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ANAGARIKA DHARMAPALA BIRTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

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## AMENDMENT TO SECTION 38 OF EPF ACT SOON

# EPF BENEFITS TO BE EXPEDITED

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said that Section 38 of the EPF Act will be amended to enable Labour Tribunal presidents to hear the enforcement cases pending at the Magistrate's Courts for several years to provide EPF benefits.

At present, there are many cases pending at the Magistrate's Courts

to recover the EPF and ETF benefits and the recovery process takes about two to three years, the Minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

The Minister said if the case is called in the Magistrate's Court today the next calling date will be between four to six months.

Therefore, special legislation will be introduced to give that power

to Labour Tribunals to dispose of these cases quickly.

He said the beneficiaries need to go to the Labour Department regarding any of their EPF and ETF payments.

However, they have to wait for several months. Therefore, a special unit has been set up to look into such issues. Earlier, this special unit was under the Labour Com-

missioner but that was not a success.

At present, it has been brought under the purview of the Labour Ministry Secretary so that it can entertain complaints on the delays and conduct an inquiry and provide redress to the beneficiary. At present, many applications are flowing into this special unit.

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## PCol conducts inquiries into 7,500 petitions

By Aanya Wipulasena

The Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCol) to investigate allegations of political victimisation is conducting inquiries into 7,500 petitions received from state sector employees, its chairman Gamini Lokuge told Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Minister Lokuge was appointed the new chairman of the Commission after Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, who served as the former chairman was appointed as the 26th Speaker of Parliament.

Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former ministers Mangala Samaraweera and Patali Champika Ranawaka, and parliamentarian Anura Kumara Dissanayake gave their statements ...

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The malpractices of the Yahapalana regime are being revealed at the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCol) to investigate allegations of political victimisation and interference and undue influence on the judiciary and police. Here former Ministers Patali Champika Ranawaka, Malik Samarawickrema and Mangala Samaraweera leaving the Commission after giving evidence in a case against them. Earlier in the day, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake gave evidence before the Commission. Pic - Chinthaka Kumarasinghe

## FLOUTING COVID-19 HEALTH GUIDELINES

# Take preventive measures or face the music

By Nadira Gunatilleke

Legal action should be taken against people and institutions that do not follow health guidelines to prevent Covid-19 and continue to ignore instructions by the Government and the health authorities, Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Sudath Samaraweera

said. He told a press conference at the Health Promotion Bureau (HPB) in Colombo recently that health guidelines to prevent Covid-19 should be strictly followed by people and all state and private institutions until a vaccine is found for the disease.

But, it now seems that the fears of the Sri Lankan public

have vanished while some institutions ignore the health guidelines putting Sri Lanka at risk.

Dr. Samaraweera said it was possible for a person who underwent the 14-day compulsory quarantine and got a negative PCR test result to develop Covid-19 again.

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## Govt to table 20 A on Sept 22

The Government will table the 20th Amendment to the Constitution in Parliament on September 22 and it will be included in the Parliament Order Book.

The Government on September 2 gazetted the 20th Amendment.

The proposed legislation will replace the 19th Amendment

introduced by the former Yahapalana Government in 2015.

After a fortnight, following the publication of the Gazette notification, the 20th Amendment will be included in the Parliament Order Book on September 22. Parliamentary sources said after the 20th Amendment is tabled in Parliament on Sep-

tember 22, any citizen has the right to challenge its constitutionality in the Supreme Court by filing a petition within seven clear days from September 22.

If it is not challenged before courts, it can be taken up for the Second Reading debate after seven days.

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### LET'S RESUME ROAD DISCIPLINE

The bus priority lane rule, introduced with the aim of easing traffic congestion in Colombo and the suburbs, will come into effect again after Covid-19

Motorists who violate the Traffic Lane Law will be fined **Rs. 2,000**

Lane law violation will be identified using CCTV cameras and drone videos by the Sri Lanka Air Force

**Two lanes road**  
Bus priority (left) lane only for buses, three-wheelers, and motorcycles

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First two lanes from the left for motorcycles and three-wheelers

The lane law implemented as a rehearsal from last Monday will be enforced as law from tomorrow Monday

Legend:  
Bus  
Three-wheeler  
Motorcycle  
Other vehicle

Left | BUS LANE | LANE 2 | LANE 3 | LANE 4 | Right

Graphic: Manoj Nishantha

## Two top police officers transferred

By Maneshka Borham

Deputy Inspector General, (DIG) Kithsiri Aponsu heading the Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) and its Director, Senior Superintendent of Police Su-



jith Wedamulla have been transferred out of the PNB with the approval of the National Police Commission (NPC). This is the second major police reshuffle within months, official sources said.

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## Gemunu calls off proposed strike



By Rajitha Jagoda Arachchi

The Ceylon Private Bus Owners' Association (CPBOA) has postponed their proposed strike scheduled for tomorrow (21) following the police decision to ease the strict rule on the bus priority lane. The Association has sought a discussion with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on the recent changes in the bus priority lane.

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# Party leaders must work together to rebuild UNP – Ruwan Wijewardene

BY BHAKTHI DHARMAPRIYA MENDIS

**U**nited National Party (UNP) newly appointed Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene said that party leaders must work together to rebuild the UNP, adding that party members left the party because of a crisis.

The people distanced themselves from the party due to its inability to fulfill the promises to the people, conflicts with the party leadership and for not reorganising the party, he said.

One person cannot lead a party to the victory, Wijewardene said in an interview with the *Sunday Observer*.

## Excerpts

**Q:** The long awaited change has been made in the United National Party (UNP) and you have been appointed Deputy Leader of the party. This is a challenge, isn't it?

**A:** I have been appointed to this post at a time when the party has suffered a major defeat. I have accepted it as a major challenge. I believe the result obtained by the UNP is a mes-

sage to us all. It made us understand that the party must be restructured. My main aim is to find out where we went wrong. We should think about what we did and why our party members and supporters distanced themselves from us. As a political party that has produced Prime Ministers, Presidents and Ministers, it is imperative that the party be rebuilt. I believe we can achieve this through a young leadership.

**Q:** The Samagi Jana Balawegaya was formed by a group of UNP stalwarts, including a former UNP Deputy Leader Sajith Premadasa. How will you go about in gaining their support back to the UNP?

**A:** We must gain the trust of our party members and then gather them around the party. A major restructuring must also take place. We hope to have discussions with the SJB in the future. I must stress that we have no issues regarding this. We will have to hold discussions not only with the SJB but also with other political parties.

**Q:** Does this mean the SJB and the UNP will become one camp?

**A:** Yes, we, anyway, belong to one camp. This is because the majority in the SJB including its leadership are those who represented the UNP

previously. We have worked together and can do so in the future as well.

**Q:** Following your appointment as the Deputy leader of the party, your first challenge would be to face the Provincial Council Election. What is your plan for this?

**A:** It will not be an easy task. We will have to implement a massive plan to face the election. I cannot say that we will secure a significant victory. But we must become proactive. We must implement a plan to face the election by rebuilding the party.

**Q:** Has the restructuring of the UNP already begun?

**A:** We are planning it. We hope to implement a reorganisation campaign from the Grama Niladhari Divisional level to the national level. When selecting provincial council candidates, we will take steps to nominate qualified leaders as requested by the people. We hope to give more opportunities to the youth who are educated, intelligent and have team spirit.

**Q:** After you were elected as the Deputy Leader, it was publicised on social media that the leadership crisis of the UNP has only taken a turn for worse. Is this true?



**A:** There is no crisis now. Our party members left us because there was a crisis. The leadership was criticised many times. But there is no such a scenario now. Our leaders must work together to rebuild the UNP. One person cannot lead a party to the victory.

**Q:** It is said that 1.6 million people did not vote for the UNP and remained independent at the recently concluded General Election. Do you have any message to them?

**A:** We must admit that more people than that number, have moved away from us. We must regain their trust. For that, we need to act with a right vision. The people distanced themselves from us due to our inability to fulfill the promises to the people, conflicts with the leadership of the party and for not reorganising the party.

**Q:** You were in the Government that brought in the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. The current Government is seeking to repeal it and bring in the 20th Amendment. Will you support the new amendment?

**A:** No, I am against the 20th Amendment. As the United National Party, we are all working against the move.

**Q:** Why is the UNP against the 20th Amendment?

**A:** This amendment will be a blow to democracy. We brought in the 19th Amendment because there was no democracy before that. The amendment was made with the intervention of Ven. Maduluwawe Sobitha Thera in particular. The main thing we did was to remove the dictatorship and the executive powers of the President. We gave the powers of the President to Parliament. Commissions were em-

powered to function freely. We gave an opportunity to public sector institutions to function without political influence.

Bringing in the 20th Amendment will be a U-turn and a move towards an old dictatorship rule. The other issue is that the Government is working to bring powers that the President has never had before through the 20th Amendment.

**Q:** Do you mean that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is a dictator?

**A:** President Gotabaya Rajapaksa can bring this amendment with good intentions for the betterment of the country. But people are afraid of what kind of leader will come after him and how he will use these powers. Former President J.R. Jayewardene enacted this constitution and implemented many development programs in the country. But the question arises as to what will happen if a leader who abuses these powers is elected.

**Q:** Do you not accept that the President is doing a service to the country?

**A:** The President has made many good decisions for the betterment of the country. We appreciate them. If wrong decisions, such as the 20th Amendment are made, we will take action against them.

## Inquiry on Easter Sunday attacks Catholic church may have had prior knowledge of Easter Sunday attacks

– Harin Fernando

BY MANESHKA BORHAM

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) parliamentarian Harin Fernando told the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on the Easter Attacks last week that the Catholic church of Sri Lanka too may have had prior knowledge of the Easter Sunday attacks.

Giving evidence before the Commission for the first time on Wednesday, Fernando said the Church too may have had knowledge of the attack given that many parties had been issued prior warnings of a possible attack.

According to Fernando, he was in Badulla on April 21, 2019 when suicide attacks took place across the country carried out by a group of Islamist terrorists.

He said he had called the then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe after hearing the reports of the attacks and had then set out to Colombo.

The Commission questioned Fernando on the possible connections his father, Nihal Fernando, had with officials from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID). The line of questioning was based on a statement by Fernando following the attack in which he claimed that his father had warned him of a possible attack and had requested him to refrain from attending church on Easter Sunday.

Responding, Fernando said his father had connections to those in the CID due to an allegation of fraud against him. When asked if he had visited his father at a private hospital after reaching Colombo on the same day, Fernando admitted that he did as former Prime Minister Wickremesinghe had requested him to find out how his father had knowledge of the attack prior to it taking place.

MP Harin Fernando's father was in the ICU of the Nawaloka Hospital when he had informed his family members not to attend Easter Sunday mass.

"When I went to the ICU and asked, my father merely said I know more things than you," Fernando said, adding that later when he visited Temple trees, Wickremesinghe had shown him the letter sent to Police officials warning of an attack.

The call records of Fernando's father were also submitted to the Commission on the day which showed he had received a call from a Police Sergeant identified as Nandalal around 8.13 pm day before the attack and that it had lasted for 356 seconds. The Senior State Counsel said that this is the same Sergeant who was a part of the CID team that visited Pasikudah to arrest Zahran Hashim's team member 'Army Mohideen' and to recover the explosives in Wanathawilluwa.

Fernando said he does not believe that the Catholic Church had no pri-



or knowledge of the attack given in a situation where it has been revealed that many persons had already been warned before the attack took place on April 21.

He said that an investigation must be launched to ascertain as to why the Cardinal had chosen not to conduct an Easter Sunday service in 2019 as he had done in the previous years. He said it must be investigated if the Cardinal had avoided holding a service as he too had been warned of a possible attack on Catholic churches.

Fernando said he was greatly inconvenienced by a statement by the Cardinal, following the attack in which he said, 'Our people died, the Minister's son survived'.

The President's Counsel representing the Cardinal asked Fernando whether he would accept it if he said that the Cardinal, as usual, conducted the midnight service at St. Lucia's Cathedral in Kotahena on April 20 last year.

Fernando said that he was unaware of this and admitted that the statement was made without any evidence.

The Counsel told the Commission that a nephew of Fernando is a member of his school's rugby team and that the team had made plans to practise at the Sugathadasa Stadium and visit St. Anthony's Church, Kochchikade afterwards on Easter Sunday last year.

The President's Counsel said that Fernando's nephew was the only person who did not attend practices that day. MP Harin Fernando objected to President's Counsel Shamil Perera on the question.

The Commission warned Fernando on his behaviour and said that if he, as a witness at the Commission, treats a lawyer with disrespect, it is considered as an act of disrespect towards the Commission as well.

Fernando has made controversial statements previously on the Catholic Church and its leadership. In June, he apologised to Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith for comments made claiming that the Catholic Church was engaged in politics.

## "Gazette illegal assets investigation division"

BY MANESHKA BORHAM

The National Police Commission (NPC) has instructed acting IGP C.D Wickramaratne to take steps to gazette the proposed Illegal Assets Investigation Police Division.

The NPC, writing to the Acting IGP, said the new Police division should be gazetted and arrangements should be made to form the division under the Criminal Investigations Department (CID).

The new division will probe assets of those involved in crime.

The division will deal with the confiscation of immovable and movable property and money earned through rackets and narcotics under the Money Laundering Act. Its formation was announced by the Police in early July.

The new division will be head-

ed by Senior Superintendent of Police G.N De Soysa. His appointment as the first Director of the Illegal Assets Investigation Division was approved by the NPC on Thursday. De Soysa was the former SSP in charge of the Colombo Central Police Division.

## EPF benefits... From page 1

The Minister said if it is a disciplinary inquiry in the public sector, it should be concluded within six months but there is no such timeframe in the private sector. Therefore, the same methodology would be introduced to the private sector too. They can't keep the employee at home by dragging the disciplinary inquiry.

The Minister said that he has directed the Commissioner of Labour to present a report on the complaints

received regarding the arbitrary job cuts in workplaces due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have done that to assess the situation but we have permitted the employers to allow certain employees to work from home at half the salary, but they will be paid 50 percent of their salary. This has been introduced in certain areas and we would extend it to the tourism sector too.

At present, there are numerous inquiries with regard to the termina-

tion of employment. In terms of the current law, inquiries and judgements will be made providing redress to the people. If there are any arbitrary job cuts, such employees can complain to the termination unit at the Labour Department and we have appointed several legal officers to look into such cases.

Meanwhile, the Rs.1,000 pay hike had not yet been given to plantation workers. "I will start a fresh initiative with the plantation companies

and the trade unions to persuade the plantation sector to pay this Rs.1,000 daily wage. I will also recommend to the Government what remedial steps should be taken if they fail to do so.

He said according to the workmen's compensation rules, in the event of a death of an employee, the employer should pay Rs.550,000 compensation which is not sufficient. We have decided to amend the workmen's compensation rules and increase this compensation up to Rs.2 million.

## Two top police... From page 1

The NPC has also approved the transfers of 39 senior police officers, comprising four senior DIGs, 15 DIGs and 20 SSPs. According to the police, the transfers were on service requirements.

Aponsu and Wedamulla were appointed to the top posts in the PNB in July this year when the former heads of the PNB, DIG Sa-jeeewa Medawatta and SSP Manjula Senarath were transferred after a group of PNB officers were impli-

cated for drug smuggling.

DIG Kithsiri Aponso has been transferred to the Police Grievances Division while SSP Sujith Wedamulla will take over as Director, Police Kennels Division. They have been replaced by DIG J.A.U.P Jayasinghe and SSP S.D Wijesekara.

Jayasinghe formerly headed the Tourist Division while Wijesekara functioned as the SSP in charge of the Moneragala Police Division.

## Take preventive... From page 1

Therefore, the health authorities recommend another 14 days of home quarantine for them. But some people run away from quarantine centres putting the entire country at risk, while some visit the rooms of others at quarantine centres without following rules and regulations. Hence, we cannot rule out the possibility of Covid-19 in Sri Lanka society again.

Dr. Samaraweera said people should wear masks in public at all times covering their nose and mouth. People should keep a one metre minimum distance in public and wash their hands with soap and water for 30 seconds. A standard hand sanitiser should be used

whenever soap and water are not available. This is the only way to safeguard Sri Lanka's victory while other countries recorded deaths in large numbers, with overflowing ICUs and Coronavirus patients.

It is disconcerting to see some institutions now offering only soap or water for people.

It is the sole responsibility of Heads of Institutes to ensure that their institutions follow health guidelines all the time. Some organisations conduct huge public events which are not warranted. People, especially elders and those who suffer from chronic diseases should avoid going to crowded places, he added.

## Gemunu calls off... From page 1

Following the police decision to permit motorcycles and three-wheelers to travel on the bus priority lane along with buses, CPBOA President Gemunu Wijeratne criticised the move and threatened a continuous bus strike from Monday.

However, his Association has now called for a meeting with the

President and other stakeholders before launching a strike.

"This decision was taken by the police. Therefore, we seek a meeting with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and all stakeholders," Wijeratne added. He said the government should encourage public transport instead of private vehicles during peak

hours. Wijeratne has also proposed to ease traffic congestion.

