Sri Lanka

SHIRAJIV SIRIMENE

For the first time in South Asia, INGINE Lanka Private Limited and INGINE Inc. in South Korea will introduce breakthrough INWave™ technology to generate Green energy to Sri Lanka. The total investment for phase one of this project would be USD 8 million.

The two companies will

partner Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation to build a plant in the Suduwella harbour in Matara which will initially generate 1 Megawatt of power to the national grid.

Chairperson/CEO, INGINE Lanka Private Limited Dr. F. Sujatha Bondarenko, said that they will commence the feasibility study of the project (which was earlier planned for

March and postponed due to Corona Pandemic) next month and construction would start early next year. She said that the technology uses several buoy planted in the sea and their movement is used to generate electricity.

"This method is now used in Korea and several European countries."

The back of the breakwater in the Suduwella Harbour in Matara would be used to store and distribute electricity to the national grid.

"This project will also generate an income to the Harbour and we will also use the venue as an international study centre on INWave technology to the world making it a major study tourism venue as well"

The two companies will further invest around another USD 20 million for phase two where almost 10 MW of wave



Chairperson/CEO, INGINE Lanka Dr. F. Sujatha Bondarenko, Daniel Sung and D. H. Kim



energy would be generated. She said that the unique feature of breakthrough INWave technology is that the cost of generating a unit decreases each year as maintenance costs are very low.

"In a bid to get local industrialists involved in the project nearly 40% local materials such as buoy, cables would be used". INGINE Lanka has successfully ventured into the

renewable energy business and other sustainable businesses within a short span of three years. "We will also invest a further USD 8 million to invest on a Solar Energy Park in Mahiyangana next year."

Apart from renewable energy, Dr. Bondarenko and her team are active in the tea business including plantations, manufacturing, and exports under the brand name Royal

Touch mainly to Korea and Russia.

INGINE in Korea is spearheaded by CEO/CTO Y. J. D. Sung, who created the INWave™ technology through extensive research and development, and Business Development Director D. H. Kim, who manages a 100 MW project pipeline worldwide for the commercialization of wave energy plants by INGINE.

IFC underwrites PickMe Series B capital raise

The Balance sheet of PickMe was strengthened in July 2020, when the International Financial Cooperation underwrote a "Series B" capital raise for the company.

"The current balance sheet enables us to not just survive the Covid crisis but to invest, innovate and grow during this time. In times of crisis comes opportunity. We are ready for this. I am confident when the world and Sri Lanka emerges from the pandemic PickMe will be a stronger and even more resilient entity," Chairman

PickMe Ajit Gunewardene said in his message in the company's annual report. He reiterated that the future acceleration and dominance of the digital economy has been clearly proven during the pandemic, and PickMe was perfectly positioned to be a key player in this environment. "The digital intellect and business execution knowledge that we have will be leveraged to entrench ourselves deeper in the economy. We pride ourselves on the home grown technology that we have created. There is no

doubt it is world class. This is our edge. During the last five years we have invested multiple billions of rupees towards creating this domain expertise and we will continue to invest, innovate and add value to the economy." However, speaking of the regulatory support PickMe needs, Gunewardene added, "in terms of support we would encourage the government to enable a level playing field to compete against the digital multinationals. This is relevant to all digital domains, not just us.

All digital platforms should incorporate an onshore company to carry on commercial activity. This will ring fence local operations and create transparency and a level playing field with local entities." Zulfur Jifry, CEO of PickMe said despite the overall decline in revenue during lockdown, the company made some noteworthy achievements during the year and retained its position as a market leader in ride hailing. "The covid-19 crisis resulted in us launching the delivery of essential goods



Chairman Ajit Gunewardene



CEO, Zulfur Jifry



A delegation led by Acting Ambassador for China Hu Wei paid a courtesy call on State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal at the Finance Ministry on Monday. Here Minister Cabraal with Ambassador Hu Wei

Fitch rates Seylan Bank's Senior Debt 'A(Ika)(EXP)' and Basel III Sub Debt 'BBB+(Ika)(EXP)'

Fitch Ratings Lanka has assigned Seylan Bank PLC's (A(Ika)/Stable) proposed senior debentures an expected National Long-Term Rating of 'A(Ika)(EXP)'. Fitch has also assigned Seylan's proposed Basel III-compliant subordinated unsecured debentures an expected National Long-Term Rating of 'BBB+(Ika)(EXP)'.

The proposed debentures will total LKR10 billion, with maturities of five to ten years, and will be listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange. The bank expects the proposed subordinated debentures to qualify as Basel III-compliant regulatory Tier 2 capital.

The proposed debentures include a non-viability clause whereby they will convert to ordinary voting shares if so determined by the Monetary Board of Sri Lanka. The bank plans to use the proceeds from both proposed senior and subordinated debentures to support expansion of its loan book.

The final rating is subject to the receipt of final documentation conforming to information already

AIA reports 5% growth in operating profits



AIA Group Limited announced a resilient financial performance for the six months ended June 30, 2020.

Operating profit after tax (OPAT) increased by 5 per cent to US\$2,933 million, reflecting the quality and growth of in-force business. While value of new business (VONB) of US\$1,410 million was lower in the first half, the Group has delivered very strong month-on-month VONB growth in markets as they emerged from COVID-19 containment measures.

The Group's financial position remained strong and robust with 11 per cent growth in underlying free surplus generation and the solvency ratio on the HKIO basis for AIA Company Limited (AIA

Co.) was 328 percent. The Board has declared a 5 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 35.00 Hong Kong cents per share. This reflects both the Group's strong financial position and the unprecedented macroeconomic and capital markets environment caused by COVID-19. Lee Yuan Siang, AIA's Group Chief Executive and President, said, "I am extremely proud of the way AIA's businesses have responded with speed and compassion to the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, and provided uninterrupted support to our customers and communities. I am grateful for their dedication, collaboration and contributions in these unprecedented times. "We saw very strong signs of

recovery in new business sales from our markets as containment measures were eased. The growth in operating profit after tax and underlying free surplus generation demonstrates the resilience of our large and growing in-force portfolio and solvency for AIA Co. remains strong. The Board has declared a 5 per cent increase in the interim dividend following our prudent, sustainable and progressive dividend policy allowing for future growth opportunities and the financial flexibility of the Group. "We will provide personalised and meaningful propositions for our customers, backed by exceptional technology and digital tools to deliver outstanding service."

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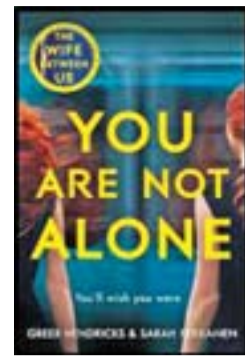
AESTHETIC ESSENCE IN ANCIENT SRI LANKAN SCULPTURES



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NEW ON THE SHELF



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TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY

URBAN FILMMAKER, URBAN PHILOSOPHER: WOODY ALLEN



A Rainy Day in New York

MADAPATHA CHINTAKA

There's really nothing in *A Rainy Day in New York* (2019) that its director, Woody Allen, hasn't said before. That's another way of saying Allen has said everything he's been wanting to say for over half a century now. Some filmmakers are like that: they keep on returning to the same stories, the same themes, the same characters, or variations thereof, and expect us to read between the lines and notice them. It's exciting at one level to trace them and discern just how self-conscious an artist can get, and how much of himself or herself he or she can project into a work of art. Allen's movies in that sense have always made us do that; they are, when you think about it, about himself. Even in his best work, where he sidelines himself and forces his character to the background, he retains himself in other characters. The result, as Sumitra Peries observed in a conversation, is that he becomes "deliberately repetitive." You've seen him somewhere, you've seen him everywhere.

Strictly speaking, Allen doesn't fit the mold of what you would call a minority artist. He doesn't make films for minority audiences, though none of his movies has fared well at the box-office either. His own persona is so firmly grafted on his works that to see them is to see him (and to relish him). People like coming to a Woody Allen movie not because they expect something new, but because they get more of the same. They get more of HIM. Now this is a hallmark of a minority director who makes films for a discerning, discriminating few, and few would deny that you have to exercise your intellect when sitting through them. And yet that discerning, discriminating few have grown with him, and a kind of cultish modishness has come to pervade his work. It's the sort of cultish modishness filmmakers who almost got classed as minority artists early on realised they could make use of in order to expand their base. An Allen film, in other words, isn't minoritarian; it tries to reach a wide audience while piquing the audience with its director's worldview. It celebrates his philosophy: a mish-mash of pessimism and optimism that's turned him into a cult figure.

Cynical characters

Urban filmmakers aren't rare; in fact they've become the norm. Urban philosophers aren't rare either; they've become the norm too. Woody is the closest to an urban filmmaker-cum-philosopher that the Western cinema has, at least today. Since cities and suburbs are usually infested with cynical characters saying and doing cynical things, his films, like his philosophy, are cynical. But it's not the cynicism of a Greek philosopher; it's the cynicism of a comedian. At his best, Woody interweaves comedy and pathos, often with murder: from *Crimes and Misdemeanours* to *Match Point* to *Blue Jasmine*, we see how manipulative his characters can be, and how manipulated they can get, to the point of homicide. They try to retain their humanity, even in the act of committing a crime, but their conscience, or their lack of one, eventually lets them off the hook.



Woody Allen

So it is with Judah, the successful ophthalmologist in *Crimes and Misdemeanours* who gets his brother to do a hit job on his other woman – she threatens him with exposure – and tries to confess to the murder over the pangs of a guilty conscience. Yet at the end, his conscience, as he once underscored to that woman when she accused him of deception, "is clear." He's all smiles. That's how rotten New Yorkers can get. And that's how rotten Woody makes them out to be.