"The Government can change school times to ease congestion in the morning. Heavy vehicles should not be permitted to ply on roads and some by roads can be made one-way during peak hours," he said.

If the bus priority lane is abol-

ished following the recent changes private bus owners would be forced to abandon the low-floor buses. "We are to invest billions of rupees on low-floor buses to facilitate bus priority lanes. If the designated lane doesn't give priority for buses, there is no point in importing buses with such facilities," he said.

Smuggling on the rise amid import ban

# Govt to step up turmeric production

By  
**Aanya Wipulasena**



Several attempts to smuggle turmeric were foiled by the Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) over the past week as the government continued to hold onto its decision to ban the import of the spice to promote local production.

SLN in a press release last week stated that the Sri Lanka Coast Guard seized about 1058kg of dried turmeric being smuggled into the country in the estuary of Deduru Oya, Chilaw.

During a special patrol in the estuary of Deduru Oya, Sri Lanka Coast Guard found the consignment stuffed in 21 gunny sacks, after inspecting a suspicious dinghy at the location. The stock of dried turmeric and the dinghy will be handed over to the Customs Office of Sinnapadu for further investigation in keeping with health guidelines

of the global pandemic. Operations are currently underway in search of the suspects.

In a separate incident, Naval operations led to the seizure of an 818kg consignment of dried turmeric being smuggled into the country by sea and apprehension of two suspects on Wednesday (16). During a special operation, the North Central Naval Command nabbed two suspects who were attempting to smuggle around 510kg of dried turmeric by a dinghy north of Mannar. The consignment had been stuffed in 12 sacks as they were recovered by naval personnel.

In another special operation conducted at Vankalai in Mannar, the Navy seized about 308kg of dried turmeric in five delivery sacks, left behind at the Vankalai beach. The suspects held in connection with the racket were identified as residents of Palleimunai, Mannar, aged 26 and 37. They were handed over to the Public Health Inspector of Talaimannar for quarantine. The seized consignments had been disinfected to

comply with Covid-19 guidelines and they will be handed over to the Jaffna Customs Office for further investigations, the SLN stated.

SLN apprehended three suspects with over 520kg of dried turmeric attempted to be smuggled into the island in another special operation conducted in the sea of Mundalampiddi, Mannar on Wednesday. SLN stated that over 520kg of dried turmeric stuffed in 12 gunny bags were held by the North Central Naval Command as the suspects were attempting to transfer the consignment by a traditional boat (Wallam) in above sea area.

The suspects who are between 22 to 55 years of age were identified as residents of Palleimunai in Mannar. They were produced before the Adampan Medical Officer of Health for inspection. The seized stock of dried turmeric and the boat had been disinfected to comply with Covid -19 guidelines and they will be handed over to the Jaffna Customs Office for further investigations.

Turmeric smuggling was rampant since the government banned its import in December last year.

The attempt to aid small and medium businesses and growers caused turmeric prices to sky-rocket, and in some cases left adulterated turmeric to enter the local market. However, since then the situation has improved as growers were encouraged to increase the yield. The government said it will continue the import ban.

Minister of Plantations Ramesh Pathirana told media that the country



The stocks seized by Navy



The seized consignment

can produce at least 4,000 metric tonnes of turmeric. This is over half the requirement for local consumption. The Consumer Affairs Authority has stepped in to impose a maximum retail price of Rs. 750 per kg of turmeric.

During an official visit to Maha Nanneriya in the Kurunegala District, on September 7, Highways Minister Johnston Fernando said President Gotabaya Rajapaksa instructed agriculture sector officers to take steps to produce turmeric for the local consumption and maintain a fixed price.

He said that due to the growing demand for turmeric a kilo is sold at a price between Rs. 4,000 to Rs 5,000.

"Some question as to why we do not import turmeric. If we permit imports the traders will import in excess, store them and release to the local market later, which will result in discouraging the local producers," he said adding that the Government has taken steps to build a self-sufficient economy.

"It is my belief that Sri Lanka could be made a vibrant economy in Asia," he said. Minister of Trade Dr. Bandula Gunawardena said the government may ease restrictions for re-export. This decision was made following discussions with local businessmen.



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## Buddhist Advisory Council commends President

The Buddhist Advisory Council commended the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for following advice and implementing suggestions of the Maha Sangha.

Member Bhikkus of the Council are confident that the policies being followed by the President will be instrumental in building a fair and virtuous society.

Five months ago, President Rajapaksa decided to set up the Buddhist Advisory Council to seek the advice and views of the Maha Sangha in the process of implementing policies of the Government.

The first meeting between the Maha Sangha and the President took place on April 24 at the Presidential Secretariat. During the meeting the President apprised the Maha Sangha of the measures taken to prevent the spread of Covid - 19 pandemic and the future activities of the Government. President informed that he intends to meet the Council on the third Friday of every month and invited Theros of the three Chapters to participate.

Member bhikkus of the Council presented their advices and suggestions to implement strategies pertaining to several areas included in "Saubhagyaye Dekma" national policy statement during previous five sessions. The Buddhist Advisory Council which met for the 6th time at the Presidential Secretariat on Friday reviewed the progress of the implementation of proposals so far. The Maha Sangha commended and invoked their blessings for paying at-

ention of the Government and executing several proposals put forward by them including protecting historical places with archaeological value, developing pirivena education by removing deficiencies, providing deeds to Vihara lands, Dhamma School education, National Education Policy, early childhood development, prioritizing national security, controlling the drug menace, environmental protection, creating the background for discourse on Buddha Sasana and placing Buddhist Universities under the purview of Ministry of Education.

The Council praised the President for taking measures to lay a strong and viable foundation for the future of Ministry of Education by appointing 4 State Ministers for the first time in the history.

The MahaSangha pointed out that the decision to amend the Antiquities Ordinance to address the long standing issues related to Viharas built on archaeological sites has been welcomed by many.

While highlighting the importance of the Advisory Council which meets once a month, President Rajapaksa said that it had helped him as well as the officials to gain a better perspective of various fields. The President promised to take steps to rectify prevailing shortcomings. The Maha Sangha representing the Buddhist Advisory Council, Principal Advisor to the President Lalith Weeratunga, Ministry Secretaries and heads of several institutes were present at the meeting.

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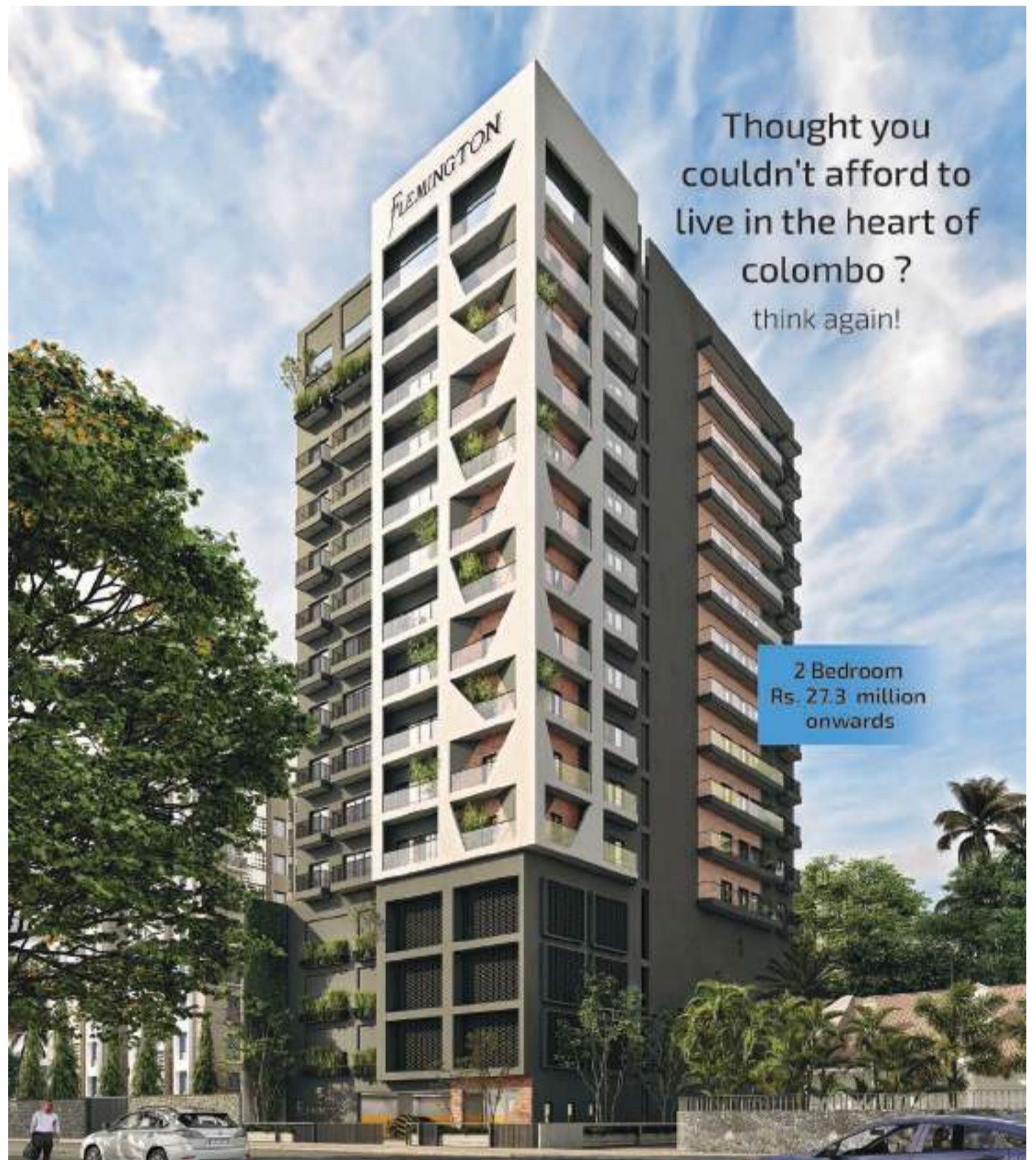
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# Constitution - people's prerogative

- Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva

FACT-FILE Nimal Siripala de Silva

By  
Uditha  
Kumarasinghe



Minister of Labour, Nimal Siripala de Silva said the fate of the country and the Constitution have to be decided on by the people of Sri Lanka themselves and not by the international community. In an interview with the *Sunday Observer*, the Minister said the political decisions of a country are taken by its people, democratically, and the international community has no stake in it at all. The international community wants us to establish norms and democratic processes in the manner adopted in their own countries. The Minister said we should know the background of our country - the political culture and the needs of the people. If the Executive Presidency is good for the people of Sri Lanka, why should we be guided by the norms and the directions of the international community or the NGOs. It is up to the people of Sri Lanka to decide their political destiny.

**Q: The nine-member Committee appointed by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has made several changes to the draft of the 20th Amendment and handed it to the Premier on September 15. Could you explain?**

**A:** As a member of the Committee I am not in a position to divulge the contents of the Committee report. We have discussed the draft of the 20A. The President wants to ensure that this draft does not contain anything that proposes a referendum. We viewed it from that angle and ensured that we can pass it with the two-thirds majority in Parliament. Apart from that, the Committee members expressed various views on certain clauses in the 20A, which were all considered and the report given to the Prime Minister. That is democracy practised within the party. The final decision is with the party leadership and the President.

**Q: What is the SLFP's position with regard to the 20A? Has it submitted its own proposals to the Government?**

**A:** The SLFP's stance is that the President in his election manifesto and the parliamentary election has clearly asked for a mandate to abolish the 19A. He requested the people to elect him as President and to give a two-thirds majority to the SLFP as the Government could not work smoothly due to the 19A. The people have responded positively to the President's request by giving a two-thirds majority to the Government.

The SLFP holds the view that the people have expressed their desire to change the 19A, and therefore, we should not obstruct that.

The other point is that the President has won the Presidential Election with an overwhelming majority so that he should be given the chance to change the Constitution in the manner he thinks fit.

**Q: Which is more appropriate, amending the Constitution or introducing a completely new Constitution?**

**A:** Our final goal is to introduce a new Constitution. The 20A will only be a temporary measure until a new Constitution is drafted. It would take at least a year to introduce a new Constitution as it would need wide consultation. We have appointed an Expert Committee headed by President's Counsel Romesh de Silva for that. They will seek the views of the public, Members of Parliament and all other political parties. Thereafter, we have to come to a conclusion and draft the new Constitution. There are certain shortcomings and gaps in the present Constitution. We have to ascertain the shortcomings and eliminate them when we draft a new Constitution. For example, some members of the judiciary such as the Magistrates and District Judges come under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Service Commission.

In the case of public servants, their transfers and punishments are examined by the Public Service Commission, and if a public servant is not satisfied with the decision or order given by the Public Service Commission, he has a right to appeal to the Administrative Tribunal headed by a Supreme Court judge. However, that opportunity is not given to the judicial officers, for whom the decision by the Judicial Service Commission is final and conclusive. Hence, the aggrieved judicial officer would say, "I have a case to be presented and I should have a right of appeal so that an opportunity must be given." That is a matter which we have to consider in the overall framing of the Constitution.

Similarly, the Attorney General has pointed out the case of the legal officers in his Department. Their recruitments and promotions should not be done on the directions of the Public Service Commission but there should be a separate committee for that. These are the issues we face. We also need to increase the number of judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. Also, how do we strengthen provincial administration, especially, the concept

of devolution of power. Are we going to devolve at the Pradeshiya Sabha level? There are different schools of thought.

Some say the Provincial Councils should be abolished while others say they should remain, and yet others say it should be devolved down to the Pradeshiya Sabha level. These are matters which have to be debated. We have to make provision for them based on the consensus arrived at in future deliberations.

Next, how do we prevent the delay in delivering judgements? When I was the Justice Minister some people told me that their case although concluded six months ago, judgement had not yet been delivered. In one of the minor courts, 44 judgements had not been delivered for over two years. Therefore, we have to lay down certain parameters that once the case is concluded, the judgement must be delivered within a given timeframe. These are people-friendly amendments which we need. If they are incorporated in the Constitution, everybody would be bound by it.

**Q: Do you think the new Constitution should lay emphasis to change the electoral system?**

**A:** We have been fighting for long to change the electoral system. The people want a constitutional amendment, especially, a good electoral system where a Member of Parliament could be elected to be responsible to a defined geographical area. In a district, they can use this system for every electorate without the preferential system. There will be the first-past-the-post system applicable to the electorate.

However, taking into account all the votes secured by each party, there will be certain seats allocated on the proportional representation basis. This will bring a new political culture to our system.

It will discourage the forming of extremist parties based on religion and ethnicity. Everybody will then be compelled to contest through the major political parties. The minorities should also integrate with the main political parties. That is what happened in the early days of elections.

Now we have a ballot paper which runs into 26 inches.

Everybody who can deposit Rs.75,000 can contest the election independently.

Our experience is they don't get even less than one per cent of the votes polled. What is the justification for permitting these independent groups to con-

test? We should strike off the political parties which could not secure even one per cent of votes at a general election. Also, how many spoiled votes are there in an election? The people are confused with the ballot paper. There should be a simple method for the people to cast their votes. If somebody contests independently, we should charge at least Rs. one million to two million as deposit. If it is a political party which could not secure even one per cent of the votes at the previous election and wants to contest again, we should have a higher deposit rate to discourage them.

To ensure a free and fair election, we must embody a simple electoral system in the Constitution which will not confuse the voters. If we adopt the first-past-the-post system and change the preferential voting system, that will stop a lot of infighting within political parties.

The SLFP voted for the 19A as the then Yahapalana Government pledged to bring in the 20A within two weeks. That is to change the electoral system but that never happened. Therefore, an overall constitutional change would be vital.

**Q: The SJB and the JVP have launched a campaign against the 20A saying that it is unfavourable to the country and would pave the way for authoritarian rule. Your comments?**

**A:** That is their argument. What is democracy? Democracy is what the majority of the people want. If the majority of the people decide that they want to abolish the 19A, the SJB which failed at the election has no right to say that it should not be done. We are doing this in a democratic manner by which the Constitution could be changed. Otherwise, the SJB and the JVP should canvas and say not to give 150 votes to pass the 20A. That is the only way they can defeat it. I don't think they can succeed by making public lectures.

**Q: The international community has raised concern on the 20A and the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has said that the proposed 20A to the Constitution may impact the independence of key institutions, including the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. What is your comment on this?**

**A:** The international community during the past 10-15 years raised concern about various matters in Sri Lanka which they have no right to do. The fate of the country and the Constitution has to be decided on by the people of Sri Lanka themselves and not by the international community.

What is happening in the US now? For example, US President Donald Trump made many restrictions with regard to their immigration policy. So what can we do?

Has the international community rectified those things? It is a matter for that country to adopt a proper process and implement it.

The UK had a referendum to decide whether they should stay in the EU or not. Can the international community ask not to have a referendum and that the UK should be in the EU.