Moviemakers, unlike stars, prefer privacy outside their public lives. When a moviemaker becomes a star – most of them are more likely to be minority directors, like Jean-Luc Godard or, from today, Mike Flanagan, Jordan Peele, and Ari Aster, rather than a Steven Spielberg or a Michael Bay – he sheds off any distinction between his private and public persona. The curious thing about Woody is that while he's turned into a moviemaker-star, and while he has the trappings of a minority director which qualifies him as a celebrity-artist, he has stuck by that distinction. Those who've engaged with Woody tell us how humourless and deadly serious he can get, a world away from the laconically comedic, neurotic man he is onscreen. The few times his private life has intruded on his public have been disastrous; one scandal in particular, from the 1990s, continues to haunt him and his work.

Woody always cut himself out for the comedian's part. And he was always a Jewish boy from Brooklyn and Manhattan. Born Allan Stewart Konigsberg in 1935 to a bookkeeper and a waiter, he was a second generation American: his grandparents had migrated from Austria and married here. He didn't have a happy childhood: in Midwood, where they lived in an apartment, there were always "too many people in too few rooms." His father "moseyed" from job to job, always hurtling his

family into a lifestyle that simply could not be sustained by his meagre income: "He changed his clothes three or more times each day, he idled away afternoons... whenever he got the chance, frequented his favourite pool halls, or slipped into a haberdashery to order a new suit." The result was quarrels at home, to which Woody became a witness "as soon as I could understand anything."

Insecure expression

The sense of insecurity this compelled in him continued well into puberty. At 10, "short and underdeveloped", Allen felt "insecure about his looks" and "wore a sad-sack expression." Like his mother, he would often give into fits of temper. Surprisingly for someone who built up a reputation as a filmmaking-philosopher, he disliked books, and found reading to be a chore; comic books, yes, but none

of the serious stuff. This meant a childhood "spent loafing in class, playing truant, and sneaking off to movies." He could, however, write, and more to the point funnily. He also developed an interest in jazz, a pursuit he would follow up on even in his movies. Later when he and his friends began switching from box-office flicks to more serious films, from Hollywood to Ingmar Bergman, music, cinema, and literature all cohered; it heralded a new beginning for Woody.

Academically he never amounted to much. When he graduated from Midwood High School in 1953, he legally changed his name to Heywood Allen. By then he was mailing jokes and gangs to newspaper columnists, and moreover was making decent money for someone his age engaged in such an endeavour; at one point he was earning more than what his parents were combined. After high school, having shifted his focus to movies, he went on to study the cinema at New York University before dropping out a year later, in 1954, to study it at City College of New York. There too he never finished his course; as he has put it many times since, he came to the industry later on largely self-taught.

Before entering the industry, however, he had to make it through as a comedy writer. At 19 he joined a Writer's Development Program at NBC, and later found some full-time money writing for comedy skits and shows, earning as much as \$ 1,500 a week. Then from 1960 he found a new avatar as a stand-up comedian, one of the earliest to emerge from that decade along with contemporaries like Bill Cosby. His short stature and insecure looks paid off handsomely in an era where people loved to laugh at guys playing themselves off as losers. This was followed by a short interregnum as a playwright: *Don't Drink the Water* (1966) and *Play It Again, Sam* (1969), both subsequently filmed, were hits at Broadway. By now he had changed his name again, to Woody Allen.

In the year of his Broadway debut he made his directorial debut as well: *What's Up, Tiger Lily?*, based on a Japanese spy comedy. Much more successful at the box-office was 1969's *Take the Money and Run*, followed by a string of spoofs: *Bananas* (1971), *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex* (*But Were Afraid to Ask)* (1972), *Sleeper* (1973),

and *Love and Death* (1975). In hindsight, none of these seems as funny as they once were, with the possible exception of *Sleeper*. Early Woody, in that sense, hasn't aged well, though the American Film Institute in its list of the funniest American films ever made seems to prefer these to his later, more subtle comedies.

Subtle as they are, those later comedies have stood up to the test of time much better than his early work. *Annie Hall* (1977), the first of these, won Best Picture and Best Director at the Academy Awards; his co-star Diane Keaton won Best Actress. For an award ceremony preoccupied with highbrow material over low-brow comedy, this was a first. It also won Best Screenplay, a category in which he would score at the Oscars with every subsequent movie of his, even those not nominated in any of the top categories. *Interiors* (1978), *Manhattan* (1979), *Broadway Danny Rose* (1984), *The Purple Rose of Cairo* (1985), *Hannah and Her Sisters* (1986), *Radio Days* (1987), *Crimes and Misdemeanours* (1989), *Alice* (1990), and *Husbands and Wives* (1992), today reckoned as his most highly regarded works, were all nominated for their screenplays; he won for the second time with 2011's *Midnight in Paris*. Surprisingly for someone who started out in stand-up comedy, though, he never won for his acting; only once was he nominated, and that was in *Annie Hall*.

Thematic preoccupations

The 1980s have been considered, justifiably, as his best period; like Beethoven in his middle phase, Woody's thematic preoccupations all come together, unobtrusively, at this juncture. He is highly satirical in his depictions of suburban ennui, particularly among New Yorkers; he interweaves jazz and romance, murder and mystery, comedy and pathos, quite well. He is, to be sure, merciless when he tears down the hypocrisies and fallacies that make up most of his characters – even the well-intentioned ones, like the burly professor who lives with one of the siblings in *Hannah and Her Sisters* – but he retains some form of empathy for them. He stops short of condemning how they live, and seems to be saying they are condemned to live the way they are. Sometimes he ends the stories well, keeping us and their characters happy (as with *Hannah*), but often he doesn't (as with *Crimes*, where Woody's character, a little unfairly I should think, is doomed to suffer for the misdemeanour of loving another girl, while Judah, who's committed a more heinous crime, gets off lightly).

As the years pass by, we see him returning to these themes again and again. *Husbands and Wives* is the last film of Middle Period Woody; a brilliant study of marriage and divorce, of separation and remarriage, he followed it up with films that pale in comparison to anything before them. *Mighty Aphrodite* (1995) won for Mira Sorvino Best Supporting Actress at the Oscars, but not until *Match Point* (2004) did he recapture some of his old magic; his muse, in the latter, was a young Scarlett Johansson. Since then Woody's had his hits and misses, and while *Rainy Day* attracted a flurry of lukewarm, tepid reviews, it stands up among his middle level work: not his best, but certainly not his worst.



Husbands and Wives

No tears to shed

Dad pacing up and down
Along the corridor
In a pensive mood.
His bowed head on his hands,
Tears streaking down his pale face.
Motionless, I watched him,
Yet inquisitive to fathom him,
Slowly I ventured,
Touching him on his shoulder,
With a cold and gentle grasp
He took my hand

Broke out murmuring
All's Lost!
He has dishonoured me
In spite of all the gossip
I believed him.
I saw him with his Bride,
At the Altar today!
He shattered all my hopes
All my kith and kin
Will curse me
He has dishonoured!

Indra Goonawardane

POETRY CORNER

A Visitor

Making a mess of
Sand pattern
She's well swept
A snake
Slithers away smoothly
And glides stealthily on the sly
Brushing the ekel tessellation
Of her lonesome compound.

Naleen de Alwis

Promises

Let not the
plaques
Of promises
Stagnate and hide
Among overgrown grass
While
Ants making
Ant-hills
Shrouding
The plaques!

A Jayalath Basnagoda

A MISHAP

Seated on my green carpeted lawn,
With Ginger, my puppy seated on my lap
In a pensive mood I was looking around
When suddenly some grey clouds covered
the sky.

"It's going to rain. Let's go inside,"
I told my pet, getting up from my seat.
But alas! What a mishap!
On to the road, Ginger darted down.
With no backward glance, it ran along
As if someone was chasing him behind.
Droplets of silvery water beads
Started pouring down from the sky
On trees, on rooftops and on me they fell
As well as on my doggy
Running down the road.
It wasn't an easy task at all
To grab my pet and hold him firm
As torrents of rain splashed on my body
Making me shiver with the wind and the
cold.

"You fool," I shouted as I held it fast
Whimpering and trembling Ginger too
was.

Lalitha Somathilaka

A painting on canvas

It's like a colourful painting on a
canvas
Painted at different times in different
hues
At the beginning, for some, in blue or
pink
But for many others in grey or brown
As time goes on it may be painted
In lovely colours like a rainbow
May be by a few, but not by all

Many forced to paint in dull colours
As for them, too expensive is radiation
The paints are very often washed out
By hot tears and salted perspiration
They shed in their effort to survive
Life goes on like a painting on a
canvas
Reflecting good and bad, joy and
sorrow.

Kumari Weerasooriya

Samsara

Two blossoms
One white
One red
Being aware of Samsara
The white one
Clothed in serene white
Stood still
While the red
Being unaware
With much pride

let the bees come and kiss
Day by day
She withered,
thrown away
in the end
While the white one
Amid blessings
Faded away

Isuru Lakpriya

Dejected

With days of endless struggle,
One tries to bear the pain silently,
Carrying on with the grief,
Lest others should not know.
Some hide the sorrow with a forced
smile,
Whilst a few would flare with rage, and
Behave very violently.
With no kind words nor offer of help

Then there's a sad feeling of being
dejected.
Regretfully, some take the opportunity,
To create more mischief to those in
pain,
Satisfying themselves at another's
woe.

Yasmin Jaldin

MARMADUKE



"Out! I don't believe you were just getting the bed warm for us."

MUTT AND JEFF



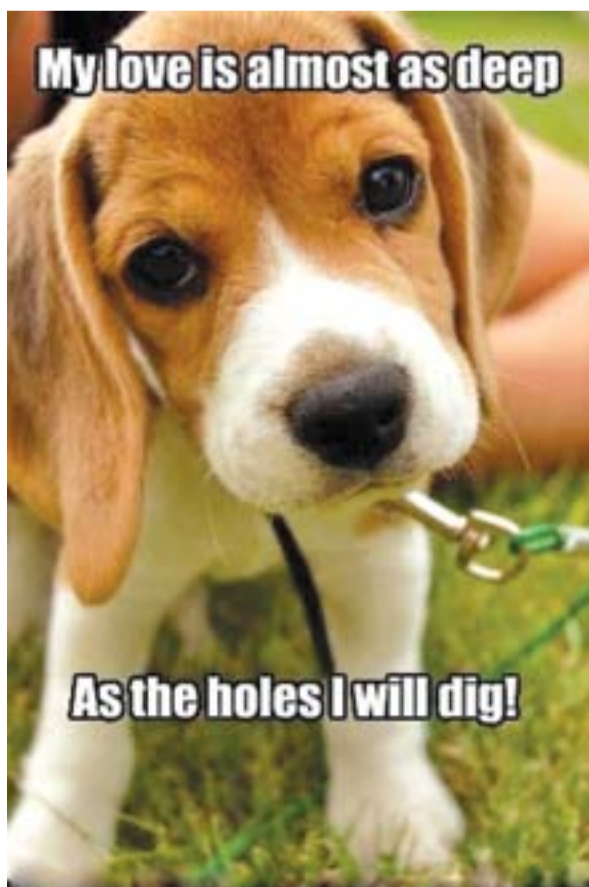
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FISH TALES



UP & RUNNING



AESTHETIC ESSENCE IN ANCIENT SRI LANKAN SCULPTURES

DR SUBASHINI PATHMANATHAN

Dance is deeply rooted in the aesthetic factor. The rhythmic expression of dance, its beauty and its vibrancy deeply impressed the others who belong to different fields and attracted and induced them to develop their imaginative creativity and skills in their outstanding productions. As a result, they brought out the rhythmic effect, beauty and vibrancy essence of dance in their artistic creations.

Applying numerous beautiful nuances of dance in their own creativity, the sculptors adopted numerous aesthetic nuances and beauty of dance in their creations. The sculptors aim to attract the maximum number of viewers to view their artefacts.

Dance research is an interdisciplinary study. The Indian sculptors considered the human body as a powerful instrument especially to express the inner feelings. The type of Indian dance sculptures could be divided into two main divisions. One set of sculptures focuses on the interpretation of dance images and the other set of sculptures identifies the dance movements.

Visual art forms

It should be noted that the movements of dance could be depicted only in a limited way in plastic art sculptures. The visual art forms such as sculptures and paintings are always influenced by the artist's taste, views, ideas, patronage, time and region.

Archaeological sites of Sri Lanka play an important role in society. The buildings were not built for general purposes. They were considered as community development centres.

They are in standing postures with a curved body and different foot positions. All these resemble the classical dance stand poses and postures. In technical terms, the stands of dance and body positions are often referred to as Mandala Isthana positions.

Earlier guard stones were installed at Buddhist temples, royal palaces, important royal courts, water reservoirs and cultural chambers. In Sri Lanka, a variety of guard stones is found at different archaeological sites. Sri Lankan ancient guard stones are unique. They are in standing postures with a curved body and different foot positions.

Architectural patterns

All these resemble the beautiful classical dance stand poses and postures. In technical terms, the stands of dance and body positions are often referred to as Mandala Isthana positions.

All over Sri Lanka, archaeological sculptures are found. They provide a wealth of information about the ancient Sri Lankan culture, tradition and civilization. Sri Lankan architectural patterns, most of the temple structures, cultural chambers, sculptures and paintings resemble those of Indian traditions. Despite such similarities, Sri Lanka preserves its own identity.

Ancient Sri Lankan architectural patterns, Hindu temple structure, cultural chambers, sculpture and paintings resemble those of Indian factors. Despite such similarities, Sri Lanka preserves its own identity. Ancient historical sites of Sri Lanka play an important role in society.



Archaeological sites of Sri Lanka play an important role in society. The buildings were not built for general purposes. They were considered as community development centres. They are in standing postures with a curved body and different foot positions. All these resemble the classical dance stand poses and postures. In technical terms, the stands of dance and body positions are often referred to as Mandala Isthana positions.

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Ancient Indian rulers were deeply involved in culture and traditions. Different rulers built temples and cultural chambers throughout the Indian sub-continent. That also influenced the neighbouring Sri Lanka where temple architecture and sculptures constructed during various periods reveal different styles of social and cultural influences.

Construction patterns

The construction of worshipping places has its own patterns and interior plans which resemble their own culture, customs, regional and religious influences of different periods. Besides, construction patterns of each worshipping place and region provide ample evidence of the ruler's taste. They built temples with their own involvement in art, culture, tradition and religion.

Most of the sculptures are divided into different categories. These sculptures are long-lasting. Ancient Sri Lankan

Guard stones are unique in nature. Some Guard stones are deeply rooted in philosophical aspects.

Some Naga Raja guard stones are portrayed with five heads; others have seven or nine heads. Different scholars interpret different views about the heads of the Naga Raja guard stones. Some interpret that the five-headed Naga Raja guard stones symbolize the five different senses of the living beings such as sight, sound, smell, touch and taste.

Meanwhile, some scholars believe that the five-headed Naga Raja was created just only for decorative purposes. Anyhow the hood of the guard stone is more often covered with multiheaded cobras. The guard stones are highly decorated with beautiful ornaments and layers of waist chains. The stone-carved costumes of the guard stones resemble the beautiful dance costumes.

Besides, beautiful ear and chest ornaments and highly crafted head crowns are worn by the sculptures. They show a close resemblance to some of the ancient Indian sculptures.

BEYOND MUNDANE RELIGIOUS BARRIERS

These norms are not mere matters of subjective judgement, personal and relative, but real and immutable laws written into the very fabric of being. This is sufficient food for thought on economic and social development. It goes beyond the narrow barriers of traditional disciplines such as economics, management, trade and development communication.

PROFESSOR SUNANDA MAHENDRA

Bhikkhu Bodhi, the scholarly monk, is respected by readers and researchers of Buddhist teachings for his translations of Pali Suttas into English and the analytical interpretations given on them. One good example is his translation of Brahmajala Sutta into English and the lengthy analysis on the same. On further scrutiny, I found that his mainstay of interest happens to be the subject that penetrates the social relevance of Buddhism.

From time to time, Bhikkhu Bodhi had been delivering lectures on the subject. I came across four such resourceful presentations. They are titled A Buddhist Social Ethic for the New Century, delivered in Colombo on January 8, 1998, A Buddhist Approach to Economic and Social Development, a Presentation for the International Buddhist Conference held in Colombo on November 10, 1998, The Changing Face of Buddhism, a paper published in the Millennium Supplement of The Island newspaper on January 1, 2000, and Sangha At the Crossroads, a paper published in the 1998 centenary issue of the annual The Buddhist, the journal of the Young Men's Buddhist Association, Colombo. On reading these as a collection in a booklet titled Facing the Future (A Wheel Publication 2000), I felt the truism of the concept of unity in diversity as related to the teachings of the Buddha down the ages.

Clarified insights

The scholar-monk takes a rational but spiritual view as regards the changes that occur in the social order. Changes occur due to many reasons, but it is necessary to take a clear standpoint as to how they happen, and why they happen. As such, in the first presentation, the insight is clarified in the following Buddhist theme.

"In popular textbooks on world religions, Theravada Buddhism is generally depicted as a religion of individual salvation which holds up as its ideal a purely private enlightenment to be reached through renunciation and meditation. Though Theravada Buddhism does stress the inescapably personal nature of the ultimate goal, if we carefully examine the Suttas or discourses of the Buddha was keenly aware of the problems human beings face in the social dimensions in their lives and he formulated his teachings to address these problems just as much as to show the way to final liberation."

From there onwards, the analysis is aimed to show the level and the gravity of the pains as suffered by the humans who clamour for salvation. As such, Bhikkhu Bodhi says that when we adopt a Buddhist perspective on the wounds that afflict our world today, we soon realise that these wounds are symptomatic; a warning signal that something is fundamentally awry with the way we lead our lives. Furthermore, we would see these enter wounds as outgrowths of a more malignant wound hidden deep within, eating away at our vital strength and discharging its venom into our air, rivers and oceans, into our forests and farmlands into our family lives and homes, into our social relationships as well as our political agendas. As a reader, I felt how true, how penetrative and eye-opening this factor as related to contemporary world events.

Thus as Bhikkhu Bodhi points only from the Buddhist point of view, what we need is to heal our common wounds as against a radical surgery, a far-reaching change in our collective views, attitudes and the lifestyles. Out of the four documents, the second one is presented as an extension of the same view in a deeper sense of analysis taking into account the Buddhist approach.

Clues and approaches

The central theme is encircled in the approach to economic and social development. A reader may find a countless number of clues given as approaches as laid down by the Buddha from time to time. The presentation is aimed at an analytical note on the Buddhist Guide Posts Towards Development where the Eight Noble Paths matter.

In this, the attention is drawn on the mental and physical wellbeing of an individual in the social order. Then comes the factors such as cultural factors, educational factors and financial matters. Bhikkhu Bodhi states that the fundamental concept that must underlie any Buddhist approach to economic and social development is Dhamma. This is pinpointed as the natural self-subsistent law of righteousness and truth realised by the Buddha through his enlightenment and communicated by his teaching. Therein Dhamma may mean that all economic and social policies must be guided from start to finish by ethical norms.

These norms are not mere matters of subjective judgement, personal and relative, but real and immutable laws written into the very fabric of being. This is sufficient food for thought on economic and social development. It goes beyond the narrow barriers of traditional disciplines such as economics, management, trade and development communication.