► **1944:** Born in Badulla, Nilenthi Nimal Siripala de Silva had his education at Nalanda College, Colombo

► **1967:** Entered Law College. Architect of the *Sri Lanka Nidahas Paksha Nithi Shishya Sangawidhanaya* (Sri Lanka Freedom Party Law Students' Society)

► **1971:** Passed out as a lawyer and went to United Kingdom to pursue higher studies. Practised as a lawyer

► **1983:** Appointed SLFP organiser for Borella

► **1989:** Elected Member of Parliament for Colombo District from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP)



► **1994:** Minister of Housing and Construction in the People's Alliance (PA) government

► **2000:** Minister of Posts, Telecommunication and Uva Wellassa Development

► **2005:** Leader of the Peace Delegation to Geneva and Oslo for talks with the LTTE

► **2010:** Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management

► **2015:** Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation and the Leader of the Opposition

► **2019:** Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Legal Reforms in the Government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

► **August, 2020:** Re-elected to Parliament from Badulla district having contested under Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP)

► **August 12, 2020:** Minister of Labour in the cabinet of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Source: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

The political decisions of a country are taken by its people democratically; the international community has no stake in it. They want us to establish norms and processes in the manner they adopt in their own countries.

We know the background of our country, its political culture and the needs of the people. If the Executive Presidency is good for the people of Sri Lanka why should we be guided by the norms and the directions of the international community or NGOs? It is up to the people of Sri Lanka to decide their political destiny.

**Q: Some say the lack of a vibrant Opposition is not healthy for democracy. At present there's infighting in the UNP for leadership. How do you look at this scenario?**

**A:** We are not happy with a weak Opposition. The Government always wants a strong Opposition. From the point of checks and balances, it is desirable to have a strong Opposition. There was a time when there were only seven or eight MPs in the Opposition but they were a very vibrant Opposition. It is the quality of the Opposition that matters.

Therefore, the Opposition should learn to make qualitative contribution in Parliament.

They should seriously study the legislation and problems in the country by contributing positively. That is what is expected of the Opposition. Only then will the people admire the Opposition. It is always good to have a strong Opposition for good governance so that the Opposition becomes vibrant and sensitive to the people's issues.

**Q: Some Government lawmakers had told the media that the Constitutional Council (CC) had become a body that fulfils the agenda of NGOs and other foreign powers. Would you elaborate on this?**

**A:** If you take an overall view on what happened during the Yahapalana Government, I think the CC did not select the correct people. For example, serious concerns were raised on the conduct of the Election Commission member Prof. Ratnaje-

van Hoole and the then IGP. I don't wish to make any presumptions. What happened at the Easter Sunday attacks? The people feel that the CC did not select the correct people for the Commissions.

They never exercised any power and did not prepare any rules and regulations for the conduct of the members of the Commissions.

Once the members were appointed there was no way to remove them. The CC should have formulated its own rules and regulations in such events. For example, Prof. Hoole being a member of the Election Commission went to court against the Election Commission. What is the moral or legal right he has to do so? He proved that the whole EC was a joke. The CC could not take any action against him. That is why we say it is better to do away with the CC.

**Q: How do you view the change of northern vote at the recently concluded general election?**

**A:** The TNA has been harping on the devolution issue. The election result shows that what the people in the North and the East want is development, not devolution.

The TNA is following a racial line of politics and the people in the North have understood that. After the election of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa they have realised that the country has a great leader. So they appreciate the President's leadership and support him. That is why the TNA vote has come down by 36 per cent.

The TNA was not looking after the welfare of the people in the North and the East. Former Northern Province Chief Minister C. V. Wigneswaran had been given an enormous amount of money for that Provincial Council but he did not make use of.

They do not want to show the people of the North that the Government is helping them. They were arguing to get political power, but did not utilise the money and the resources given to develop the North and the East. Hence the people lost faith in the Tamil leadership, especially, the TNA.

The people are now changing their stance and leaning towards the main political parties.

DEMOCRACY IS WHAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WANT. IF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE DECIDE THAT THEY WANT TO ABOLISH THE 19A, THE SJB WHICH FAILED AT THE ELECTION HAS NO RIGHT TO SAY THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE



## What you see is what you know

By  
Dr. Thilhan U.  
Hewage



"What we see changes what we know. What we know changes what we see." - Jean Piaget

The usage of the words 'see' and 'know' interchangeably is very common in the English language where people even use the phrases such as 'you see?' or 'you know?' as fillers in their conversation, at times with the intention of reaffirming whether the listener understood or agreed with what was said.

Teachers sometimes, after explaining something verbally, ask students, "Do you see it?" to check whether the students understood what was explained. Students, on the other hand, instead of saying "yes, I understand it now," may reply "yes, I see it now." The teacher is asking whether the student can capture and visualise it in his mind, and the student says that he has a good mental picture

about the concept that was explained, even if no visual aid was used throughout the whole conversation. Since we are familiar with such experiences and conversations we may not find it difficult to see the validity of the statement, "what we see is what we know" at least at that basic level.

### 'Seeing'

But there is a deeper level of truth in it where 'seeing' is considered as a physical process and 'knowing' a mental process. We have learned, in our middle school health/science classes, the basic steps of the physical act of seeing as, light coming from an original source or reflected on an object, entering through the front parts of our eye (cornea, pupil and the lens) hitting the photo receptors of the retina which converts that energy into electrical signals that travel through the optic nerve to the visual cortex of the brain.

The visual cortex then processes that information and sends signals to other parts of the brain which finally tells us about the object from

which the light comes from. Though the exact mechanisms of how this is achieved by the visual system are still poorly understood, a commonly accepted theory among scientists is that the brain uses its past experience in the memory to identify the similarities of the object seen with what it already knows.

When we see something that we have never seen before we usually try to describe it using things we have seen before that resemble the new object. Research shows that visual processing uses some of the aspects as the shape, colour, movement, location and spatial organisation. Studies show that our perception of movement, depth, perspective, the relative size and movements of objects, shading and texture all depend on contrasts in the intensity of light received by our eyes. Then the new readings are compared with what we have in the data bank of our memory. Basically, the brain is assumed to be extracting such biologically relevant information and associating the firing patterns of neurons with past experience.

Forgetting about the possibility

that we may be bringing some information with us from our previous incarnations, if such a phenomenon exists, we can safely say that we start gathering information for our data banks from the day we are born. This gathering of data is 'learning' and the gathered data is the 'knowledge.'

Therefore, even if one doesn't have any defects in one's physical apparatus of the visual processing system one may not recognise a certain object if one's data bank has no information whatsoever about anything even remotely resembling that particular object. Therefore, to see things clearly and recognise readily we need to keep improving and expanding the data banks in our heads and hence the importance of being life-long learners. One may be blind, in a physiological sense, due to various reasons. The two main reasons would be: a) defects in the eyes and/or optic nerve, b) defects in the visual cortex of the brain.

### Defects

An interesting study by researchers at the Tilburg University in the

Netherlands in 2009 observed that people who were blind due to defects in their visual cortex but had no defects in their eyes and optic nerve smiled when a picture of a smiling face was placed before them and frowned when a picture of a frowning face was shown.

Their in-depth analysis of the phenomenon was published with the conclusion that the information entered the patients' brain through the eyes but has been routed to the part of the brain where the emotions are processed since their visual cortex was not functioning.

Therefore, the patients, though they couldn't see what was in front of them, were reacting to the emotional stimulation. This type of phenomena, sometimes referred to as 'blindsight', clearly bring a new meaning to the saying 'there is more to it than meets the eye.'

There is no evidence to suggest that this does not happen in the visual system of people who can see well, meaning whose eyes, optic nerve and the visual cortex are all functioning well. Therefore, the researchers have

hinted that the whole process of seeing physical objects even may have other personality traits involved in it when the final message is sent indicating to us exactly what we are seeing.

This applies not only in recognising physical objects and physical features but also in recognising personality traits such as emotions, mental complexes and kindness, love and compassion of others. What do all these have to do with our education?

Well, education in general and formal education in particular help us build and maintain the data bank which facilitates our visual system in identifying what we see.

If all other personality traits are also involved in this process, then it is extremely important that our education systems incorporate ways and means of developing proper perspectives of things both in our physical and mental worlds (focusing on IQ and EQ both).

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

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## Feature

# “UNHCHR chief’s comments on 20A unwarranted”

Co-Cabinet Spokesman and Minister of Mass Media, Keheliya Rambukwella said the architects of the 20th Amendment to the Constitution were President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the Cabinet and as such the Government had no intention whatsoever of withdrawing it simply because of divergent views expressed about it.

The Minister said the President and the Cabinet will take the full responsibility for 20A as the people have given a resounding mandate to the SLPP Government and President Rajapaksa at two major elections to replace 19A with 20A. Minister Rambukwella said all proposals, amendments and changes would be considered at the Committee Stage in Parliament when it is taken up for debate.

The parliamentary debate on the proposed Amendment is to be held during the first week of November. It is due to be presented to Parliament on September 22. The Government plans to debate 20A and pass it in Parliament before the Budget. Budget 2021 is due to be presented to Parliament in the second week of November. Government sources said that most probably a two or three-day debate will be held on the 20A on November 3, 4, 5 or 6.

A senior Government Minister said it has been decided to further discuss the Amendments proposed by the nine-member Committee appointed by the Prime Minister to study the 20A and present them at the Committee Stage of the debate in Parliament.

Reliable sources said at present nearly 10 Opposition MPs have pledged to extend their support to 20A, adding that the discussions held with them by Government lawmakers were successful. Government lawmakers are of the view that it is essential to pass 20A as early as possible to carry out the future activities of the Government without any let or hindrance. They are optimistic that the Government will pass this legislation in Parliament with a two-thirds majority as some Opposition MPs have already pledged their support.

## Akila denies

Akila Viraj Kariyawasam has categorically denied media speculation that he has decided to resign from his post of UNP General Secretary. Kariyawasam told the media that he has not taken any decision whatsoever to give up his post. However, Kariyawasam said that an overall change should be made to all party positions when it is subjected to restructuring. He said if a change of the party General Secretary post is expected from within the party circle, then he is ready to give up the post.

## Repercussions

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) on Thursday, September 17 urged the Government and Opposition MPs to come forward to defeat the 20th Amendment to the Constitution claiming that the country would have to face repercussions of the 20A before long.

JVP Propaganda Secretary Vijitha Herath told a news conference that Ministers have become helpless in the Cabinet where they have been forced to approve 20A without sufficient time to study it.

Herath said, “It seems that there is an issue within the Government on 20A. That is why, Committees are appointed to study it. Appointing Com-

**PRESIDENT GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA AND PRIME MINISTER MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA WHO TELEPHONED INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 EXPRESSED THEIR STRONG DESIRE AND COMMITMENT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.**



## University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

Constitution submitted through the Parliament will be discussed and debated following a complete democratic process where all stakeholders will have the opportunity to present their views, she said, stressing that the new Government remains committed to the assurances given before this Council in February this year when it withdrew from the co-sponsorship of Resolution 30/1.

Sri Lanka also hit back at the references made to false and unsubstantiated allegations levelled against senior military officials being appointed to key positions of institutions.

## Mixed feelings

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Parliamentarians appear to have mixed feelings on the election of Ruwan Wijewardene as the Deputy Leader of the United National Party (UNP).

SJB Parliamentarian J. C. Alawatuwala told a news conference that his party was not too concerned about the UNP because the people have chosen his party as the main Opposition in Parliament. Alawatuwala said, “The people have given a clear verdict by electing over 50 MPs from our party to Parliament while not electing even a single UNP at the General Elections.”

Meanwhile, SJB MP Harsha de Silva said he hoped it would be possible to have a meaningful discussion with UNP Deputy Leader Wijewardene. He said, “I hope we can discuss with Wijewardene how to move forward as a broad political alliance.”

Newly elected UNP Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene said that if the confidence of the Working Committee remains with him until December, he is ready to take over the leadership of the party, he told the media following a visit to the Gangerama Temple to invoke blessings after he was appointed Deputy Leader.

At a secret ballot during the UNP's Working Committee meeting on September 14, Wijewardene obtained 28 votes against 10 by Ravi Karunanayake to be elected as the Deputy Leader of the party. He said that he would have to sacrifice a lot to make a difference for the party and that he would have to win back the confidence of the electorate. Following religious observances at the Kelaniya Rajamaha Vihara, Wijewardene told journalists there is room for anyone in the UNP to become the party leader in the future other than himself. He said the UNP is not the private property of anyone.

## Committee report

**RELIABLE SOURCES SAID AT PRESENT NEARLY 10 OPPOSITION MPS HAVE PLEDGED TO EXTEND THEIR SUPPORT TO 20A, ADDING THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH THEM BY GOVERNMENT LAWMAKERS WERE SUCCESSFUL**

baya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa who telephoned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, September 17 expressed their strong desire and commitment to further strengthen the relationship between the two neighbouring countries.

The Sri Lankan President and the Prime Minister called Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday to convey their warm wishes on the occasion of the Indian Prime Minister's birthday. The Sri Lankan leaders had expressed appreciation for the continued bilateral cooperation including the joint fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The Indian Premier thanked both Leaders for their warm wishes and said that he looked forward to working with them to further expand cooperation between the two countries in line with India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy'.

## Fourth anniversary

A series of meetings were held at the SLPP headquarters at Nelum Mawatha under the patronage of SLPP National Organiser, Basil Rajapaksa, to educate its representatives at district level on the SLPP Convention to be held at Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium on November 2 to mark its fourth anniversary.

All district level SLPP Parliamentarians, Provincial Councilors and the Heads of the Local Government institutions had been called for the meetings and Rajapaksa had briefed them regarding the arrangements for the ceremony which has been planned on a grand scale. The SLPP National Organiser had informed his staff that the participation of Ministers Rohitha Abeygunawardena and Prasanna Ranatunga is essential as they have been entrusted with the responsibility to organise the Party Convention and other affiliated organisations of the SLPP.

National Organiser, SLPP, Basil Rajapaksa told the meeting of Gampaha district representatives “Although the SLPP is of recent origin, it won three major elections during the past four years with an overwhelming majority. I thank all those who made this sacrifice for our victory. Therefore, we should organise our party convention on a grand scale.”

Rajapaksa requested everybody to extend their support to make this endeavour a success. Roads and Alternative Infrastructure State Minister, Nimal Lanza, said the Yahapalana Government had introduced the 19th Amendment to strengthen the position of the then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe by pruning down the executive powers of then President Maithripala Sirisena.

At a recent public gathering in the Negombo Town Hall, State Minister Lanza said the 19th Amendment had not done any good to the country. He said after the Easter Sunday carnage, the



Yahapalana Government which was in power at the time had not been able to remove the IGP and elections were not held on time and there was a tug-of-war between the President and the Prime Minister.

He said, “The country moved backwards under the Yahapalana Government and national security was jeopardised.” Due to those drawbacks, the people gave a two-thirds majority to the incumbent Government at the last General Election. Lanza said that after Wickremesinghe's dream of becoming the President of the country was shattered, he started enhancing the powers enjoyed by him as the Prime Minister by making use of the 19th Amendment and one of his prime concerns was to do everything possible to remove the Rajapaksas from politics once and for all.

Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former Minister Mangala Samaraweera, former Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka and JVP Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake arrived at the Presidential Commission of Inquiry appointed to probe incidents of political victimisation around 10.15 am yesterday, September 19.

They appeared before the Presidential Commission yesterday. This is with regard to a complaint filed by former Director General of the Divi Neguma Department, Kithsiri Ranawaka.

## Coconuts

On Friday, September 18, State Minister Arundika Fernando climbed a coconut tree to talk about the soaring prices of coconuts in the local market. He told the media from atop a coconut tree, that coconut prices in Sri Lanka have risen due to increased demand for coconut products in the world market. The Minister had climbed the coconut tree at his home garden in Dankotuwa with the help of a coconut tree climbing machine manufactured by a person in the Warakapola area.

Minister Fernando personally tested the machine said that this will be introduced to the local market in the next few months. The Minister, who plucked a few coconuts from the tree, said the price of a coconut today has gone up to Rs.100 and a worker who climbs a coconut tree should also be given Rs. 100.

**ALTHOUGH THE SLPP IS OF RECENT ORIGIN, IT WON THREE MAJOR ELECTIONS DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS WITH AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY. I THANK ALL THOSE WHO MADE THIS SACRIFICE FOR OUR VICTORY. THEREFORE, WE SHOULD ORGANISE OUR PARTY CONVENTION ON A GRAND SCALE**



# MT New Diamond lab reports to AG

BY MANESHKA BORHAM

The laboratory report by the Government Analyst on the oil samples collected from the stricken *MT New Diamond* vessel will be presented to the Attorney General's Department on Monday, the Chairman of the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), Attorney-at-Law Dharshini Lahandapura said.

Sri Lanka is seeking compensation for its efforts to combat the fire on the *MT New Diamond* and averting a large scale disaster.

Sri Lanka has put the preliminary estimate for the compensation at nearly USD 2 million.

This includes the costs and efforts by the Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Ports Authority, the Marine Environment Protection Authority, and others.

It is also expected that the Captain of the ship will be charged after it was revealed through crew member statements that he had failed to take any action to extinguish the fire at the initial stages.

The Attorney General's Department is reportedly pursuing charges against the ship owners, captain and crew under the Marine Pollution Act as well as for criminal negligence.

The vessel sailing under the flag of Panama carrying 270 000 metric tonnes of crude oil and

117,000 metric tonnes of diesel caught fire in Sri Lanka's Eastern seas nearly 38 nautical miles from the Sangaman Kanda Point on September 3.

Summons were issued on the Captain of the *MT New Diamond* by the Colombo Chief Magistrate this week ordering him to appear before the courts on September 28.

The summons were issued by Colombo Additional Magistrate Priyantha Liyanage, after considering the facts presented to the court by Deputy Solicitor General, Dileepa Peiris. During the proceedings, Peiris told court that the Captain and crew of the *MT New Diamond* had abandoned ship when the fire broke out and their irresponsible actions had, in fact, resulted in the disastrous situation.

The court was also told by the DSG that the Criminal Investigations Department had requested to record statements from the Captain of *New Diamond* who was named as a suspect, and the crew as part of the ongoing investigations.

However, based on legal instructions given to the suspects, the request had been turned down.

Peiris told the court that therefore, the CID has been forced to seek a court order to obtain statements from the suspects. Noting that the Captain, now a suspect in the case, has failed to cooperate with law enforcement, summons were issued on him by the Magistrate's Court. An oil slick covering an area with a diameter of two nautical miles surrounding the crude oil tanker was reported recently.

Later, it was revealed that a portion of the 1,700 metric tons of diesel required for the use of the tanker had leaked into the ocean. The Sri Lanka Navy has taken

steps to contain the leak. The authorities are currently estimating the damage caused by

the oil leak to the marine environment in the area.

## THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT IS REPORTEDLY PURSUING CHARGES AGAINST THE SHIP OWNERS, CAPTAIN AND CREW UNDER THE MARINE POLLUTION ACT AS WELL AS FOR CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE



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### Supply high quality tea to global market - President



Pic: Courtesy andaradeniya.com

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has urged tea factory owners not to pave the way to tarnish the image of the 'Ceylon Tea' brand which has attracted many countries in the world for a long time.

The media recently reported instances of adulterating quality tea by mixing sugar, glucose, sodium bicarbonate and ferrous sulfate. The rejection of such tea in the world market has caused a huge setback to the tea industry. The President said that the country's reputation as well as the global demand for 'Ceylon Tea' could not be allowed to be harmed in the future a media release from the President's Media Division stated.

He said that no room will be left for the tea industry to suffer the same fate that the pepper industry had suffered. President Rajapaksa was speaking at a discussion with small and medium scale tea factory owners and exporters held at the Presidential Secretariat last week.

The deterioration of the quality of tea has resulted in the decline of its demand from 65 per cent to 45 per cent among global consumers. The number of tea factories in this country stands at 705. Improper activities have been reported from 45 factories and production has been stopped in 18 among them following investigations, Chairman of the Ceylon Tea Board Jayampathi Molligoda said.

Based on intelligence information, the Special Task Force of the Police and the Police raid tea factories which produce garbage tea and use harmful chemical components.

No room should be left to hamper the revenue of the country or the tea industry due to substandard tea production. Tea factory owners as well as the exporters should ensure the supply of high quality tea to the world market. "Production of low-quality tea will not be allowed" said the President while giving instructions to officials to close down the factories that do not adhere to this rule.

The President also instructed the acting Inspector General of Police to continue to raid such factories after conducting investigations with the assistance of the intelligence services.

State Minister Kanaka Herath, Principal Advisor to the President Lalith Weeraratna, Secretaries to Cabinet and State Ministries, the acting IGP and other officials, tea factory owners and exporters were present.

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## SUNDAY OBSERVER

### 20A, an end to the long dark night

The 20th Amendment to the Constitution will become law soon. It means one thing — the nation's long nightmare that was called the 19th Amendment is over.

It will be as if the dam burst — the dam that was for five years holding the better impulses of a nation hostage. It should doubtless be a cause for celebration.

The man on the street will celebrate. He should, because though it was a constitutional clause, the 19th Amendment was not the classic legally abstruse law that mattered to legal experts, political scientists, and the occasional journalist only. 19A left the country rudderless, and the people had to face the consequences especially on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019. Those issues that ensued from the political gridlock springing from 19A were not in the abstract; they had an enormous negative impact on people's lives.

The passage of 20A, therefore, signifies freedom day. Notwithstanding the man on the street who would at least manage a smile at the demise of 19A, there is politics as usual with the attempt in various quarters, particularly in the so called rightward leaning civil society, to paint 20A as a multi-faceted evil.

Some pundits have gone to the extent of opining that 20A is a ploy to keep the SLPP in power in perpetuity, led by the President and the Prime Minister.

It's by now a well known fact that the 20th Amendment is at least a temporary reversal to what obtained before 20A, a stopgap legal device, before a new Constitution is made into law. That being the case, could anyone seriously suggest that 20A is a power ploy to entrench a permanent SLPP government? It was under the status quo ante that the previous UPFA government was defeated.

If what obtained before the 19th Amendment is so undemocratic, how was the then government defeated in a democratic exercise as good as any? How was it that the UNP was able to form a government and then pass the 19th Amendment if what obtained before it, particularly the 18th Amendment, was as undemocratic as the naysayers say it was?

The moves to demonise the 20th Amendment are, therefore, seen for what they are — politically loaded attempts to keep the Opposition relevant, when there is nothing that's very hopeful for their own political futures politically speaking.

Meanwhile, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michele Bachelet has also voiced concern about the 20th Amendment and her views have already been refuted by our acting Permanent Representative in Geneva.

Bachelet should be asked the same question as well. Didn't her predecessors warn of a similar democratic deficit under the previous Rajapaksa government?

But wasn't there a clean election and a smooth transition of power in 2015 when that government was in power, and what more democracy than that? This government has done away with the odious provision in the 19th Amendment that made it almost impossible for an elected Parliament to be dissolved under a fixed-term Parliament provision.

Perhaps the High Commissioner should have lauded that move as empowering democracy, as the party in power at least could opt for early elections while offering the Opposition a chance to cause an upset — democratically — at any snap election in the eventuality the Parliament is dissolved.

This being a democracy, there have been various views expressed about 20A, some of them from the government ranks as well. It's a sign of a vibrant democracy that there is such diversity of opinion, but one thing critics would do well to consider is the fact that 20A draws clear lines of delineation between the separate branches of government.

That's essential for a functioning democracy, and those who are hell bent on discovering the author of the 20th Amendment should consider the draft as exemplary because it does not botch the basics as the 19th Amendment did.

Those who are looking for the authors to the draft don't seem to know anything about law making. The Constitution deals with concepts. It's not a novel or a novella, that's crafted by one person.

Largely one-person efforts such as the 19th Amendment end up being hilariously skewed as the events in 2018 proved. But those who have whipped themselves into a frenzy today have forgotten how Committee stage Amendments were introduced to the 19th Amendment in the most haphazard manner imaginable.

Such tinkering left national security totally compromised, with the Defence Ministry not being a subject of the Commander in Chief.

What 20A does is to ensure that above all there is some measure of cohesion and clarity to our constitutional document. The niceties can be looked into when a new Constitution sees the light of day, but in the interim there would be order out of the chaos of the 19th.

That's why those who are looking for an author to the 20th Amendment would do well to realise that it's not a novel — that it has been drafted by professional legal draftsmen. It helps when there is a professional at the helm of the legal apparatus as Justice Minister, even though he did not draft the Amendment, even though in some quarters they are desperate to say he did.

The artificially created anxiety about the 20th Amendment is similar to the noises made about the so-called one-man-government the Opposition complained about and went to Court even before the August 5 election. Despite that unseemly brouhaha about an effective Covid controlling presidency, the people granted a two-thirds majority to the SLPP and the Government led by the President.

# Hallucinations for those who see demons in the 20th Amendment



by  
**Rajpal Abeynayake**

Until a new Constitution is promulgated, Sri Lanka has a distinctly presidential system of government. This fact among other things has been given the Supreme Court imprimatur in the court's decision on the 19th Amendment. Powers cannot be transferred from the President to the Prime Minister without a referendum, the SC decided in its decision on the draft 19A.

Forget everything about the 20th Amendment until people get their heads around this fundamental fact. The current iteration of the Sri Lankan Constitution, primarily courtesy of J R Jayewardene is a 'presidential-model document' — and there is so much tinkering that can be done within that reality without altering that basic characteristic.

The presidential-model seeks, nay demands top heavy Presidential powers. The United States Constitution has a presidential veto written into it, and they say that the Sri Lankan presidential model as it stands is dictatorial? Our President doesn't enjoy anything resembling a veto.

Until a new Constitution is made into law, the presidential-model is what we have, and to give full strength to this model is the only action that makes sense. The 19th Amendment did just the opposite and look where it got us. Its framers were unhappy eventually with the outcome, and the primary actors within its framework including the President, were unhappy as well.

The 19th Amendment was as if somebody wanted to make a Maruti out of a Ferrari. Make no mistake, a Maruti has its utility. Say in a cash strapped post lockdown period, if somebody wants to traverse the clogged streets of Pettah, he'd see a Maruti as a godsend even if he has the option of using a Ferrari at a price. But if he says make me the miniature Maruti out of the Ferrari, he will

have neither the Maruti nor the Ferrari. Why is a veto-less Sri Lankan presidency considered more dangerous than the US model with the full power of the presidential veto? It's because the presidency became a political football.

#### Personality

It became fashionable to blame all of a country's ills on the Presidency notwithstanding the fact that Prime Ministers under the pre-1978 Constitution have been as authoritarian as any President we ever had.

A new Constitution could change the model, but the swirling controversy about the 20th Amendment is absurd because the Amendment tries to make the country governable under the Presidency that we already have.

It's also impossible to divorce the personality from the politics around the Amendment. The post-Covid vote of confidence is largely for the way the President handled an extremely difficult situation keeping his nerve when he was being castigated by the Opposition for 'governing without a Parliament.' So, at least until things are rationalised under the terms of a new constitutional document, 20A largely is seen to be strengthening the hand of the President.

This seems to have got the goat of Harsha de Silva and other also-rans — not that he is important. But he is just one example of how absurd the detractors are for their assessment of the situation. De Silva says that the Government has 145 seats which is not a two-thirds majority. That's rich coming from a man whose party managed to cobble together votes from parties such as the TNA and survive in government.

This Government on the other hand has more than 150 seats in Parliament and a clear two-thirds counting parties that were within the SLPP's loose coalition of partners such as the TMVP the EPDP and Athaulah's National Congress. What bankruptcy it is on the part of Silva to pretend not to know that the EPDP is very much a part of the Rajapaksa coalition of forces, and has been for a very long time. It's not as if the SLPP is stealing MPs from the other side of the isle to make up numbers for a two-thirds.

These people are their allies and the two-thirds is an organic authentic two-thirds which the bankrupt de Silvas try to deny in a lame attempt to delegitimise the changes that follow the just ouster of the ludicrous 19th Amendment.

De Silva says the people did not grant a mandate for the various specific changes that are sought in the 20th Amendment which is another patently absurd claim that only a clueless town crier can make. The mandate was to replace 19A, and that certainly entails that the framers of the new Amendment are entitled to demolish the Amendment altogether, and not piecemeal.

#### Ludicrous

All these arguments are totally ludicrous furthermore considering that they come from people who tried to change the Constitution when they had got nowhere near a two-thirds majority to do it. Those who tried to steamroller a new Constitution without the slightest hint of a proper mandate are claiming that a government that has a legitimate two-thirds doesn't have a mandate. What's the word that fits — dishonesty, hypocrisy, cluelessness, or should it be all of the above?

It's a pity De Silva's interlocutors on television are unable to give him these facts and tell him exactly where to get off. They should have told him exactly what is written in the two paragraphs above, and asked him not to embarrass himself.

20A was a clear reversal to the status quo ante preceding the 19th Amendment — and the draft is therefore a reflection of the 18th Amendment on the basis that 19A was not tenable. Other than that, there was no deliberate intent to be rid of some of what is referred to as the salutary aspects of the 19th Amendment such as the National Procurement Commission. These alleged 'reversals' are however being crowed about by the nitpicking nattering nabobs.

There isn't any intention of reversing course, because 20A merely would essentially be the arrangement that got rid of the ludicrous 19A, period. All the other checks and balances that are expected will follow with the passage of the new

Constitution in due course.

The Minister of Justice Ali Sabry referred to the Constitution as a tyre with 19 patches and a 20th patch that's coming — just so the tyre is made roadworthy. The problem is that the detractors don't understand that a patch is a patch. They think a patch is a sacred vestment.

They insist on calling the stopgap 20A the holy grail of constitutionalism. It's mainly due to the fact that they have lost their heads fretting about two things which are, (a.) the way the President has got a handle on what used to be uncontrollable i.e. the smooth functioning of Government for optimum results as opposed to gridlock and inefficiency, and (b) the way the Executive and Legislative branches are coexisting, or the way the President and the Premier are maintaining a rapport in contrast to the sheer dysfunction that obtained previously during the Yahapalana regime.

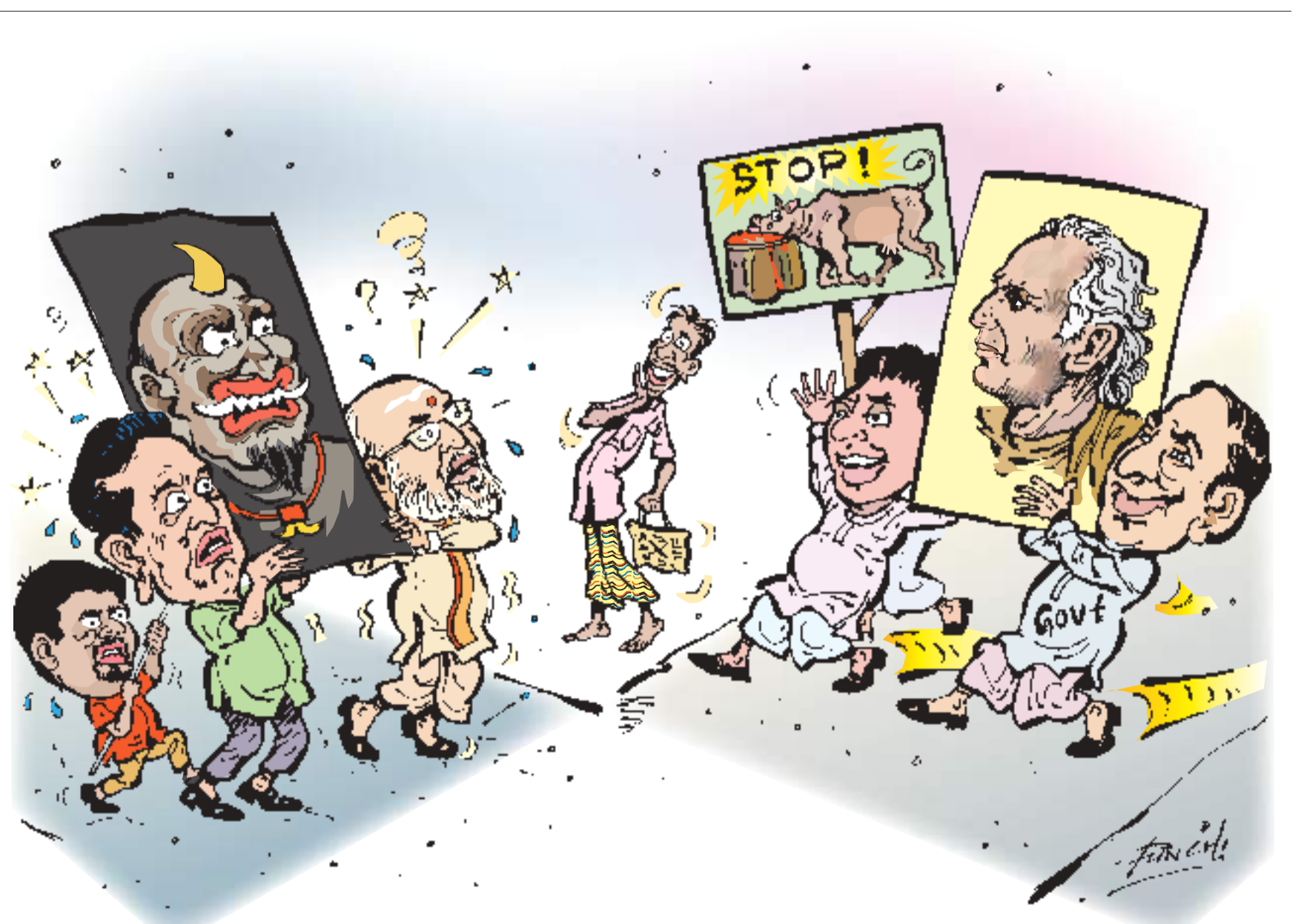
Believe it or not, there are politicians representing the Opposition that are now claiming that the incumbent Prime Minister has been done a great injustice by the 20th Amendment. Since when did these people cultivate a concern for Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa who they critiqued, vilified and pilloried non-stop for the last five years?