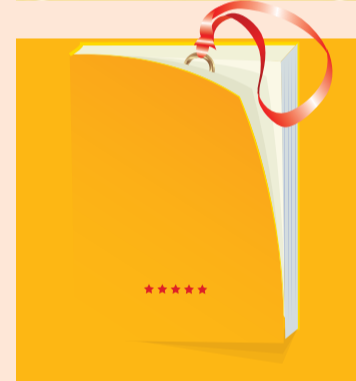
The third document titled The Changing Face of Buddhism seems a treatise on the need to interpret the orthodox teachings of the Buddha as applicable to the modern sensibility and conscience. Here in several insights are presented. They are logically followed with examples drawn from the Tripitaka texts. For a moment, I felt that this is a rediscovery of the teachings of the Buddha is a new form.

Contemporary context

From several points of view, the fourth document titled Sangha at the Crossroads may be taken not as an interpretation of the order of monks in the contemporary context of living. Quite a number of viewpoints on the changing aspects are presented. Bhikkhu Bodhi as an analyst of the condition does not take any side. Instead, he lays down the conditions that have gone into the situation.

Summing up the various conclusions drawn the learned monk Bhikkhu Bodhi says that today it is not only Buddhism in Sri Lanka that is at the crossroads, but the Sangha as well and the direction it takes will determine the future destiny of the sasana. He also concludes that challenges of our age are unique and unprecedented and they require intelligent responses governed by the wide, profound perspectives of the Dhamma.

As such, mechanical repetitions of the formulas of the past simply won't mark. The four profound essays of Bhikkhu Bodhi are a gift to the contemporary world citizen and surpass the narrow barriers of religious teachings.



BOOKMARK

K S SIVAKUMARAN

Readers might remember Robert Knox wrote a book on 17th-century lifestyle in Lanka (then Ceylon under the British colonialism.) He is supposed to have been chained under a Tamarind Tree in Kottiaru in Thirukonamalai district (Trincomalee under the Colonial rule of the Britishers).

Now there is a book, In the Shadow of the Tamarind Tree by Matthew S Friedman, who was in Lanka in December 2004 during the Tsunami disaster. He spent a month working for the USAID to provide immediate relief and support. He was interested in different cultures in South Asia.

He is a dreamer with rich images surging in his mind.

Says he: having visited the island three time before, I felt as if whatever story was playing out in my mind was happening along the Sri Lankan coast"

I read this short fiction, but this type of story is not my fancy. It doesn't matter though. I know a lot of teenagers would like to read this type of stories as they do read Harry Potter or any other. This book was published by Vijitha Yapa publishers.

The hat is the kernel of the story? "Set in Sri Lanka, it traces a gentle relationship between an elderly widower who had given up on life and a young girl, who had just lost her brother in a tragic accident. Both were trying to escape their respective grief and deal with the burden of guilt and sorrow when brought together by circumstance and fate"

Also adds: We agree that the story weaves the threads of love and loss of faith in the meaning of life together in a manner that walks the reader down a path where the concept of

Under the Tamarind Tree

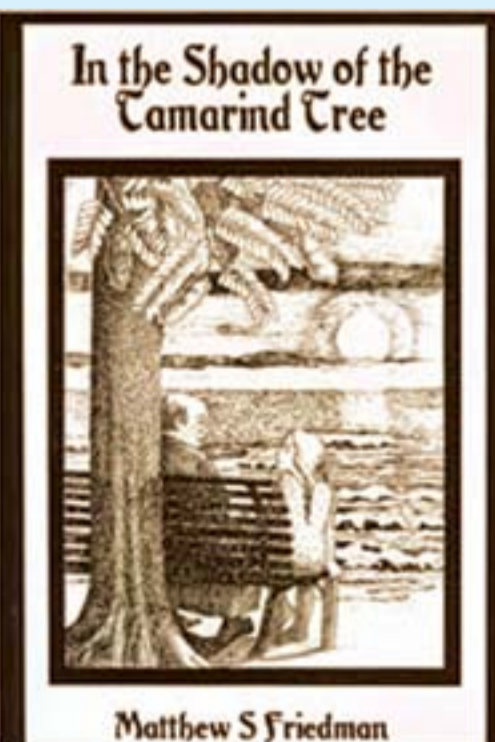


destiny, time and the affirming quality of life are called into question"

The writer is trying to bring in a splash of religious concepts woven into the fiction. In that sense, it is a welcome introduction to the western world some tannest of Buddhism.

The writer wants to highlight the reality that rebirth and sense of healing can follow even the most tragedy like the aftermath of the ending of the nearly 30 years of civil war all over the island.

Even if the book is targeted for a western readership, even Lankans could refresh folklore and strong cultural symbolism is inherent in their culture.



*** Sinhala as a Spoken Language I have a liking towards the Sinhala language, although my mother tongue is Tamil, which is both ancient and modern. Through Sinhala the attendant culture of the people and the speakers themselves. There are two reasons for that: Basically, I live among them in the western province and therefore the

necessity to communicate with them in that language that is spoken only in Sri Lanka. But most of the people in this island speak only that language, which they say developed in the 4th century A.D.

That is one reason and the other is that I like the sounds of that language, something like Sanskrit in pronunciation.

In Tamil, we don't have sounds like Ba, Ga, Sa, Sha, Ae are not in the written form although we adopt Sanskrit letters and sounds.

When maestros in the broadcasting field as News Readers over the Sinhala National Service of then Radio Ceylon like late Amarabandu or Cyril Rajapakse came on the air, I got fascinated by their voice modulation and enunciation.

There was a majesty in the flow of Sinhala language. Like the English language, the Sinhala language was never shy in borrowing things from other cultures and vocabu-

lary. English. Sinhala became rich of its loan words from Prakrit, Pali, Sanskrit, Tamil, Portuguese, Dutch and of course English.

We all must be tri-lingual to wipe away the prejudices we have to make our nation as one Nation. It must start from the baby classes in schools so that future generations will be a communal-free nation.

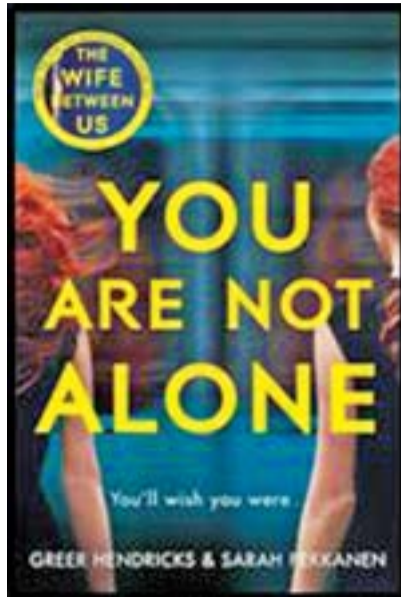
TITLE: You Are Not Alone

AUTHOR: Greer Hendricks, Sarah Pekkanen

Shay Miller wants to find love, but it eludes her. She wants to be fulfilled, but her job is a dead end. She wants to belong, but her life is increasingly lonely.

Until Shay meets the Moore sisters. Cassandra and Jane live a life of glamorous perfection, and always get what they desire. When they invite Shay into their circle, everything seems to get better. Shay would die for them to like her. She may have to.

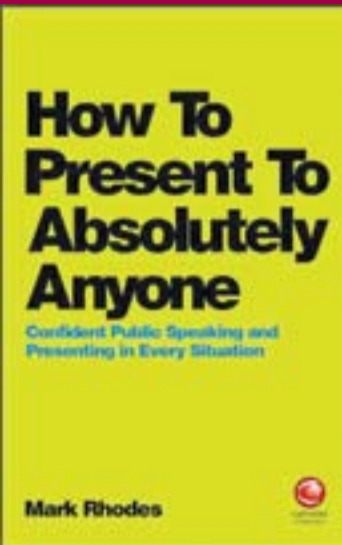
Rs 1125
AVAILABLE AT
SARASAVI BOOKSHOP



TITLE: How To Present To Absolutely Anyone : Confident Public Speaking and Presenting in Every Situation

AUTHOR: Mark Rhodes

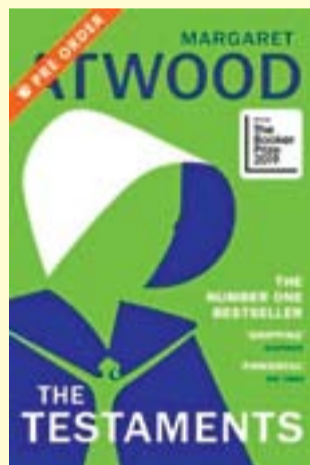
How to Present to Absolutely Anyone is the ultimate guide to successful public speaking. Presentations, talks, and speeches are unavoidable in school, work, and even social occasions (have you ever had to deliver a wedding toast?)—but fear of public speaking is statistically more common than fear of death. Author Mark Rhodes once pretended he had crashed his car to avoid doing a presentation! Permanent avoidance will eventually hold you back, but mastering the art of the successful presentation can take you to new heights! This book shows you how Mark eventually learned to love public speaking: by setting himself up for a self-sustaining cycle of presentation success.



Rs 2970
AVAILABLE AT
VIJITHAYAPA BOOKSHOP

TITLE: Testaments

AUTHOR: Margaret Atwood



More than fifteen years after the events of The Handmaid's Tale, the theocratic regime of the Republic of Gilead maintains its grip on power, but there are signs it is beginning to rot from within. At this crucial moment, the lives of three radically different women converge, with potentially explosive results.