#### Odious

The Government seems to go by the simple logic exemplified at the beginning of this article. It was the 19th Amendment that was odious. It had to go; moreover, that was an election promise. What happens when the 19th Amendment goes?

The easiest thing for the moment is to revert to the status quo ante, which is what obtained with the 18th Amendment sans of course the Articles concerning the Presidential term limits, etc. That has been done.

All other considerations are extraneous until a new Constitution is a reality. It is wishful thinking on the part of certain petty provocateurs that the Prime Minister is upset about 20A — which is a reversal to the status quo ante. 20A is the most logical step that can be taken for now, after the electorate was promised the repeal of 19A.





# WIGNESWARAN, a threat to peace and reconciliation



gun pointed to their heads. His megalomania drove him to crush any form of dissent. He feared his own people. He slaughtered Neelan Tiruchelvam, Amirthalingam, Uma Maheswaran, etc., etc., the cream of Tamil leadership, all because he feared them. S. C. Chandrasekaran, son of the father of separatism, S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, and V. Anandasangaree, the President of TULF, are on record saying that Prabhakaran had killed more Tamils than others put together.

With a monstrous history of a bloody past, where the Tamils were deprived of their basic human rights under the Vellalas, the Tamils were desperately in need of a facelift to make them look good, a defence that would make them look respectable in the eyes of the world. Not having one, Ponnambalam in his time discovered that attack is the best form of defence.

It was in this setting that Ponnambalam came out swinging against the *Mahavamsa* and the history of the Sinhala-Buddhists.

His strategy was to downgrade Sinhala-Buddhist history in order to prove the superiority of Tamil history. The most popular phrase was to condemn the Sinhala-Buddhists as racist bigots obsessed with the *Mahavamsa* mentality. It became the pop phrase even among the anti-Sinhala-Buddhist Sinhala intellectuals to denigrate those who defended the historical heritage

ists in the public domain to make the Sinhalese the bogeyman – the cause of all evils of the Tamils. It still rides in peninsula politics bedevilling national politics.

## Consistent theme

From the time of G. G. Ponnambalam in the thirties to C. V. Wigneswaran, this has been the consistent theme propagated to downgrade not only the Sinhalese, their main target, but also the low-caste Tamils of Jaffna, regional Tamils in Batticaloa and the 'Indian coolies' in the central hills and even the Tamil-speaking Muslims. Jaffna-centric arrogance and intransigence have been two of the perverse strands that run through peninsular politics.

It is most regrettable that Wigneswaran continues to harp on the racial superiority of the Tamils in the post-Nazi era. He knows that it has bred and continues to breed racial hatred with all its tragic consequences. Of course, he has the right to praise his language and culture. What is unacceptable is when he uses it to devalue Sinhala-Buddhism.

His attempt to place Jaffna Tamils at a level far superior to Sinhalese by condemning their history is not only unhistorical but also provocative playing into the hands of extremists on both sides. It is also counter-productive and it has not led them anywhere except to Nandikadal.

What is worse, it is a hollow claim not worthy of a man who sat as a judge in the Supreme Court. He repeats that the Tamils (meaning, of course, the high-caste Vellalas) are great because he speaks Tamil, the oldest language in the world. His other tack is to denigrate the *Mahavamsa* and Sinhala-Buddhist history because it is the Ponnambalam-Wigneswaran way of making Tamils look superior to the Sinhalese.

But both are cheap political tactics that had worsened the North-South inter-ethnic relations. Take, for instance, his claim to be superior because he speaks Tamil, the oldest language in the world, as opposed to the Sinhala language which he says came into being around 5th century. But this is a silly boast of a vacant mind. No one denies the antiquity and the greatness of the Tamil language and its culture.

But how can he claim to be great by parroting a language created by another country, another nation? The greatness belongs to the Tamils of S. India who created it and invested it with all its richness. Wigneswaran, or any Tamil in Jaffna, has nothing to do with it. The Wigneswarans are nothing but mediocre parrots trained to repeat the language that came out of the creative ge-

for the advancement of mankind.

The Sinhalese, for their part, have proved that it is their language that has served them more than any other language that came with the migrants. Besides, if Wigneswaran wants to prove that his Jaffna culture is great then he has to match it with the achievements of the Sinhalese and not bask in the glory of S. India. It is because he can't that he keeps on attacking the *Mahavamsa* – a classic that is the envy of the culturally bankrupt Tamils of Jaffna.

Incidentally, if he rejects the *Mahavamsa* then he has to reject the Tamil historical record, *Yalpana Vaipava Malai*, written by poet Mylvakanam, in 1736 for the benefit of the Dutch Governor, Jan Maccaras. In his own twisted way, Mylvakanam acknowledges Vijaya and his Sinhala followers as one of the original founders of the nation.

As I know it, Wigneswaran is a clueless political speculator who is hanging on to his obsessions with Tamil greatness mainly because he has no other viable political ideology to make his mark in politics. Sometime back when he was challenging everyone to debate with him on this issue I accepted his challenge.

## Great defender of Tamils

Then he backtracked. He asked me to present to him my arguments for him to check with academic authorities before agreeing to debate. I asked him whether he, as a prosecuting lawyer, went to court and asked the defence lawyer to reveal his case to him before going to trial. That is Wigneswaran, the great defender of Tamils who does not know whether he is coming or going.

Obviously, he is not sure of his case. Now he is asking for a commission to investigate and adjudicate on what happened in history. He does not know his own Tamil history. He is still learning. He is playing the Tamil card purely to score points over his political competitors in Jaffna.

He relies entirely on one argument: he is great, the Tamils of Jaffna are great – nay superior to the Sinhalese! – because of the Tamil language. If Wigneswaran claims greatness on a borrowed language shouldn't the Sinhalese be placed on a far superior scale of greatness for having created a new language and with it given the world a new culture and a new civilisation? What have the Jaffna Tamils done in their sterile settlement since the 10th century that can match the achievements of the Sinhalese?

What is more, the Tamils who boast of their great history is yet to produce an authoritative history of Jaffna. The first task of Jaffna University, established in 1972, should have been to produce a scholarly study of its past. More so, because history has been abused to mislead people into Nandikadal.

But it has not done so to this day. Giants of historiography in the stature of Prof. Kingsley de Silva have not yet graced the halls of learning in the Jaffna University.

K. Indrapala, the first professor of history of Jaffna, had to leave the University in a hurry because his original thesis on which he obtained his doctorate, was rejected by the politically hostile forces that proclaimed the Tamils were the original settlers 'from the dawn of time'. Indrapala said the Malabar who migrated from S. India decided to remain as permanent settlers only in the 10th century.

The intellectual level of Wigneswaran makes it obvious that the future of reconciliation and even peace is at great risk. If the political thinking of the Tamils is to remain at Wigneswaran's level we can certainly look forward to another bloody Nandikadal.

If Wigneswaran's thinking came from a cheap politician trying to win the most number of preferential votes one could turn a blind eye, though repugnant.

But when Wigneswaran fails to distinguish between fact and fiction a serious question arises: How on earth did he pass judgment, fairly and objectively, in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka? Considering the way he is handling the available evidence before us all, shouldn't there be a commission appointed to review his judgments?

By  
H. L. D. Mahindapala



eedling the South with provocative anti-Sinhala-Buddhist hate speech led the North all the way to Nandikadal. So why is C. V. Wigneswaran going down the same old path of divisive and destructive politics? What does he hope to gain when the mightiest collective forces of the Jaffna Tamils failed to divide the nation under various constitutional formulas by basing their strategy on anti-Sinhala-Buddhist extremism? Besides, his hate speech is loaded with toxic distortions of known realities which stand in the way of future reconciliation and peaceful co-existence. It is apparent that he is merely re-enacting the inflammatory role of Hanuman, who, in the *Mahabharata*, set fire to the nation by gradually extending his flaming tail each time it ran out of fuel.

But Wigneswaran is not alone in propagating anti-Sinhala-Buddhist hate speech. He is, in fact, the latest avatar of a Jaffna-centric ideology that began with G. G. Ponnambalam, the father of the anti-Sinhala-Buddhist ideology, who first lit the fires of communal passions with his provocative attack on the *Mahavamsa* and the Sinhala-Buddhist history.

## Competed with each other

It happened in June 1939 in Nawalapitiya and communal riots spread quickly to the neighbouring towns. Since then the anti-Sinhala-Buddhist ideology used to sustain the mono-ethnic extremism of the North has never ceased. Projecting the image of the Sinhalese as the bogey man threatening the existence of Tamils has been an essential ingredient for the perpetuation and promotion of mono-ethnic extremism in the North. It has dominated the post-colonial period and dragged the nation through hell fires of death and destruction.

Ponnambalam's anti-Sinhala-Buddhist ideology gathered momentum incrementally over the years and exploded in its most virulent form when the Tamil leadership officially declared war on May 14, 1976 at Vadukoddai and urged the Tamils to take up arms and never cease until they achieve Eelam.

What the Vellala elite who held the reins of power from feudal times did not realise was that they were handing over power for the first time to untried and untested youth who went berserk with the gun. Velupillai Prabhakaran was the first-born child of the Vadukoddai Resolution.

He is the ultimate manifestation of the anti-Sinhala-Buddhist ideology bred by Ponnambalam. It was his ideology that led to the longest war with disastrous consequences, particularly to the Tamils.

Tamil leaders never deviated from the anti-Sinhala-Buddhist ideology that sustained them in competitive electoral politics. They had nothing else to offer their electorate. They never offered alternative ideologies like socialism, liberalism, democratic hu-

manism or pluralism.

The rainbow colours of a multicultural and pluralistic society never arched over the skies of Jaffna. From one end of the political spectrum to the other, Tamil leadership competed with each other promising to deliver more and more of mono-ethnic extremism demonising the Sinhala-Buddhists and nothing else. The Tamils who lived by the sword of anti-Sinhala-Buddhist ideology also died by it.

It was constructed, defined and set in motion when Ponnambalam began his campaign demanding 50% of power to be the equal of the majority Sinhala-Buddhists. Of course, he knew that there was no rational basis on which he could convince the British that a minority of 12% could demand 50% of power.

He had to construct a rationale to justify his disproportionate claim. So, he opted for the strategy of proving that the Tamils were equal, if not superior to the Sinhalese. Mark you, it was also a time when the British surveyors, archaeologists, and civil servants were digging into the past and discovering the glories of the ancient and medieval Sinhala-Buddhist history.

The unearthed discoveries were showering the Sinhalese with an aura of greatness. The grandeur emerging from the buried past was making the Sinhalese look like giants of a great civilisation.

The political implication was clear: if they could have built and governed a civilisation of such magnitude they could easily govern Sri Lanka without the British. The politics of Sinhala nationalism was resting on monumental history.

This placed the Tamils in a virtual vacuum. They had no history of comparable magnitude to base their arguments for such a grossly exaggerated claim of 50% of power to a minority of 12%.

In making his over-blown demand, totally out of proportion, Ponnambalam had to fight not only the political realities of the day but also the overwhelming presence of a past casting long shadows over the national scene. History was not on the side of the Tamils. Ever since then the Tamils have been labouring to rewrite history to fill in the blanks and deny the horrors staring in their face.

In Ponnambalam's time, the biggest icon in their history that began in the 10th century was Sankili – a pathological killer of the Tamils and the first recorded ethnic cleanser of Muslims and Sinhalese from Jaffna.

On Christmas eve in 1544 he marched down to Mannar and massacred 600 Tamil Catholics, including pregnant women and children, who refused to recognise him as 'the sole representative of the Tamils'. The Tamil Catholics owed their allegiance to the King of Portugal. Since then the intolerant and inhuman Sankili culture of Tamils killing Tamils became a permanent feature in peninsular politics.

Prabhakaran emerged as Sankili's avatar in the 20th century. History didn't repeat itself as a farce the second time in Jaffna. Prabhakaran went all out to outdo Sankili. To drive the Muslims out of Jaffna Sankili threw pig's head into Muslim wells. Prabhakaran, on the contrary, forced them out with a



that made Sri Lanka great. The *Mahavamsa* mentality was a phrase used frequently to demean anything and everything that restored to the Sinhala people, the heritage they lost under nearly 500 years of colonialism.

The *Mahavamsa* mentality was also blamed for resisting the divisive politics of the Tamils claiming 50% for just 12%. But none of the intellectuals dared to speak of 'Jaffna jingoism' leaping from one extremism to another until it pushed the Tamil people like lemmings over the cliff to their self-destruction.

## Claim of '50-50'

Ponnambalam's strategy was to attack the past and the present of the Sinhalese for him to advance his claim of '50-50' – a mathematical formula that runs counter to all known democratic principles of governance. Except in authoritarian regimes all institutions – from the state to non-governmental institutions – are run on majoritarian consensus with, of course, guarantees to minority rights. But Ponnambalam could not wage a frontal attack on the established and universally accepted principles of democracy.

So, he resorted to two deviant tactics: 1. He attacked the past of the Sinhalese to downgrade its value as a legitimate force to inherit power. 2. Downgrade the Sinhalese as a majority that discriminates against the minority. The Soulbury Commissioners listened to him on this issue of discrimination and dismissed it as hogwash.

The attack on Sinhala-Buddhism was not an issue canvassed at the Commission. However, it became the main political tool used by the Tamil extrem-

When Wigneswaran talks of his greatness because he speaks the Tamil language he is fooling himself and not impressing the world. Everyone knows that he is trying to shine in borrowed feathers. Wigneswaran and his anti-Sinhala-Buddhist extremists are pretending that they are the Einsteinian giants of Tamil culture. The more he opens his mouth to boast about his greatness because he speaks Tamil the more he exposes his mediocrity

nius of Tamils of S. India. The imitative Jaffna mediocrities had not contributed anything great to the glory of the Tamil language or its culture. So, when Wigneswaran talks of his greatness because he speaks the Tamil language he is fooling himself and not impressing the world. Everyone knows that he is trying to shine in borrowed feathers. Wigneswaran and his anti-Sinhala-Buddhist extremists are pretending that they are the Einsteinian giants of Tamil culture. The more he opens his mouth to boast about his greatness because he speaks Tamil the more he exposes his mediocrity.

The Sinhalese, on the other hand, minted a new language of their own rejecting the dominant classical languages of their time. Sanskrit, Pali and Tamil were already established vehicles for all religious, social and intellectual use. The strength of the Sinhala language is that it never surrendered to these overwhelming linguistic forces of its time.

Rejecting all these languages the Sinhalese created their own linguistic medium for inter-personal communication and expression of their spiritual and philosophical thoughts.

If the Tamils came first, and if their language was superior, and if they were the geniuses they claim to be how come they failed to make their language the lingua franca of the nation? Why did the Sinhala language and the Sinhalese triumph over the Tamil geniuses? How did the young Sinhalese beat the old Tamil settlers? Repeating *ad nauseam* that Tamil language is great because it is one of the oldest doesn't make it great because of its age. Languages that came later have delivered greater achievements

## News Feature

# Defeating unseen foreign forces, our key objective - Yuthukama Chief

BY MANJULA FERNANDO

Yuthukama Organisation President and SLPP national list parliamentarian Gevindu Cumaratunga in an interview with *the Sunday Observer* discussed the future role of the organisation which played a pivotal role in electing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to office and later securing a two-thirds for the Government. "The 19th amendment was also flawed due to the ad-hoc amendments brought in during the third reading of the committee-stage debate. We don't want the same predicament to befall the 20th amendment," he said outlining his stance on the new Constitutional amendment in the offing.

**Q. Yuthukama was a major force behind the election of the current president and the government. Do you think your role is over now, since the organisation's primary mission has been accomplished? What would be the future role of the 'Yuthukama' organisation?**

**A.** The 'Yuthukama' organisation was given birth, after the change of government in 2015, which we believe is a direct result of external manipulations. Our key objective was to defeat that unseen foreign forces. Gotabaya Rajapaksa's victory and securing two-thirds majority for the government was compulsory to achieve our objectives. But there are bigger expectations for forming 'Yuthukama'. That is to re-establish a society which values justice and morals, a righteous society.

We were more worried and alarmed about the strategy used to defeat Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2015 than his defeat itself. For example the construction of the Southern highway was completely portrayed as a means of corruption, creating a public opinion against those behind this public centric development project.

The people were made to forget

about its numerous advantages for the masses. We are not against investigating corruption but unfair labelling and baseless allegations cannot be condoned. The 2015 election campaign by the then Opposition which was full of jealousy and vengeance, was harmful to the whole society.

Former President Maithripala Sirisena's victory through conspiracy was portrayed as a huge achievement. But the best lessons in our history didn't come that way. Prince Gemunu openly criticised his father King Kavantis's attitude towards invaders and endured many hardships as a result.

Keppetipola Disawe too officially handed back the army and the weapons which were officially under his command to the Colonial rulers before defecting to save his people. He lost his battle but for us he is a real hero. This teaches us that winning is not always heroism. For us, it is not only the goal - the path too is vital.

Unlike the West which is always about winning their own rights, our world revolves around responsibility (yuthukama) towards others. This attitude paid huge dividends during the Covid 19 pandemic.

UN has a Rights Charter, in our Constitution also there is a chapter on rights. We believe that our Constitution must also have a chapter on responsibility.

So we believe our role is not limited to electing the president and the government. We have a long way to go to create a disciplined and a humane society within this country. We believe even in a small way, we can be an example to the world too.

**Q. How do you plan to work with the government in the future?**

**A.** The society has a negative attitude towards the people's representatives, they are being accused of not having a set policy or a firm opinion on any issue. People think that they can be bought over by the sitting government or by various foreign forces. We hope to change this attitude by standing for principles.

We will strive to be a bridge be-

tween the people and the leaders, mediate with the government on issues affecting the people and direct it on the right path.

All actions of the 2015 government, was choreographed by foreign forces. The Geneva resolution and other ill conceived agreements were forced upon the country.

We will play a constructive role to help the government in its good deeds such as the project to train and employ 100,000 youth of low income families while constructively criticising the actions that need revisiting. We will try to create knowledge and awareness of what has to be done. The employment project for low income families will transform our society.

We don't believe that 'Yuthukama' is also a 100 percent perfect outfit, we will have shortcomings too. But our aim is to correct ourselves, to be an example to the society.

**Q. There is a lot of emphasis on the President - as a person who will protect Buddhism and the Sinhala community. Do you think too much emphasis on that will lead the other communities to doubt genuine intentions of the government which in turn will pave way for more Saharans and Prabhakarans to come by?**

**A.** Protecting Sinhala Buddhists does not mean that he will work against minorities. We want to save our traditional way of life from imperialist elements and not from the minorities here. That has to be made clear. The Tamil speaking people are not our enemies. But some arguments of Tamil politicians are very unfortunate. During a recent interview with a TV presenter MP Sumanthiran said he was not discriminated in working as a lawyer since the language in the Supreme Court was English.

I felt very sad to hear his response. He went to Royal College in Colombo and was fortunate to be able to work in English but what about the other rural, Tamil youth? Some Tamil politicians say that they had a kingdom in Jaffna and the Co-



Gevindu Cumaratunga

**PROTECTING SINHALA BUDDHISTS DOES NOT MEAN THAT HE WILL WORK AGAINST MINORITIES. WE WANT TO SAVE OUR TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE FROM IMPERIALIST ELEMENTS AND NOT FROM THE MINORITIES HERE. THAT HAS TO BE MADE CLEAR. THE TAMIL SPEAKING PEOPLE ARE NOT OUR ENEMIES**

lonial rulers handed over that land to Sinhalese before leaving the country. If they believe this story, they should be angry with the British rulers and the English language shouldn't they?

Most of the Sinhala Buddhist forces have united to elect Gotabaya Rajapaksa to office this time. It is time for all communities to unite and come together. Respect should be a two way thing. It is unfair to ask Sinhalese to respect them when they desecrate our monuments and national assets. Shouldn't all Sri Lankans admire Tissa Wewa, Ruvanweliseya?

The SLFP, after two decades has been able to elect an MP from Jaffna district in the last election. It is a good trend. There is a misconception, that Tamil people left main-

stream politics after Sinhala was made the official language and the introduction of the quota system to universities. These are all myths. In 1956, the SLFP government made Sinhala the official language, but till his assassination in 1976, SLFP member Alfred Duraipapp was Mayor of Jaffna. In the 1982 Presidential election, the highest votes from the Jaffna district was obtained by SLFP candidate Hector Kobbekaduwa. These examples show that the ordinary Tamil people had no hard feelings against the steps taken to de-colonise our country.

**Q. What is your view on the issues of the Tamil speaking people?**

(Justice Paranagama of the

Disappearances Commission at the conclusion of the Commission's months long 'hearings' said if the Tamil people are given proper solutions to their issues, which are very basic, they will never be a cat's paw of any extremist/political force.)

**A.** We agree that there are common issues for all the people. But we must find out whether the Tamil speaking people have specific issues. Of course, the people in the North and the East who had to bear the brunt of the 30-year battle against terrorism have specific shortcomings. For example, I don't understand why Sumanthiran can embrace English language but resent Sinhala, a national language of his own country. If that is the attitude, we will never be able to find unity and harmony.

As far as the university quota system is concerned at one point the Jaffna district had more schools with GCE Advanced Level science classes than even in the Colombo district. In the 1980s Anuradhapura, the biggest district had only two such schools. How many schools with Science stream are there in Colombo city itself?

This disparity led to the quota system being introduced for university admission. It not only affected the Jaffna district, it affected Colombo as well. There is no communal facet to this issue.

This system was not intended to deprive the Tamils in the North, in contrary, it helped the Batticaloa district in the East to send more Tamil students to the university. Karuna Amman in an interview with India's Frontline magazine acknowledged this fact.

They must realise terrorism and separatism brought about nothing but destruction and an entire generation was lost as a consequence. We are ready to share equal rights with them but if they put forward unreasonable demands then we will be compelled to respond. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa did not hesitate to express that stance and we respect him for that.

Continued on page 13

# Nurturing young entrepreneurs

BY HEMANTHA KULATUNGA

"The future promise of any nation can be directly measured by the present prospects of its youth" is a quote by the late former President of the United States of America, John F. Kennedy.

Realising the importance of this salient fact, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's 'Vistas of Prosperity' has made a rewarding pledge to the capable youth of the country to be entrepreneurs. The President has reiterated that we need self-made prosperity for youth rather than depending on state patronage. He that the creation of jobs must be exercised without always seeking employment from the Government.

The manifesto describes the moves to be taken to set up counselling centres, identify and expand market opportunities, and the support of modern technological applications to develop innovative business.

More importantly, in chapter four, in the section, 'Harnessing the Power of Youth' the President pledges to establish a national youth fund to overcome the investment issues, possibly the biggest drawback in the process of making young entrepreneurs. A simple loan scheme will be introduced under this fund to provide the financial assistance for youth entrepreneurs.

Nurturing youth entrepreneurship is greatly beneficial for society, the economy, and the growth of a nation. Besides, self-development of youth is a tremendous strength to the society at large. The need of the hour is to create as many employments as possible to combat the current economic crisis caused by the global recession due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Development of youth entrepreneurship by bringing in youth for self-employment of any sort may also solve many prevailing social issues. The authorities should realise that if proper attention is extended, the country can make advancement in terms of overall development and progress through the currently available educated youth population in Sri Lanka.

While the significance of entrepreneurship is widely recognised and supported by any government throughout the world, it is never too early or too late to start nurturing

this important aspect.

There are various methods and approaches available to the government to encourage and promote entrepreneurship. Specifically, those graduating from universities year after year have probably the best potential to be the future entrepreneurs as most of them can acquire the business knowledge and business discipline faster than others.

## National level reality program

In a positive move since the establishment of the new Government, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, in collaboration with a renowned media organisation in Sri Lanka has initiated a worthy act to promote, educate, and reward youth entrepreneurship through a national level competitive reality program.

This effort will encourage millions of young viewers throughout the country and provide much more value than the prizes offered to winners. Therefore, credit must be bestowed on the young Minister Namal Rajapaksa. In this writer's opinion, based on over four decades of private-sector exposure, the government authorities must encourage other media institutions also to introduce similar types of proactive programs. Academics and some experts technically categorise entrepreneurship into segments such as economic, public, social, imitative, fabian and, also entrepreneurship. Studies were conducted on youth entrepreneurship based on behaviour, attitude, function, industry, and other relevant areas.

Innovative entrepreneurship is described as thinking out of the box and creating innovate methods, processes, and new opportunities. During the recent lockdown period, the country has witnessed many Sri

Lankan youngsters emerge as innovators of various Covid-19 related equipment, methods, and processes. They can be attracted to the business arena as entrepreneurs in this category. Innovative entrepreneurs are constant thinkers who possess a sense of opportunities for the introduction of new ideas, new technologies, and new markets. This type of youth, if identified through a proper process, can be of remarkable assistance to the economy in the future.

It is observed that most entrepreneurs in developing countries, including Sri Lanka, are falling into the category of 'Imitative or Adoptive Entrepreneurship'. They merely use successful innovations introduced by others. Though seemingly easy, an entrepreneur has to endure many challenges, possibly more than a newly innovated business. This is because he or she has to match the existing innovation in many ways to be successful.

Often, imitative entrepreneurs follow the methods, technologies, and even the business process of existing successful organisations. These entrepreneurs can be immensely helpful to a developing economy such as Sri Lanka with



**INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS DESCRIBED AS THINKING OUT OF THE BOX AND CREATING INNOVATE METHODS, PROCESSES, AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

their contribution to the growth of entrepreneurial culture. Besides, by adopting the technology and methods already proven, they can also generate employment avenues for the youth.

Some entrepreneurs enter the stream with a conservative or orthodox outlook in business. In theory, they are called 'Drone Entrepreneurs'. They prefer to follow traditional styles and methods to be in business and are reluctant to take business risks. These businessmen refuse to adapt to changes and always feel comfortable to conform to old fashioned technologies and methods. Mostly the entrepreneurs who inherit businesses fall into this category.

## Development programs

However, through a tempting promotional program, the authorities should make a conscious effort to drag them into more productive operations.

Many factors prevail on youth entrepreneurship in Sri Lanka. The government should seriously consider aspects such as attitude, knowledge, leadership qualities, skills, and more, when they create development programs.

Also, they have to take into account, factors such as type of busi-

nesses available for youth, the best technology that should be adopted, the geography, the scale of business and gender.

The growth of the private sector is an important factor in relation to the creation of jobs in the country. As President Rajapaksa emphatically suggests the youth must be encouraged to engage in job creation rather than job seeking. There are many reasons for drawing back youth from entering the business arena. Socio-cultural influence where parents insist that a child must have the education to find employment comfortably to either start or support the family economically is one such reason that discourage youth.

Another hurdle for young entrepreneurs is the inadequate or lack of financial assistance for funding and the guidance required at the beginning. Issues such as finding start-up capital and running expenditure for a new business should be addressed by the authorities. Despite numerous financing schemes spoken of by both state-owned and private financial institutions, the ground reality is that obtaining a loan facility is a daunting task. However, as a consolation to the issue, the President recently instructed to follow simpler rules and easier procedures to encourage small and medium business loans. The Government must take prompt

and proactive measures to give the confidence to promote youth entrepreneurship opportunities. In addition, the authorities must concentrate more on formulating and implementing a policy framework to assist the effort.

## Impact on social and economic progress

The Sri Lankan education system is geared to prepare a student to obtain qualifications and seek employment based on academic knowledge. The system does not focus on equipping and training them on leadership. Building awareness of entrepreneurship and training those on the subject from the higher grades in schools should be on the cards to support the task of nurturing young entrepreneurs.

In this writer's opinion, while the science stream students are persuaded to be engineers, doctors, and scientists, the arts and commerce stream students are not being trained to focus on a clear path. As a result, most commerce stream students aspire to be in management and, art students invariably look for government jobs.

Youth entrepreneurship has a tremendous impact on the social and economic progress of the country. Therefore, the Government, in collaboration with the private sector must creatively provide opportunities to budding entrepreneurs.

This task calls for multi-pronged strategies for implementation with the involvement of Government, industry, political and educational sectors equally.



## Showers to continue

The Department of Meteorology says that the prevailing showers and winds are expected to continue due to the activation of the South-West monsoon across the island.

Showers will occur at times in the Central, Sabaragamuwa, Western and North-western provinces and in Galle and Matara districts and heavy rain fall above 100 mm is likely at some places in the Sabaragamuwa and Central provinces. Also fairly heavy rain-falls about 75mm are likely at some places in Galle, Matara and Kalutara districts, and several spells of showers may occur in the North-Central province, the Department said.

Strong gusty wind about (50-60) kmph can be expected across the island, particularly in the Northern, North-Central and North-Western Provinces, Trincomalee and Hambanthota districts and in the western slopes of the central hills.

The Meteorology Department said that a formation of a low pressure area over Northeast Bay of Bengal, is possible today, resulting in very strong gusty winds, heavy rainfall and rough or very rough seas over Central, Northeast and Eastern Bay of Bengal during the next few days.

Naval and fishing communities are advised not to venture into deep sea areas in the Bay of Bengal until the September 22. Those who are already in the deep sea are advised to reach safer areas.

Showers or thundershowers are expected in the sea around the island. Heavy showers may occur in the Eastern and North-eastern deep sea areas. Winds will be south-westerly and the wind speed will be (30-40) kmph.

## Book launch

'Eelam Exposed', an analytical study of the Eelam struggle, its myths and the rights of Sinhalese to the entirety of Sri Lanka, by Attorney-at-law L.K.N. Perera will be launched at the Public Library Auditorium, Colombo on September 22 at 3.00 p.m. The main purpose of the book is to protect Seruwavila Temple and other Buddhist temples in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces from Eelam clutches.

### FELICITATIONS FROM THE AMBASSADORS FORUM



The Ambassadors Forum of Sri Lanka felicitated two distinguished members of the Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPASL) at its last meeting at the OPASL auditorium last week. Here OPASL President Saman Warusavithana and OPASL founder member W.B.A. Jayasekara receiving their mementoes from the Ambassadors Forum of Sri Lanka President Sarath Wijesinghe PC, former Ambassador to UAE and Israel.



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## News/Obituaries

## National interest, our top priority

- Former CPSL Gen. Sec. D.E.W. Gunasekera

BY SHIRAN ILLANPERUMA

**V**eteran Leftist D.E.W. Gunasekera who resigned from the post of General Secretary of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka (CPSL) last month, had a long career with the Left movement, joining the CPSL in 1958, entering its central committee in 1972, and becoming general secretary in 2004.

In this interview, Gunasekera reflects on his reasons for stepping down, the challenges posed by Covid-19 and neoliberalism, Sino-Lankan ties, and the CPSL's contributions to Sri Lanka's political, economic and foreign policy.

**Q: What compelled you to resign?**

**A:** We are entering a new phase of development in our country. In the post Covid-19 period, there will be many changes globally, regionally and nationally. Chinese President Xi Jinping recently used the term "turbulent change".

There is a new president, a new government, and a new parliament. We are coming to the end of neoliberalism in crisis. All political parties are now trying to find a new economic strategy.

The Left movement has to assess these new developments. The Left movement in our country needs new thinking and new developments. Therefore, leadership should go to a new generation.

I belong to the third generation of Left leaders in Sri Lanka. I proposed to the central committee that the most suitable person, based on knowledge and experience, was Dr. G. Weerasinghe as the next General Secretary. He was accepted unanimously.

Of course, I am not quitting politics. I continue to be in the central committee and the politburo. But now Dr. Weerasinghe will take the initiative with new thinking, action, and planning. He belongs to the fourth generation of Left leaders.

**Q: You mentioned changes in Sri Lanka. What is your analysis of these changes?**

**A:** We are going through an economic crisis. Covid-19 is an aspect of it, and the immediate cause. But the remote cause is the neoliberal economic strategy. We have come to a point where neoliberalism in Sri Lanka has run into a crisis after 40 years.

The party which introduced neoliberalism, is completely shattered

and divided today. Their pro-imperialist leader couldn't find a place in Parliament. It was an unexpected, but inevitable consequence of the neoliberal crisis.

That is why Gotabaya Rajapaksa got such a massive mandate. Normally, under our electoral system, a two-third mandate is simply impossible. Constitutional experts never expected this. They framed the 1978 Constitution to prevent a two-third majority for any party.

The immediate task is to revive and restore the economy. In 2015, our growth rate was about 5%, but today it is less than 2%. It's worse after Covid-19. In another two years, we have to realistically bring the growth rate back to at least 5%.

We are 55 billion US dollars in foreign debt, and 15 trillion rupees in domestic debt. We have a big shortfall in revenue. Exports have come down. We have no rupees, no dollars, and no FDI coming in. The world is in crisis, and there is no one to lend money.

The only country which can at least provide some assistance is China. That is the reality.

**Q: But, doesn't China have its own problems?**

**A:** Of course, this recession has also affected China, because they are part of the world economy. But they had the foresight to divert goods and services to domestic consumption when trade was going down.

That is the difference between the Chinese economic and social system, and the systems of developed countries. In spite of all shortcomings, China made internal adjustments quickly, thanks to the wisdom of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

**Q: Speaking of the CPC, what was your party's role in establishing diplomatic ties with China?**

**A:** The CPSL was the only political party which agitated for the establishment of relations with socialist countries.

Our founder, Dr. S.A. Wickramasinghe, came in contact with the CPC when he went to Paris in 1945, for the inauguration of the World Federation of Trade Unions. Chinese leaders Zhou En Lai and Deng Xiaoping were young and studying in France at the time.

The Rubber-Rice Pact, our first trade agreement with China, before the establishment of diplomatic rela-

tions, was a result of pressure by Pieter Keunemen and Dr. Wickramasinghe when rubber prices were going down, and there was a world shortage of rice.

The bourgeois, pro-imperialist UNP was compelled by historical conditions to come to an agreement with Communist China. It was comrade Pieter Keunemen who later arranged the government's first all-party delegation to China.