Rs 995
AVAILABLE AT
MAKEEN BOOKSHOP

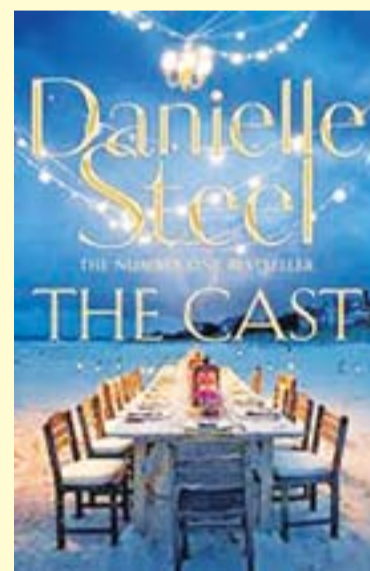
TITLE: The Cast

AUTHOR: Daniel Steel

Inspirational and uplifting, The Cast is a celebration of the resilience, imagination and creativity of women. The Cast is an irresistible celebration of the strength of women who find the courage to persevere in life's dramas, full of heartbreak and joy.

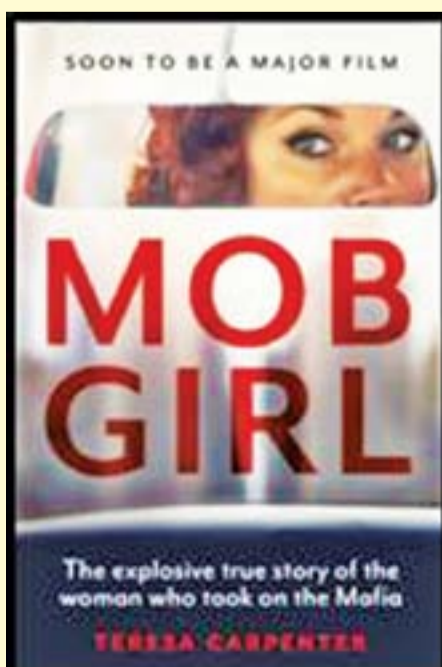
Kait Whittier has built her magazine column into a hugely respected read, followed by fans across the country. She loves her work and adores her grown children, treasuring the time they spend together. But after two marriages, while she prefers to avoid the complications and uncertainties of a new love she is ready to face a fresh challenge.

Rs 1400
AVAILABLE AT
VIJITHAYAPA BOOKSHOP



TITLE: Mob Girl: A Woman's Life in the Underworld

AUTHOR: Teresa Carpenter



Growing up among racketeers on the Lower East Side of New York City, Little Arlyne was attracted to mobsters: They were exciting and dangerous. She was soon dating "wiseguys" and running errands for them; but after years as a mob girlfriend, Arlyne started to muscle in on the action herself. An inside look at the Mafia, by a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter.

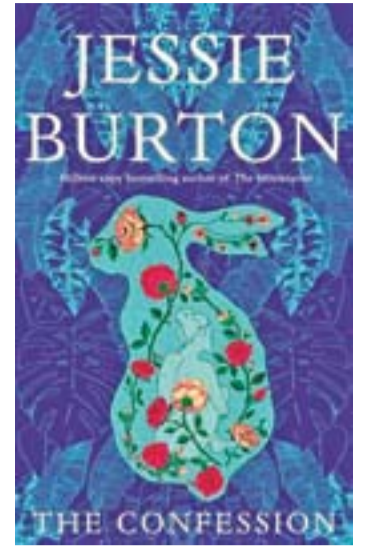
Rs 1350
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SARASAVI BOOKSHOP

TITLE: Confession

AUTHOR: Jessie Burton

One winter's afternoon on Hampstead Heath in 1980, Elise Morceau meets Constance Holden and quickly falls under her spell. Connie is bold and alluring, a successful writer whose novel is being turned into a major Hollywood film. Elise follows Connie to LA, a city of strange dreams and swimming pools and late-night gatherings of glamorous people. But whilst Connie thrives on the heat and electricity of this new world where everyone is reaching for the stars and no one is telling the truth, Elise finds herself floundering.

Rs 1125
AVAILABLE AT
MAKEEN BOOKSHOP



TITLE: When I Was Ten

AUTHOR: Fiona Cummins



Everyone remembered Sara and Shannon Carter, the little blonde haired sisters. Their Dad was the local GP and they lived in the beautiful house on the hill. Their best friend, Brinley Booth, lived next door. They would do anything for each other but everything shifted on that fateful day when Dr Richard Carter and his wife Pamela were stabbed fourteen times with a pair of scissors in what has become the most talked about double murder of the modern age.

Rs 1625
AVAILABLE AT
SARASAVI BOOKSHOP

TITLE: Wild Sri Lanka

AUTHOR: Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne

Sri Lanka has one of the highest species densities in the world including a number of endemic plants and animals. Unusually for a moderately sized island it also has large mammals. It is one of the best places in the world for seeing and photographing Blue Whales, Sperm Whales, Leopards, Asian Elephants and Sloth Bears, dubbed Sri Lanka's 'Big Five'. It also has the largest annually recurring 'gathering' of wild elephants of anywhere in the world, a truly spectacular event.

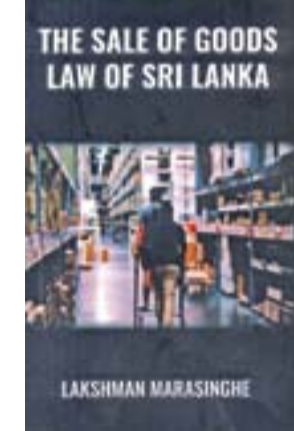
This book brings together all of Sri Lanka's top wildlife stories, many of which have come to light only in the last few years. Further chapters detail wildlife watching opportunities for primates, birds, reptiles, turtles, butterflies and dragonflies, a description of the parks and reserves by habitat type, and a wildlife watching calendar to help plan a trip.



Rs 3750
AVAILABLE AT
VIJITHAYAPA BOOKSHOP

TITLE: The Sale Of Goods Law Of Sri Lanka

AUTHOR: Lakshman Marasinghe



Rs 4200
AVAILABLE AT
VIJITHAYAPA BOOKSHOP

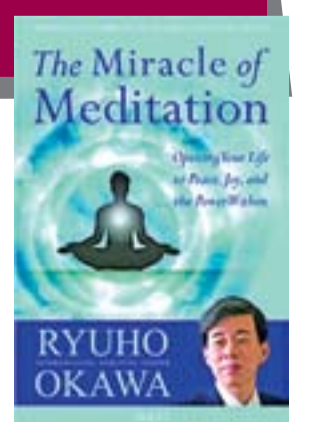
The law relating to sale of goods has a very long history where the earliest writing in the form of a text book was written by Sir MacKenzie Chalmers in 1890, three years prior to the passing of the Sale of goods act of 1893 by the UK parliament. Chalmers wrote his monograph based on the available common law. found in the decisions of the courts during the previous years.

The 1893 UK act remained unaltered until 1979. The original 1893 UK act was introduced by the colonial administration to most of Britain's colonies. As such, Ceylon at the time being governed as a crown colony under the Colebrooke-Cameron reforms, enacted the Sale of Goods act of the UK, of 1893 in 1896, and became the sales law of the newly acquired colony, on 1st of January 1897. It remains unchanged to this day, during the past 122 years.

TITLE: The Miracle Of Meditation

AUTHOR: Ryuho Okawa

There is more to meditation than simply sitting quietly and emptying our mind. When we look within and practice contemplative meditation, we will be able to connect to a higher world, and receive inspiration and guidance to live a better life. This book introduces various types of meditation, including calming meditation, purposeful meditation, reading meditation, reflective meditation, and meditation to communicate with heaven. Through reading and practicing meditation in this book, we can experience the miracle of meditation, which is to start living a life of peace, happiness, and success. With how-toss and answers to common questions about meditation, this simple but profound book will awaken your soul and encourage you to start living a more mindful, positive, and fulfilled life.



Rs 880
AVAILABLE AT
VIJITHAYAPA BOOKSHOP

TITLE: The Half Sister

AUTHOR: Sandie Jones



Sisters Kate and Lauren meet for Sunday lunch every week without fail, especially after the loss of their father. But a knock at the door is about to change everything. A young woman by the name of Jess holds a note with the results of a DNA test, claiming to be their half sister.

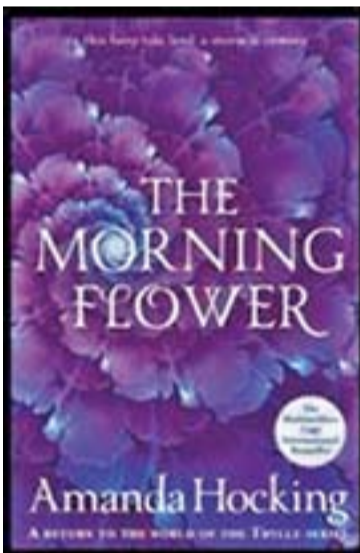
Rs 995
AVAILABLE AT
SARASAVI BOOKSHOP

TITLE: The Morning Flower

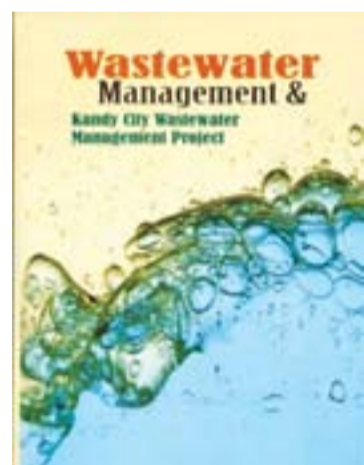
AUTHOR: Amanda Hocking

Searching for answers to her own shrouded origins, Ulla Tulin's journey of exploration takes a sudden turn when Eliana is kidnapped. Turning toward the Ome capital instead of the institute where she hoped to learn the truth about her identity, Ulla must put Eliana's welfare before her own—a sacrifice that will present all new dangers to them both.