**Q: Have you ever visited China?**

**A:** I have visited China about four or five times. When Deng Xiaoping launched reforms and opening-up in 1978, our party delegation was one of the first to visit the present free-trade zone in Shenzhen. At that time, infrastructure was being built.

In 1987, there was a party delegation to China headed by comrade Pieter Keunemen. One evening, during our stay, we got a message that General Secretary Hu Yaobang would like to meet three delegates of our politburo at his private residence.

We had a discussion, you will be surprised to hear, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. That was a time when changes were taking place in the Soviet Union. Gorbachev had come to power. He had visited China just a week before us.

Comrade Hu Yaobang told us, "I met Gorbachev and warned him to be careful of political reforms. You can do your economic reforms, but if you make political changes, you lose the political power of the party and that will be the end."

They had warned him not to dismantle the party and state structure until economic changes were completed. Gorbachev disregarded the warning, and the Soviet Union collapsed. In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell, and the process went on until 1991.

**Q: Do you think the CPC's policy of reform and opening-up was correct?**

**A:** When the reform and opening-up policy was introduced, a crisis was brewing in the Soviet Union. It was a closed economy, there was no competitive market or demand for what they were producing. Those are the experiences that the Chinese Communists learned from.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, Deng Xiaoping said, "We must prepare our own program for the country, taking the experiences of the socialist countries, developing countries, and



the developed capitalist countries in building up the economy."

Lenin, in the last article he wrote before he died, specifically said that socialism in the Soviet Union can only be defended if the Chinese revolution takes place. It's simple when you interpret his intention.

If the Chinese revolution takes place and its economy develops, a huge market will be opened. That huge market is the deciding factor. Without a bigger market, a small closed economy can't exist and compete with capitalist encirclement.

Two World Wars were fought to divide markets. After nuclear parity, another World War would have meant the destruction of the world. That is why the Communist movement took up the theory of peaceful coexistence, which was carried forward by Zhou En Lai.

That is also why China opened up the economy, established diplomatic relations with the world, and respected other ideologies. There are theories, but in practice you come across various obstacles.

**Q: What is your analysis of the US-China trade war, and the Trump administration's talk of decoupling with China?**

**A:** Decoupling is practically impossible. Today, our world is intercon-

nected, integrated and interdependent. New formulas have to be sought. These are political gimmicks. The reality will emerge after the November elections.

The simple reason for the trade war is that imperialism has weakened on the political and economic front. Technologically, China has come close to the US with 5G. The EU is collapsing with Brexit. Militarily, imperialism faces a strategic alliance of Russia and China.

Imperialism has from three options to choose from: competition, cooperation, or confrontation. They can't compete with China. In the long term, they feel they will lose if they cooperate with China. They can't confront China either. All they can do is to create regional tensions.

This situation is unprecedented in history. A developed capitalist country cannot go to war, which was the usual political solution to an economic crisis. Today, we are living in a multipolar world. America was shining under unipolarity.

**Q: You mentioned the US elections in November. Do you have a preferred candidate?**

**A:** Whoever comes after November, will have to face reality. I don't expect big changes under Biden. In certain aspects, Trump is more posi-

tive. He's the only President in the US who hasn't declared a war. He only shouts. Other candidates don't shout, but might go to war.

**Q: What should Sri Lanka's foreign policy be in the present conditions?**

**A:** Sri Lanka has to seriously take into account the Asian region. Today, the Asian economy is the vanguard of the world economy. World attention is focused on the Asian economy.

Sri Lanka has to follow a non-aligned, equidistant policy in the context of present developments. Let's call it "dynamic neutralism". Friends with all countries, irrespective of ideologies. But national interest is the first priority.

As a neighbour, we have to work with India. China is a friend, and India is a relation. But friends are sometimes closer than relations in day-to-day life. Sometimes, we depend on friends more than on relations.

**Q: The CPSL was founded 77 years ago with the two main goals of achieving independence and socialism. How would you assess your performance so far?**

**A:** The Communist Party's perspectives are long-term. Marx and Engels never lived to see socialist changes. They only pioneered and provided the concepts and theories. The Communist movement is for the long-term development of society.

We achieved independence. The Left was the only movement which called for total independence. In 1948, we got Constitutional reforms, not total independence, because we were part of the Commonwealth, and the Head of State was Queen Elizabeth.

The CPSL entered government for the first time in 1970. Only after that was a new Constitution drafted, taking us away from the British monarchy. We became a Republic with our own leader in 1972. We completed some of the anti-imperialist tasks.

Then, we achieved social development. Free education and free health services are what we fought for. Uplifting the standard of living of the peasantry, land reforms, nationalisation of estates and banks, all those radical reforms were implemented after the Left entered the government. We may not have achieved socialism, but we have to answer this question in the context of world development.

## Two-day course on export procedure

The Industrial Development Authority-Western Province will conduct an export procedure program to encourage industrialists in the Western Province, in accordance with the President's policy of 'Vision of Prosperity and Splendour'.

It will be held at the Auditorium of the Industrial Development Authority (WP) 4 A, 1/1, Soratha Mawatha, Gangodawila, Nugegoda on October 3 and 4 from 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The course will consist of the following:  
Basic introduction to Export procedures, Export Marketing, Method of Settlement of payment and export finance, Freight Forwarding and Transportation, Custom Export process, Guidelines for CUSDEC, Port procedures, Export Costing, INCORTEM, Certificate and other documents required for export, How to fill a CUSDEC and shipping note, Export of Forest Procedure, Export and potential Export from Sri Lanka.

## Govt to increase Engineering Faculty student intake

BY CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

The Government is taking steps to increase the number of students enrolled in engineering faculties.

Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said at a discussion in his Ministry on Friday that they have stepped up ac-

tion to enable the enrollment of an additional 405 students to the universities which have six engineering faculties in each.

Accordingly, steps will be taken to enrol additional 405 students in the engineering faculties of the Universities of Peradeniya, Jayewardenepura, Jaffna,

Ruhuna, Moratuwa and South Eastern this year, said Prof. G.L. Peiris.

He said neither he nor the Government intends to interfere with the country's university administration. "We are only working to achieve the objectives set out in the President's Visions of Prosperity and Splendour' Policy State-

ment," he said. "We are planning to address inconsistencies that exist between the job market trends and the courses conducted by our universities," he said, adding that "enrolment of additional 405 engineering students to these universities is a forward step taken by us in that direction."

## Mali ready for transition to civilian rule

BY CHANNA SANJEEWA



Col. Goita and delegation at ELOWAS meeting in Ghana

litical transition.

At the outset Col. Goita, head of Bamako Junta and President of National Council for Salvation of people urged the participants to work together for the well-being of the people, probably due to pressure from ECOWAS. The ECOWAS gave ultimatum to the military Junta to appoint civilians as President and Prime Minister of the Transition.

On the draft roadmap for transition, the participants agreed on establishing and strengthening defence and security, good govern-



Col. Goita

ance, overhauling education, political and institutional reforms, adopting a social stability pact and holding elections. Meanwhile the junta has presented a roadmap for democratic civilian rule. ECOWAS too agreed to end the crisis and lifting sanctions as soon as transition leaders are appointed. The visit of Turkish Foreign Minister to Mali is also significant due to the country's declining relations with France. The Turkish Minister agreed to lend their support to confront the ECOWAS - imposed embargo.

## Navalny posts photo of him walking, describes recovery

MOSCOW, Sept. 19 (AFP) - Russia's leading opposition politician Alexei Navalny announced Saturday that he could now walk with a "tremble", and gave the first detailed account of his recovery nearly a month after being poisoned.

The 44-year-old Kremlin critic posted a photo of himself walking downstairs on Instagram and

described how earlier symptoms had included the inability to form words.

"Now I am a guy whose legs tremble when he takes the stairs," he wrote, detailing moments of "despair" as doctors help him overcome the effects of the nerve agent Novichok.

This latest update on his prog-

ress came after posted to Instagram on Tuesday that he had spent a first day breathing unassisted.

The anti-corruption campaigner fell ill on a plane from Siberia to Moscow on August 20 and spent two days in a Russian hospital before being airlifted to Berlin's Charite hospital.

## Death Acknowledgements

**ZACKY ABDUL JABBAR** - Deputy Editor of the Island - Loving son of late ABDUL JABBAR and Fathima Jabbar, loving brother of Feroza, Salman (Skyline Residences), brother-in-law of Eid and Rukshana (Siedles), uncle of Talal (Canada), Adil (Munchee), Adnan (Ceylon Today), Shuaib (Kaizen Fitness) and Azra (University of Colombo). Janaza left residence **1084 J, Peiris Mawatha, Kumaragewatta** for burial at Battaramulla Mosque on 10th September 2020. His family members wish to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and gestures of kindness following our great loss. We offer our heartfelt thanks to our relatives, friends, Upali Newspapers (Pvt) Ltd., the Battaramulla Jumma Mosque, the Police and Health Authorities for having helped in numerous ways. Salman (Brother) and Feroza (Sister). 055383

## Obituaries

**JEAN - HIDEARATCHI (nee PARIS)** - Beloved wife of Gerry, ever loving mother of Dinesh and Dr. Priyangika (UK), mother-in-law of Dr. Hobina Rajakaruna, sister-in-law of Beatrice Welgama. Remains lie at **A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour** from 9 a.m. onwards on Sunday 20th September 2020. Cortege leaves parlour on same day at 3 p.m. for burial at General Cemetery Borella (R/C Section). 056876

**WIJAYASIRI - WETTIMUNY** - Beloved husband of Lakshmi, father of Sarasi and Samangie, father-in-law of Chanaka, brother of Seelawathi, Nandani and Chandra, expired. Cortege leaves residence **No: 20, Galle Road, Kalutara North** on Sunday September 20th, at 3.30 p.m. Cremation at Kuda Waskaduwa Cemetery at 4.00 p.m. 056595

28<sup>th</sup> Year Remembrance  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**WILFRED KINGSLEY LEOPOLD DE SILVA**

You may not walk among us today  
but the memories  
We have of your compassionate heart will live  
with us forever.

**O LORD! GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST**

*Remembered by wife Rita  
and family members*

# News Feature

## Defeating unseen....

Continued from page 10

**Q.** Yesterday the Cabinet spokesman said the government accepts the ownership of the original 20-A Bill, any amendments, will be accommodated at the committee stage debate which is the proper procedure in case of a constitutional amendment. Your comments?

**A.** We regret that stance of the government.

**Q.** Could you elaborate on your answer?

**A.** As a government the intention should be to present a flawless amendment to the constitution. It is true that the proposed law can be changed before enactment in Parliament. The 19th amendment was also flawed due to the ad-hoc amendments brought in during the third reading of the committee-stage debate. We don't want the same predicament to befall the 20th amendment. The then Attorney General submitted last minute amendments while it was challenged at the Supreme Court.

This will be a bad precedent. Though the Yahapalana government cheated there are good features in the 19th amendment. We should preserve them. As much as the 19th amendment was flawed, the complete abolition of the 19th amendment will take it back to the dictatorial constitution of J.R. Jayewardene and various amendments that are even worse.

**Q.** You said you met the President and the Prime Minister on the 20-A. Would you like to comment on what

transpired at these meetings?

**A.** At the Parliament group meeting, we conveyed to the Prime Minister the need to discuss the Bill before finalising it. On Friday, at the party leaders meeting the PM appointed a committee to study and make recommendations on the controversial aspects of the amendment. In parallel, the members of the Yuthukama Organisation and National Joint Committee met the President and we expressed our stance. President agreed to revisit the Bill before presenting it to Parliament.

The 1977 Constitution is designed

to safeguard the UNP and that government. All the amendments thereafter also strived to consolidate power for the government in office.

We accept that the Constitution can't be corrected by ad hoc amendments. One of the major promises of the Yuthukama Organization in the President Rajapaksa's campaign trail, was to undo constitutional flaws and put away this 'time-bomb' for good. We said the present constitution should be completely replaced. People gave our Government a 2/3rd majority and they are hoping for a new beginning, a new constitution.



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# CAPITOL CASA

## TO REDEFINE URBAN LIVING FOR PROFESSIONALS

The opening of the Capitol Casa multi-purpose apartment complex by Sanken Construction Pvt Ltd, the only Sri Lankan contractor with international recognition operating in 12 other countries as developers and contractors building international branded properties. Also being responsible for the Colombo city sky line, this new project is set to redefine the landscape of the high end, middle income housing segment in the Administrative Capital of Sri Lanka.

Rooted in the Fortune 500 Mitsui Construction Company of Japan, Sanken Group has maintained all international high standards, skills and engineering culture of its Japanese origins.

The company has become synonymous with quality construction, spearheading some of the most prominent landmark structures in the country: Gregory's Seventh Sense, On 320 Apartments, Empire, Emperor, Cinnamon Red and The Movenpick, to name but a few. The Sanken Group has also successfully expanded overseas into 12 countries in various infrastructure development projects. (SS)

Sanken Construction, Managing Director, Eng. Maj. Ranjith Gunatilleke said that this is the first mega construction project that is undertaken by them targeting the professionals in the country. "This is also the first project launched by our associated company, Capitol Developers Ltd, who are well known for their luxury apartments in the Colombo City" he stated.

He said there is a vacuum for apartments targeting the middle income segment designed and built to high international standards with an affordable price tag. "To overcome this first we selected the fastest growing suburb of Colombo, Thalapatthipitiya, but with road and rail connections to Colombo City," he elaborated.

Gunatilleke said, "Most importantly,

we got the entire complex designed by globally reknown award winning Singapore architectural firm, P&T Architects Pte Ltd to design Capitol Casa."

P&T is known for worlds most luxury apartments and mixed development projects. Whereas few of the projects done by P&T in Sri Lanka are Colombo City Centre, Capitol Twin Peaks and Seventh Sense.

He said that one of their other objectives was to build Capitol Casa as a CSR inactivate whilst incorporating a



unique Singaporean style model for other builders to follow. "Hence we are not looking at major profits from this investment, and consider this as a social responsibility to the high end professionals" he commented.

Furthermore he stated as the leading construction company, Sanken professionals have made significant value engineering cost reductions from design to structure together with

support of British technology to reduce the construction cost to a minimum, hence the reason such a luxury apartment project is selling at such affordable prices. The buyers of this property will experience all the 5 star luxury amenities and more. Any smart professional surely will understand the great ROI of investing in this development.

Capitol Casa is also on schedule and is to be completed by end 2022 and already pre sales have started and apartments will be offered from around Rs. 11 million upwards.

Capitol Casa will consist of two apartment towers of 15 floors each offering 270 apartment units with all modern day safety and other international standards. "The entire complex would be housed in a six-acre land and a separate four storied complex is currently being built to house restaurants, international food courts and all other services. Most importantly we will also build what would be Sri Lanka's largest banquet hall in this complex," he said.

Commenting on their other projects he said that Capitol Twin Peaks, the flagship residential venture, is South East Asia's highest sky bridge and an arresting glass façade for which the project has consistently received immense interest from local and international buyers. Another key factor attracting investors to Capitol Twin Peaks is the fact that it offers 38 types of units With over 60% of

the 438 units of 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom apartments already sold, Capitol Twin Peaks offers customizable apartments equipped with features to suit the cosmopolitan city lifestyle.

The twin-interlocking 50-storey residential project consists of 438 units ranging from 800-2,700 sq. ft. and a considerable expanse of common amenities.

Last but not least, this phenomenal project, Capitol Casa by the industry leader will give the residents the great opportunity to experience real luxury living in the heart of the Administrative Capital of Sri Lanka.



Contact the hotline  
0768000700/701  
e mail- sales@capitolcasa.lk  
Sales office  
No. 10, Albert Cres, Colombo 07.