Rs 1125
AVAILABLE AT
SARASAVI BOOKSHOP



TITLE: Wastewater Management and Kandy City wastewater management project



This publication introduces and explains the wastewater treatment processes, operation and maintenance aspects and provides information on the background, issues addressed and details of the sewerage system, which is being implemented in Kandy City, the second largest urban center in Sri Lanka.

Rs 2318
AVAILABLE AT
GODAGE BOOKSHOP

TITLE: Playing Nice

AUTHOR: JP Delaney

Pete Riley answers the door one morning and lets in a parent's worst nightmare. On his doorstep is Miles Lambert, a stranger who breaks the devastating news that Pete's son, Theo, isn't actually his son—he is the Lamberts'; switched at birth by an understaffed hospital while their real son was sent home with Miles and his wife, Lucy.

Rs 1950
AVAILABLE AT
SARASAVI BOOKSHOP



NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 8 of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.

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RAJ DISTRIBUTORS (PRIVATE) LIMITED

New Name:
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Registration No.
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Our factory will be closed for
business on
Friday August 28, 2020
on account of Ashura.

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**SRI LANKA NAVY****PROCUREMENT NOTICE****INVITATION OF BIDS FROM MANUFACTURERS/SUPPLIERS/IMPORTERS/CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY OF CLOTHING MATERIAL TO SRI LANKA NAVY**

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Navy (SLN), invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders to supply one or more clothing material/items which are indicated in Para 02 below.
 - Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
 - A complete set of bidding document in English Language shall be purchased by the prospective interested bidders on submission of a written application to Director Naval Victualling & Clothing office at Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01 during working days between **10.00 a.m to 02.00 p.m** from **01st September 2020 to 29th September 2020** upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated in para 02 below in cash for each procurement file.
 - The validity of the bids should be **150 days** with effect from date of opening the tender.
 - Selected suppliers should deliver all the clothing materials/items ordered by SL Navy to Transit Stores at SLNS "Mahasen", Welisara, Ragama.
- The details of the clothing materials/ items required for year 2020 as indicated below and required quantities of each item are indicated in the bidding document.

Procurement Identification No.	Type of material/ item	Last date of issuing bidding document	Bid Closing Date & Time	Non-Refundable Tender deposit (Rs.)
CB/A/29/2020	Material Cloth Light Blue	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 8,000.00
CB/A/30/2020	Material Cloth Dark Blue	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 8,000.00
CB/A/31/2020	Material Cloth White Synthetic	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 4,500.00
CB/A/32/2020	Material Cloth Bed Sheet Light Blue	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 18,000.00
CB/A/33/2020	Bath Towel White (SLN Printed)	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 4,500.00
CB/A/34/2020	Material Cloth SKY Blue	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 1,500.00
CB/A/35/2020	Material Cloth White Drill	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 3,000.00
CB/A/36/2020	Material Cloth Blue Drill	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 13,000.00
CB/A/37/2020	Material Cloth Digital Camouflage	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 1,500.00
CB/A/38/2020	Material Cloth Black Drill	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 2,000.00
CB/A/39/2020	Material Cloth Trouser Inner Pocket Bag (Poplin White)	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 4,500.00
CB/B/40/2020	Socks Black	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 4,000.00
CB/B/41/2020	Socks White	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 1,500.00
CB/B/42/2020	Socks Blue Thick	29.09.2020	30.09.2020 10.00 a.m	Rs. 3,500.00

- The bidders shall possess the following requirements to be eligible for submission bids and should be Sri Lankan business entities, manufacturers, firms, limited liability companies and other establishment with a local business registration at the date of publishing of bid notice.
 - Two years' experience in supplying of clothing material/ items to public/ private organizations in similar capacity with satisfactory performances.
 - Should be registered under the Government Public Contracts Act, No 03 of 1987 Which is applicable for every public contracts over five (05) million Rupees.
 - Sound financial capability.
 - Satisfactory Tax payment records.

- Adequate communication facilities. (Land/ mobile phone/s, Fax/es, E-mail)
 - Adequate storage facilities (Warehouses)
 - Adequate Staff, Personnel and Office facilities.
 - Adequate transport facilities.
 - Uninterrupted business operation during last three years.
 - Facility/ capabilities to provide after sales service with qualified technical staff.
 - Bidders shall not be blacklisted.
- The bidders must be indicated VAT registration number in bidding documents and required to submit valid VAT clearance letter obtained from Department of Inland Revenue. Bidders who are exempted from VAT should produce a letter from the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue Department certifying that the company has been exempted for VAT. Any bid which does not fulfill above requirements shall be rejected.
 - The bids duly signed by the applicant should be submitted after placing the official rubber stamp there under as a compulsory requirement. The envelope containing the tender should be marked **"BID FOR THE SUPPLY OF CLOTHING MATERIAL FOR YEAR 2020, Procurement Identification No and date/ time of opening of bids"** on top left hand corner and should be posted to the following address under registered post or to be deposited in the tender box at Naval Headquarters before the closing date of each tender :-
**The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Sri Lanka Navy,
Naval Headquarters, P.O. Box 593,
Colombo 01.**
 - All bidders should submit a bid security along with the bid as mentioned in the tender document and to be addressed to Commander of the Navy. The bid security should be original (on the original letter head of the bank), un conditional on demand Bank Guarantee, issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The amount of the bid security for a particular bid is specified in the bidding document which had set as prescribed in the Procurement Guideline 2006. The bid guarantee should be valid up to **180 days** with effect from the date of opening tender.
 - All bidders are required to forward samples along with the bids and required to deposit testing charges as mentioned in the tender document. Testing charges to be deposited with Director Finance at Naval Head Quarters and original copy of the cash receipt issued by Director Finance should be sent with the offer (Cash or cheque not be accepted) Offers which do not accompany the original copy of the cash receipt issued by Director Finance will be rejected.
 - The bids will be opened immediately after the closing time. Late bids will be rejected and returned without opening. The bidders or their duly authorized representative could attend the bid opening meeting.
 - The bidding documents which are incomplete and not accompanied with required documentary evidence shall be rejected. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.
 - Selected bidders will be notified by registered post for signing of agreement.
 - Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Director Naval Victualling & Clothing at Naval Headquarters and may inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the office of the address given in para 13 below from **01st September 2020 to 29th September 2020** during **09.00a.m to 03.00 p.m** on working days.
 - A pre bid meeting will be held on **10th September 2020 at 10.00 a.m** at the Admiral Somathilaka Dissanayaka Auditorium hall of the Sri Lanka Navy, Naval headquarters, P.O Box 593, Colombo 01.
 - The address referred to above is:
Attention : Director Naval Victualling and Clothing
Address : The Commander of the Navy
Naval Headquarters
P.O. Box 593
Colombo 01.
Telephone : Director Naval Victualling & Clothing - 011-7192351
General - 0117190000, Extension - 12351
Fax : Senior Staff Officer (Clothing) - 0117192356
Fax : 011 2424577
E-mail : nhqssoclothing@navy.lk, nhqssoclothing@gmail.com
 - This paper advertisement is available in Sri Lanka Navy website **www.navy.lk**.

**The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Sri Lanka Navy,
Colombo 01.**



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Chairman, RDA Procurement Committee, on behalf of the RDA invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the project described below :-

Item No	Contract No.	Name of the projects	Engineer's Estimate Rs.mn (With contingences & Without Vat)	Eligibility (CIDA GRADE)	Bid Security Rs.	Contract Period	Non-refundable Tender Fee without VAT (Rs.)
01.	RDA/RBCD/WP/GOSL/2020/007	Construction of bridge across Wawullena Ela on Pragathiapura Negenahirakanda road at Eswatta, Puwakpitiya,Avissawella. (Avissawella Ds area)	14.88	C6 & C5 Bridge Speciality	148,800.00	270 days	3500.00
02.	RDA/RBCD/SAB/GOSL/2020/008	Construction of bridge across MarapanaOya at Batewaththa, Deewela. (Kegalle Ds area)	15.56	C6 & C5 Bridge Speciality	155,600.00	365 days	3500.00
03.	RDA/RBCD/NP/GOSL/2020/009	Construction of bridge across Kokkumoddai Aru on Thennamarawadi Kokkuthuduwai road at kokumoddai Mulatiwu. (Mulathiwu Ds area)	14.78	C6 & C5 Bridge Speciality	147,800.00	365 days	3500.00
04.	RDA/RBCD/WP/GOSL/2020/010	Construction of bridge across Bope Batalawatta Road in Udagama, Bope. (Harwella Ds area)	7.42	C7 & C6 Bridge Speciality	74,200.00	270 days	2000.00
05.	RDA/RBCD/UP/GOSL/2020/012	Construction of bridge across Modiyala Kandura on Bokkemadawala Badulla Gammana road at Bokkemadawala, Bibila. (Bibila Ds area)	12.84	C6 & C5 Bridge Speciality	128,400.00	270 days	3500.00
06.	RDA/RBCD/UP/GOSL/2020/013	Construction of bridge across Damunuwinna Oya on Medalanda Damunuwinna road at Medalanda, Bibila. (Bibila Ds area)	14.57	C6 & C5 Bridge Speciality	145,700.00	365 days	3500.00
07.	RDA/RBCD/EP/GOSL/2020/014	Construction of bridge across Panhal Oya on Thottama Omirangawa road at Thottama, Damama, Ampara. (Damama Ds area)	25.74	C5 & C4 Bridge Speciality	257,400.00	365 days	4000.00
08.	RDA/RBCD/UP/GOSL/2020/015	Construction of bridge across Gala Oya on Badullagammana - Kaudella road at Kaudella, Bibila. (Bibila Ds area)	15.66	C6 & C5 Bridge Speciality	156,600.00	365 days	3500.00
09.	RDA/RBCD/CP/GOSL/2020/001B	Construction of balance work of bridge across Bali Amuna Oya at Poggolla, Ududumbara. (Ududumbara Ds area)	2.95	C8 & C7 Bridge Speciality	29,500.00	90 days	2000.00
10.	RDA/RBCD/NWP/GOSL/2020/011A	Construction of approach road of Kadathalamulla village bridge in front of Rathmalgoda School. (Polgahawela Ds area)	1.65	C9 & C8 Bridge Speciality	16,500.00	90 days	2000.00

- The work consists of rural bridge construction. (Can be obtain online from www.ero.c.drc.gov.lk)
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure & regional preference shall be applied as stipulated in public finance circular No 04/2016(II).
- It is mandatory for bidders to register under public contracts act no.03 of 1987. for each contract separately.
- Interested bidders may inspect the bidding documents, and obtain further information from following offices free of charges
 - Rural bridge Construction Division (RBCD), RDA, No. 50 Station Road, Angulana. Tel : 011-2623897
 - Chief Engineer's office,RDA,Kegalle Tel: 035-2229554
 - Chief Engineer's office,RDA,Mulathiwu. Tel: 024-2224321
 - Chief Engineer's office,RDA,Monaragala. Tel :- 055-2276047
 - Chief Engineer's office,RDA,Ampara. Tel:- 063-2222014
 - Chief Engineer's office,RDA,Kandy. Tel:- 081-2234287
 - Chief Engineer's office,RDA,Kurunegala. Tel:- 037-2223252
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English language shall be purchased on submission of a written request to the RBCD, RDA, No 50 Station Road, Angulana or relevant Chief Engineer offices from 27/08/2020 to 16/09/2020 during 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee .
- Duly filled sealed bid with the contract name marked on the top left corner of the envelope shall be delivered in duplicate to the under-mentioned address on or before at 14.00 hrs on 17/09/2020. Bids will be opened soon after the closing in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid meeting will be held at following offices and site visit will be arranged immediately thereafter if necessary.
 - 10.30hrs on 03/09/2020 at the office of the Executive Engineer's office, RDA, Avissawella (item no 01 & 04 only)
 - 10.30hrs on 03/09/2020 at the office of the Chief Engineer's office, RDA, Kegalle. (item no 02 only)
 - 10.30hrs on 03/09/2020 at the office of the Chief Engineer's office, RDA, Mulathiwu. (item no 03 only)
 - 10.30hrs on 04/09/2020 at the office of the Executive Engineer's office , RDA, Bibila. (item no 05, 06 & 08 only)
 - 10.30hrs on 03/09/2020 at the office of the Chief Engineer's office,RDA, Ampara. (item no 07 only)
 - 10.30hrs on 03/09/2020 at the office of the Chief Engineer's office,RDA, Kandy. (item no 09 only)
 - 10.30hrs on 03/09/2020 at the office of the Chief Engineer's office,RDA, Kurunegala. (item no 10 only)
- Tender should be accompanied by a bid security of the amount given in above table valid up to 13.01.2021. Bid shall be valid up to 16.12.2020

The Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Rural Bridge Construction Division,
Road Development Authority,
No.50,Station Road,
Angulana.



PROCUREMENT NOTICE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING

N-55

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Government Printing, Sri Lanka, invites Bids from Local Principals / Local Suppliers & the Accredited Agents in Sri Lanka for the supply of following items.

- Item**
- CTP Violet KORD Plate (550mm x 650mm - 0.25 mm - 0.30mm) - 1000 Nos.
 - CTP Violet SORD Plate (715mm x 915mm - 0.24 mm - 0.30mm) - 4000 Nos.
 - Developer - 200 Ltr.
 - Replenisher - 200 Ltr.

Closing Date of Bid : 09.09.2020 - 2.00 p.m.

Bid Reference No : SCP02/NCB10/CTP/S/K/2020-8

Bidding Documents relevant to this notice will be issued on official working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by the Supplies Division, Department of Government Printing, 118, Dr Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08 on written application along with a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1500/= per each Bid. Bidding Documents will be issued by the Supplies Division itself before 2.00 p.m. on or before the day prior to the closing date given above.

Further particulars could be obtained from my office during working days from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

Gangani Liyanage
Chairman, Procurement Committee

Department of Government Printing
118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08.

Telephone / Fax : 011-2694898

Website : www.documents.gov.lk

26.08.2020

THANK YOU PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY (Never Known to fail)

Oh! most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruit wine splendorous of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin assist me in my necessity. Oh! star of the sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh! Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you, from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh! show me here you are my mother. Oh! Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (3 Times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 Times). Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Amen.

This Prayer must be said for 3 days and after that the request will be granted and the Prayer must be published.

**Repeat
Your
Ad
For
Better
Offers**

Ministry of Finance Department of Inland Revenue PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Supply of Technicians to maintain the building maintenance service for the Head Office and Office in Navam Mawatha, Jawatte City Office and Baladhaksha Building of the Department of Inland Revenue

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Procurement Board only from reputed bidders who fulfill the following qualifications for the supply of technicians for maintaining the building maintenance service for the Head Office and Office in Navam Mawatha, Jawatte City Office and Baladhaksha Building of the Department of Inland Revenue.

- Sealed bids will be received up to 2.00 p.m. on 16.09.2020 by the Department of Inland Revenue, Colombo 02 only from reputed bidders who fulfill the following requirements for a period of one year from 01.10.2020.
 - Should be registered under the Business Registration Act
 - Should have 05 years experience in the relevant field in a government institution / reputed private institution.
 - Technicians to be deployed should have at least 03 years experience in a Government Institution / reputed Private Institution.
 - Should be registered with the Department of Labour under the Employees Provident Fund Act No. 15 of 1958 and the Employees Trust Fund Act No. 46 of 1980 as a contributor.
 - At the time of submission of bids and at the time of awarding of contract the bidder should not have been blacklisted.
 - Authenticity of the person signing the bid for submission should be attested either by a Power of Attorney or Letter of Authorization.
- Documents/Information/Certificates to prove the qualifications required should be submitted with the bid.
- Bids should be submitted only on bid documents obtained after requesting with a letterhead of the bidder from the Commissioner (Procurement and Assets Management) between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days from 26.08.2020 until 15.09.2020 and the receipt obtained from the Accounts Branch of this department upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 2,000/= should be submitted to obtain documents.
- Bids submitted should be valid until 16.12.2020 and all bids should be accompanied by a bid security to the value of Rs. 55,000.00 which should be 'On Demand' and valid until 16.01.2021 and obtained in favour of the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue from a reputed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka or else should be deposited in cash. Cheques will not be accepted.
- Qualified bidders may inspect bid documents free of charge at the Procurement and Assets Management Division, 15th Floor, Department of Inland Revenue Building, Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from 26.08.2020 until 15.09.2020.
- Duly perfected sealed bids may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Procurement Committee - Major, Procurement and Assets Management Division, 15th Floor, Department of Inland Revenue, Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02" or deposited in the Bid Box kept at the Procurement and Assets Management Division, 15th Floor, Head Office Building of the Department of Inland Revenue to receive before the scheduled closing date and time. Name of the Procurement (Supply of Building Maintenance Technicians for the Department of Inland Revenue - 2020/2021) should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the bid.
- Bidders or their authorized representatives may be present at the time of opening of bids. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of bids at 2.00 p.m. on 16.09.2020 at the Office of the Commissioner (Procurement and Assets Management), 15th Floor, Head Office Building of the Department of Inland Revenue.
- Further details, if required, may be obtained from the following by calling them.

Commissioner (Procurement and Assets Management) - Tel. No. 0112135461
Civil Engineer - Tel. No. 0112328800
Administrative Officer - Tel. No. 0112135462
(Procurement and Assets Management)

**Chairman
Procurement Committee - Major,
Department of Inland Revenue
Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha,
Colombo 02**

ADVERTISING Centres
VISIT OUR ADVERTISING CENTRES IN KEY CITIES TO:

- Submit your advertisements
- Reserve rooms at Lake House Kataragama Pilgrims Rest
- Order subscriptions of Lake House newspapers

Kandy Branch
KANDY
No.22, Galada Veediya,
Kandy
081 223 4200

Anuradhapura Branch
ANURADHAPURA
No.310/12,
Rathmalgoda, Mahipala, Park Town,
025 222 2370

Jaffna Branch
JAFFNA
No.06, Stompsady,
Off Sankaly Road,
077 616 4901

Maradana k/v Branch
MARADANA
No.383, D R Wijewardena
Mawatha, Colombo 02
011 242 9336

Matara Branch
MATARA
No.23, Upper Floor,
Maha Samadhi,
041 223 5412

Nugegoda Branch
NUGEKODA
4th Floor, Savan Complex,
High Level Road,
011 282 8114

Kataragama Branch
KATARAGAMA
Opposite Kataragama
Bus Stand,
Ponadawana Mawatha,
047 223 5291

**Dial
1949**
011 242 9342
011 242 9333
LAKE HOUSE
No.35,
D R Wijewardena Mawatha,
Colombo 10

Notice made under Section 66 c read with Section 66 g of Local Authorities Elections Ordinance amended by Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 2012

I, Kasun Epa Senevirathne, the Commissioner of Local Government of Western Province, according to the powers entrusted to me by Section 66 c read with Section 66 g of the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance amended by Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 2012, do hereby announce that a meeting in view of selecting a new Mayor for the vacated Mayor's position of Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte Municipal Council of Western Province, will be convened on September 15 of 2020 at 9.30 a.m. at the Municipal Council Chamber of Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte Municipal Council located at No. 06, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya.

Kasun Epa Senevirathne
Commissioner of Local Government,
Western Province

On the date of 20 of August 2020,
At the Department of Local Government of Western Province
at No. 204, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha,
Battaramulla.

MINISTRY OF PLANTATION
SRI LANKA STATE PLANTATIONS CORPORATION
SLSPC/PL/TB/VEHICLES/T-125/2020

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR SUPPLY OF 07 VEHICLES ON MONTHLY RENT

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed firms and companies to provide 07 vehicles on rent basis with following specifications for the use of Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation.

- * Capacity - above 2500cc
- * Jeeps or Double Cabs
- * Four Wheel Drive
- * Fuel Type - Diesel
- * Running Kilometres per month - 3000 km
- * Maintenance/Vehicle service and other repairs should be done by the Supplier.

For any further information contact the undersigned and sealed quotations should be forwarded to The Chairman - Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation, 21, Meerania Street, Colombo 12 written on top left hand corner of the envelope "BIDS FOR SUPPLY OF 07 VEHICLES ON MONTHLY RENT TO SLSPC PLANTATIONS" before 2.00 p.m. on 10th September 2020.

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
21, Meerania Street, Colombo 12.
Contact: 011-5921465 / 5921463

University of Jaffna,
Faculty of Technology
Ariviyal Nagar, Kilinochchi

Recommencement of Academic activities for students

Academic activities will recommence for

- Academic year (2018/19) - 1st year 1st semester (4th batch) from 14.09.2020
- Academic year (2015/16) - 4th year 1st semester (1st batch) from 07.09.2020

Academic activities have already been started for Academic year (2016/17) - 2nd year 2nd semester (2nd batch) and Academic year (2017/18) 1st year 2nd semester (3rd batch) from 24.08.2020

Examination is scheduled for

- > Academic year (2016/17) - 2nd year 2nd semester (2nd batch) from 14.09.2020 - 02.10.2020
- > Academic year (2017/18) 1st year 2nd semester (3rd batch) from 28.09.2020 - 16.10.2020

Registrar
24.08.2020

REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is to inform the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that the Special Power of Attorney dated 21.11.2011 and attested by S.K. Nageswaran Solicitor of London, United Kingdom registered under Volume 19 Folio 53 and Serial No. 498 dated 20.12.2011 in the Registrar General Department, Eastern Zone, Batticaloa in favour of Selvarajah Kumarajothy No. 07, Rosiro Road, Batticaloa and granted by me Nalinie Paheerathan (nee Sathianathan) of 125 Kenilworth Crescent, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3RG, United Kingdom is cancelled and revoked with effect from 20.07.2020 and hence forth shall not be liable for any act or deed under this said Power of Attorney.

Nalinie Paheerathan
(nee Sathianathan)

20.07.2020

OBSERVER JOBS

BREAKING BOUNDARIES THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST RECRUITMENT DATABASE FOR JOBBEEKERS

www.observerjobs.lk

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Offices and Stores of Akbar Brothers Group of Companies will be closed on **Friday August 28, 2020** on account of **Ashura.**

AKBAR BROTHERS GROUP OF COMPANIES
334, T.B. Jayah Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

LANKA PLASTIC INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD.,
111, Attampolawatta Road,
Mabole, Wattala.

GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF WATER SUPPLY

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Credit No.: Cr. 5685-Ik

BID NOTICE

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a credit from the International Development Agency of World Bank towards the cost of Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contracts given below.
- The Chairman, Procurement Committee now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for projects described below.

Name of Contract & Contract No	Non Refundable Fee (Rs)	Bid Security Requirements (Rs)	Eligibility Requirements	Place of Issuing of Documents & Contact Person	Closing Date and Time
Project Procurement Committee (Major)					
Works Tenders					
Sanitation Improvement Project in Sripada Stage 01 in NuwaraEliya District. Contract No: MWS/WaSSIP/NuwaraEliya/SA/Public-Sripada/2020/10	Rs.3,500/-	Rs. 364,800/-	Registration with CIDA (ICTAD) in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage C5 or above and certificate of Registration of the contract as per the Act No 3 of 1987 with the Registrar of Public Contract.	Project Management Unit, Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project, No. 230, E. W. PereraMawatha, Jubilee Post, Nugegoda Tel/Fax: 011-2890943/ 011-2890941	23 rd September 2020 13.00 hours
Rehabilitation of Udawela Rural Water Supply Scheme in Badulla District. Contract No: MWS/WaSSIP/Badulla/Passara/RE/Udawela/2019/03	Rs.20,000/-	Rs. 1,942,000/-	Registration with CIDA (ICTAD) in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage C3 or above and certificate of Registration of the contract as per the Act No 3 of 1987 with the Registrar of Public Contract	Project Management Unit, Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project, No. 230, E. W. PereraMawatha, Jubilee Post, Nugegoda Tel/Fax: 011-2890943/ 011-2890941	30 th September 2020 10.00 hours
Rehabilitation of Siyambalanduwa Water Supply Project in Siyambalanduwa DS Division in Monaragala District. Contract No: MWS/WaSSIP/Monaragala/Siyambalanduwa/RE/Siyambalanduwa/2019/04	Rs.12,500/-	Rs. 1,171,000/-	Registration with CIDA (ICTAD) in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage C4 or above and certificate of Registration of the contract as per the Act No 3 of 1987 with the Registrar of Public Contract	Project Management Unit, Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project, No. 230, E. W. PereraMawatha, Jubilee Post, Nugegoda Tel/Fax: 011-2890943/ 011-2890941	30 th September 2020 12.00 hours

- Bidding documents will be issued on submission of a written application on the applicant's letterhead to the office of Project Director.
- Bidding documents can be collected between 09.30 hours and 15.30 hours on normal working days up to the closing date.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Water Supply & Sanitation Improvement Project and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the place of issuing documents during normal working hours.
- Bids shall either be hand delivered or dispatched by registered post or courier to the address given above.
- All Bids will be opened at the same address soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids will be returned unopened.

Project Director,
Water Supply & Sanitation Improvement Project

ජල සැපයුම පිළිබඳ හදිසි ඇමතුම් සඳහා ගාස්තු අයකිරීමෙන් තොර 1939 අංකය පැය 24 පුරාම සිට වෙනුවෙන් ක්‍රියාත්මකයි ප්‍රජා ජල යෝජනාමුඛ ගැටලු වෙනුවෙන් 1914 අමතන්න.

PEOPLE'S BANK
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed Suppliers in Sri Lanka for Supply, Transport & Install the item given below.

Tender No.	Description of the Item	Qty.	Value of Bid Security	Last date & Time of issuing Documents	Date & Time of Closing Tender
P-0044/2020	Western Union Sign Boards	200 Nos.	2% of the total Estimated value of each tender	15.09.2020 at 2.00 p.m.	16.09.2020 at 2.00 p.m.

- Tender documents could be obtained from People's Bank, Supplies Department, 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02 depositing Rs. 1,500/- for each tender document to the Account No. 204100120011913 maintained at Head Quarters Branch. Deposits could be made from any People's Bank branch to the named account. Issuance of tender documents will be made on producing the duplicate of the cash paying in slip between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. from 26.08.2020 to 15.09.2020 as indicated above on working days of the Bank.
- Perfected tender document should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee / Bid Bond from a commercial bank (other than People's Bank) acceptable to the People's Bank for 2% of the Total Estimated Cost, valid for a minimum period of 180 calendar days from the day of opening the tender. Bank Pay Orders / Bank Drafts (valid for 180 calendar days from the date of opening the tender) are also acceptable in lieu of Bid Bonds. Cheque drawn by the tenderer will not be accepted.
- Sealed tenders may be sent by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box kept at this Department at No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02. Tender will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on the closing date (16.09.2020) mentioned above. Tenders received after 2.00 p.m. will be rejected and returned unopened.
- The Bank reserves to itself the right of rejecting any or all bids or cancelling the whole tender and the right of accepting any portion of a tender without assigning any reasons.
- Further details could be obtained from Chief Manager (Supplies), People's Bank, Supplies Department on the Telephone Nos. given below.

Chief Manager (Supplies)
People's Bank, Supplies Dept.
No. 30/101, Kew Road,
Colombo 02.

Tele Nos. : 2439577/8, 2307326
Fax No. : 2439576
Web : www.peoplesbank.lk

PEOPLE'S BANK
AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AA - Brand Finance Rating

Divisional Engineer (Colombo)
Provincial Engineering Organization
Western Provincial Council

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- The Chairman, Colombo Divisional Engineer's Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Provincial Engineering Organization (WP) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the works as described below.

Project Name	Estimated cost for construction excluding VAT (direct construction cost (Rs.))	Non refundable fee (Rs.)	Refundable Bid Deposits / Bid Security (Rs.) (by cash)	Contract period (Days)	Minimum CIDA Registration
01 Renovation of Hon. Governor Residence (WP)	2,799,651.00	2,000/=	25,000/=	75	C 08

- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements.
CIDA registration required,
Specialty : **Buildings**
Grade : **As mentioned in the Table above**
Business Name Registration in Western Province is essential.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Colombo Divisional Engineer's Office and may inspect the bidding documents at the Colombo Divisional Engineer's Office during the office hours.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by any prospective Bidder or their accredited agents on submission of a written request to the respective Divisional Engineer of the Divisional Engineer's Office - Colombo from 2020.08.26 Until 2020.09.09 from 9.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of non-refundable fee (As in the Table) on any working day. Payment shall be made in cash.
- Bid shall be delivered or sent by registered post with original and duplicate to the Colombo Divisional Engineer's Office on or before 2020.09.10 at 10.00 a.m. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened on 2020.09.10 at 10.15 a.m. in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- All Bids Shall be accompanied by a bid security/ Cash deposit (As in the table)

P.D.R. Nadeera
Chairman, Colombo Divisional Engineer's Procurement Committee,
No. 151/4 - 2/1, Jayathilaka Place, Maligawatta, Colombo 10.

Tel No. : 0112-447773, 0112-337873
Fax No. : 0112-447773