# Feature/Interview



By **Sanjeeva Siribaddana**

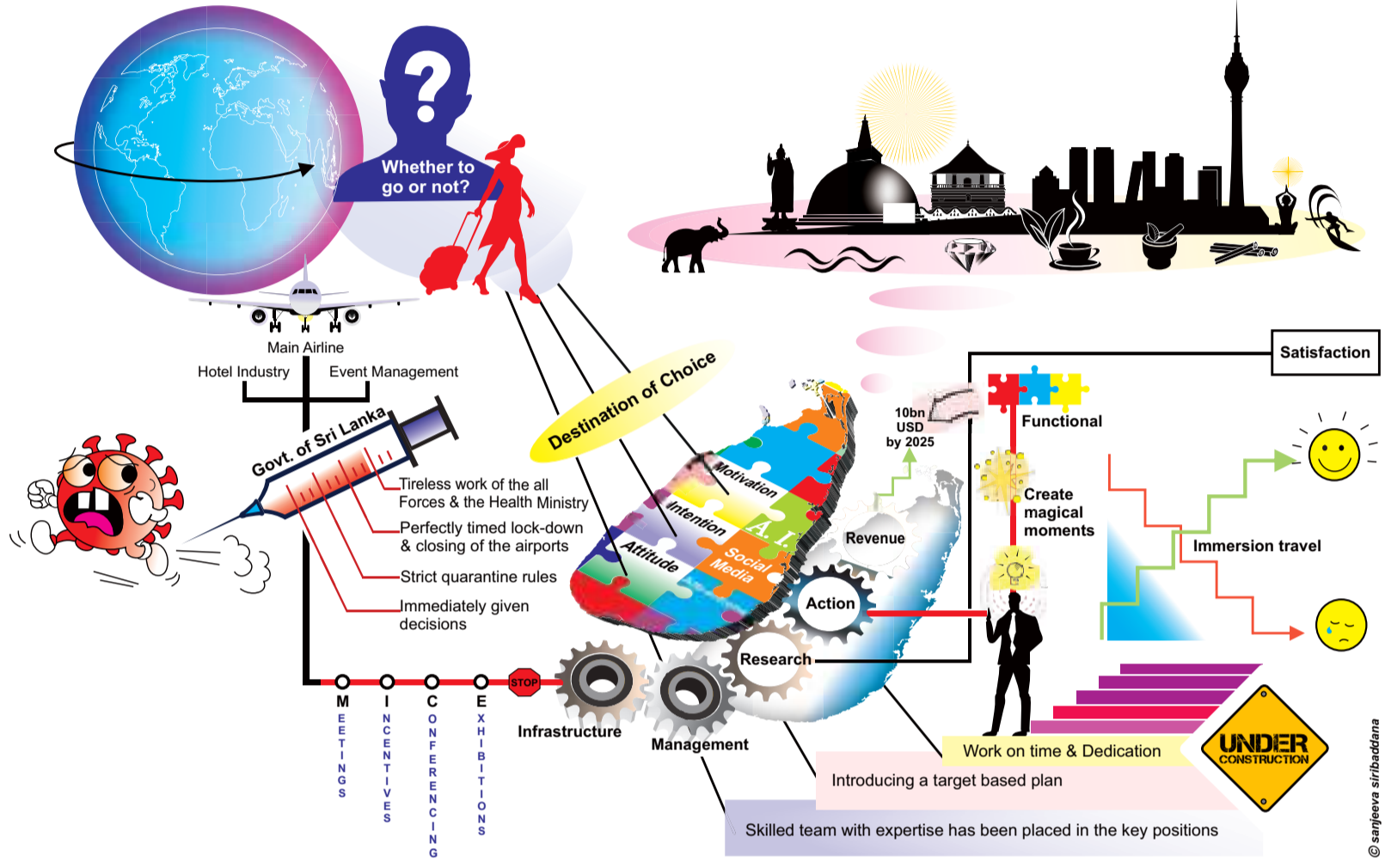
**W**hile tourism remained challenged during Sri Lanka's battle against terrorism, peace time allowed us to flourish again as a South Asian economic hub with tourism at its helm. While there was an increase in foreign direct investment, infrastructure, and an overall boom in development, the tourism industry seemed to lack innovation and re-engineering despite a noteworthy rise in inflow. We can safely say that the tourism industry has remained in the mindset of quantity over quality.

When President Gotabaya Rajapaksa took the helm, his vision was specific and detailed. He took charge with a comprehensive plan to invigorate the tourism industry, gearing it to play a leading role in the country's economic growth. In the document 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour', the President outlined the tourism industry as "one of the most important sectors in our economy to generate foreign exchange earnings. It is also an area that could be easily developed."

Our island nation is blessed with abundance, from the cool climes of our tea trails to the crystal sands of our beaches, from the breathtaking locations in our wildlife reserves to our world-renowned heritage sites and our world-renowned hospitality. The journals of the Spice Route speak volumes about our coveted cinnamon and spices that to this day, hold court in the global market. Sri Lanka's *Ayurveda Hela Wedakama* together with our meditation techniques are sought after by travelers across the world for their powers of healing and the delicate balance achieved in health and wellbeing.

And lest we forget, the treasures of our soil – the world's largest, rare and native blue sapphires and precious stones mined in Sri Lanka have adorned the likes of royalty and also sit in their grandeur for all to see at prestigious establishments such as the Smithsonian Institute. They are considered to have a unique hue and hold a firm value anywhere in the world. Our suite of offerings is complete. We have it all!

In 2009, Sri Lanka was able to breathe again, but many can wonder if we took this peace for granted. Our complacency was duly tested by the brutal Easter Sunday attacks in April 2019, when the tourism industry was brought to its knees. Mass cancellations of bookings and travel warnings issued globally created a deathlike silence in



the industry. The domino effect was severe, as countless establishments directly or indirectly lost revenue.

Towards the end of 2019, as Sri Lanka began to raise its head from this tragedy, we were hit yet again by another threat – Covid-19. This pandemic affected both human lives and economies, creating a global lock down. But with the authorities leading the charge and taking timely critical decisions, we went into complete lockdown while successfully balancing the needs of our people.

Our battle plan was so effective that Sri Lanka was highlighted by the World Health Organisation for the manner in which we handled Covid-19. Today, we prepare once again to cautiously step into a new normal and recharge our nation's economy.

### Excellent opportunity

This poses an excellent opportunity for our tourism sector to innovate, re-engineer and construct the target-based strategy that the President is calling for to make the industry a \$10 billion revenue earner by 2025. He has provided the vision and the mandate at a meeting with the current tourism industry officials, saying, "We require a skilled team with expertise and dedica-

tion. Every step should generate immediate results. On my part, I do not hesitate to take decisions for the benefit of the country. I expect the officials will commit themselves to pass benefits of such decisions onto the public. If there is a target-based plan, every challenge can be overcome". No truer words were spoken. Therefore, it begs the question as to whether a skilled team with expertise has been placed in this industry's key positions.

The current trend in tourism development and promotion remains ominously repetitive; countless millions of rupees are flung in the direction of creating promotional videos and other content seemingly without much direction. As beautiful and picturesque as this country is, this type of action is irrelevant in the absence of a strategic plan. It is similar to having a detailed map but not knowing how to read it. How then, are we going to achieve the target set for 2025?

The answer lies in the President's comment of strategically placing "a skilled team with expertise and dedication." With our President at the helm, this team can enable his vision and empower the drive towards attracting quality and not quantity. There is absolutely no need to look offshore for talent as Sri Lanka has many key special-

ists in strategic and digital marketing, who are contracted by leading organisations across the globe. We have our own resources to market brand ambassadors; not to merely be present but to be visible and intelligently promote the nation as the destination of choice.

Thus far, however, we seem to have been treating the symptoms rather than the root cause and struggling to position ourselves as a boutique destination. Sri Lanka must take this Covid-19 to go back to the drawing board to construct a smart and comprehensive strategic plan.

There must be synergy amongst all the tactical teams from core tourism, hospitality, and aviation to conventions and event management. We must also not ignore the valuable input from the smaller tour operators as well as the countless people who engage daily with those in the hospitality as well as tourism industries, both directly and indirectly.

All too often the key decision makers seem far removed from the true picture on the ground, and true leaders know that it is always important to be in touch with the common man or in this case with those whose very livelihood depends totally on a successful tourism industry. It is also prudent to have a trickle down from a master plan

to the key segments in this vast sector. It is time to move away from trying to implement multiple strategies that pull at our resources in many directions and focus on putting down the solid foundation of a central plan.

### Navigating the future

It will augur well for us to carry out a detailed research audit to attract tourists from countries that have flattened the curve and have no new infections. This is where technology innovation can be applied successfully to analyse which foreign markets to focus on to entice and welcome tourists to visit Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan authorities are contemplating on opening the borders in December and this is the ideal time to initiate a successful tourism plan.

Technology in tourism is known to reduce costs, improve operational efficiency and increase value and experiences that visitors love to cherish. Innovative technology will assist the tourism industry in replacing expensive human labour with technological labour.

Some examples such as automation, mobile self-help applications that will adhere to the post Covid-19 new normal and virtual realities that can lead to competitive tourism advantages as well as an increased destination image of Sri

Lanka. This also opens the doors for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the tourism sector. AI technology reaches far beyond chatbots. The knowledge base that can be built through advanced technology at the backend increases the value of the experiential front-end engagement. The beauty of AI technology is its capacity to self-learn from the information uploaded and create infinite correlations that will then be at the fingertips of tourism decision makers. AI technology together with strategic and targeted digital marketing campaigns, will also give our tourist sector the energy and drive it deserves.

The knowledge base created by machine learning lends itself to micro-segmenting target markets. By doing this, the marketing campaigns are better aimed and will create a more empathetic connection. These connections become relationships – the critical touchpoint for tourism to thrive. Flooding social media with countless generic ad campaigns merely creates a white noise.

No longer can we merely promote Sri Lanka as a holiday destination. It must be experiential. It must have meaning. We must focus on specifics, and that focus must have a purpose. The message, the digital strategy and the medium must be in harmony.

Conde Nast has a global footprint of 5 five million monthly readers, 14 million unique users and a whopping 16.3 million followers on social media. How strong is our alliance with this global giant? How much mileage do we get from the positive reviews and recommendations made by this conglomerate? How much visibility have we strived to attain from its affiliate magazines that reach audiences in fashion to curated cuisine to architecture and interiors? There is a mass of unexplored wealth just waiting for us. In 2019, we were ranked as the #1 place to visit by Lonely Planet. These two heavy-hitters in this sector are not just trendsetters. They are powerful influencers.

From spreading the story about how we cared for tourists stranded in Sri Lanka during Covid-19 to targeted showcasing of our boutique hideaways, the time to capitalise on emotional equity is now.

The future of tourism in Sri Lanka can be a guaranteed success with the proper implementation of the strategic vision laid out by Sri Lanka's leadership. The greatest constant in this world is change. If we as a nation want to attract lasting quality and not mere quantity in terms of tourism, our strategies must adapt and above all, be agile.

*(The writer holds a MBA from the UK, is a Member of the Oxford University Alumni and member of the CIM (UK) and former Director, Operations, ANCL.)*

# People witnessed turmoil under 19A - Dr Jayatissa De Costa

BY CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

**T**he people would now like a ringside seat to see how President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the newly elected Government would run the country. They have given the governing party a two-thirds majority at the Parliamentary Election, the power they sought to amend the Constitution, said leading Constitutional lawyer, former Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka and President's Counsel, Dr Jayatissa De Costa.

The victory is more significant compared to the results of the other political parties, the United National Party, its breakaway party or Sajith-Premadasa-led Samagi Jana Balawegaya and Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna. Sri Lankan voters preferred a strong and capable leader, he said.

The repealing of the 19th Amendment, or introducing the 20th Amendment, is a question of achieving the goal of overall stability in the country, for which the people have voted in President Rajapaksa, Dr. De Costa said.

The 19th Amendment triggered a

Constitutional crisis in the country under the previous regime, Dr. Jayatissa De Costa said in an interview with the *Sunday Observer*.

### Excerpts

**Q: Is repealing the 19th Amendment good to the public considering that it will only bring back the 18th Amendment?**

**A:** Yes, it will be similar to the 18th Amendment, but its key objective is to restore stability.

Ever since Maithripala Sirisena became the President, the people have witnessed turmoil in the country. The country degenerated economically, politically and socially. So-called narcotics, underworld operations, organised crime were on the rise. Drug lords were so powerful that their main base was none other than the prison headquarters, Welikada.

**Q: Some scholars say that we may keep whatever useful in the 19th Amendment. Your views?**

**A:** The Government has followed that, for example, the Right to Information Act.

The Constitutional Council was an



utter failure, especially, the appointment of the members to the Election Commission. A member, who was appointed to the Election Commission, went to the extent of appearing in the fundamental right application, which challenged the President's dissolution of Parliament.

Even Parliament could not question him because the Commission is not answerable to Parliament. The people want to see Gotabaya Rajapaksa gov-

erns the country and not get him stuck.

**Q: Does the Government represent all ethnic groups?**

**A:** Yes. Thondaman's party, the Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC) contested under the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP). Pilleyan's party, Douglas Devananda's EPDP and Athaula's party, represented the SLPP.

**Q: Would the ceiling for ministerial posts go up with the repealing of the 19th Amendment?**

**A:** No. You cannot have an unlimited number of ministers. There will be a limit. Otherwise, you can make all the Government party members ministers.

**Q: It has been observed that Governments have shown interest in changing the Constitution frequently. Isn't it wrong to change the Constitution in this manner?**

**A:** We got Independence in 1948. Our first Constitution, the Soulbury Constitution, lasted for over 20 years. Till 1972, the Queen of England was our head of State. The next Constitution didn't last long because President J.R. Jayewardene had turned that topsy-turvy. The Indian Constitution has

been amended 103 times for the past 70 years. That Constitution was not promulgated in a hurry. The drafting of the Constitution took nearly three years, headed by legal expert B. R. Ambedkar. It is one of the best in the world.

**Q: What happened to the UNP at the last election?**

**A:** They attacked the people's very culture, they were expected to protect according to the Constitution. They jailed bhikkhus for keeping elephants at temples, which is a tradition in the country.

They ridiculed bhikkhus and detained them for nothing. They did not understand the pulse of the people. The biggest and the most powerful pressure group in Sri Lanka are the bhikkhus. The UNP ballroom dancing class though not that much educated, thought just because they can speak in English, they are the elite and they are the educated. They always think that they are superior to the masses. This quality is discernible in Ranil Wickremesinghe's faction.

**Q: Do you not think that Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa of the Samagi Janabalawegaya has the upper hand over the UNP?**

**A:** Sajith's party is not a potent political force. It is a loose coalition of different parties. Mano Ganesan is interested in his welfare.


Rishad Bathiudeen is an extremist political figure, Rauf Hakeem is an opportunist relying on Muslim votes. Digambaran has his political interests. Sajith Premadasa has no base in the country. It is the traditional UNP.

**Q: Does Sajith Premadasa have a flair to strengthen his political party?**

**A:** If he can become a second Basil Rajapaksa or someone like him, he may do so. Sajith is only strong on paper now. When there is another election, traditional UNP voters will rally round the UNP.

**Q: The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) has voiced its opposition to repealing the 19th Amendment. Your views?**

**A:** They have just got to be careful not to become the best losers now that their parliamentary seats have reduced to three. Whenever they contest by themselves, they lose. The JVP may do well to compete under one of the main political parties.



## QUOTATIONS FOR CAFETERIA SERVICE

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Further details can be discussed after inspection of cafeteria. Sealed quotations should be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer - CIPMSL on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

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SP HC -XXXX	MITSUBISHI LANCER	2002	WP PA -XXXX MAZDA KF-SK22V 2000
WP KT -XXXX	MARUTI 800	2012	52 - XXXX NISSAN LARGO 1987
WP KT -XXXX	MARUTI 800	2012	58 - XXXX NISSAN CARAVAN 1992
SP KD -XXXX	KIA SPECTRA	2001	251 - XXXX MAZDA 5S28 1994
WP CBG -XXXX	SUZUKI DBA-HA36S	2015	
64 - XXXX	MITSUBISHI LANCER	1993	<b>AND</b>
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- On the view days, buyers will be taken in batches for inspection.
- Prospective buyers will be taken to the auction venue on a first come first serve basis & limited for 250 seats as per the Health Ministry guidelines.
- Payment : Non - refundable initial deposit of 25% in Cash at the fall of the Hammer & Balance 75% & Removal latest by 3:00 pm on **Thursday 24th September 2020** to be paid to LB Finance Vehicle Yard, # 304, Pahala Karagahamuna, Ragama Road, Kadawatha.
- The Management has the right to withdraw any vehicle (s) from the Auction without prior notice.
- The decision of the Auctioneer will be final.

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**Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**Ministry of Ports and Shipping**

## SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

### Extension of Request For Proposals For Operation of Yacht Marina In The Port of Galle

- The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) of the Ministry of Ports and Shipping (Ministry) of the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (GOSL) has been established by Sri Lanka Ports Authority Act No. 51 of 1979 as amended to develop, maintain, operate and provide port and other services in the Port of Galle. The SLPA intends to award a BOT concession for the Operation of Yacht marina in the port of Galle and this Request for proposals (RFP) is the process of selection of a Concessionaire for the award of a BOT concession.
- The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC) of the Ministry hereby invites sealed applications from interested parties to submit proposals and receipt of award of BOT concession. Selection of the investor will be subject to a process of evaluation. The selection criteria is described in detail in the RFP Document, a sample copy of which is available for reference at the office of Chief Engineer (Planning and Development), Sri Lanka Ports Authority (See Note-1). Interested parties may refer the sample copy between 10:00 hrs and 15:00 hrs on any working day until 16th October 2020 free of charge.
- A complete set of the RFP Documents may be purchased by any interested party upon submission of a written application to the address in Note-2 below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 60,000.00 including Taxes during the period defined below.
- The schedule of RFP process is programmed as follows;

	Event	Previous Date	Extended Date	Time	Place
a	Issue of RFP document	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	Until 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	10:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs	Note 1
b	Last Date for Interested Parties to apply for Clarifications for RFP document	26 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	26 <sup>th</sup> October 2020		Note 1
c	Last Date for SCAPC to issue Clarifications to RFP document	07 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	06 <sup>th</sup> November 2020		
d	Deadline for Submission of RFP	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	14:00 hrs	Note 2
e	Opening of RFPs	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	14:00 hrs	Note 2

**Note-1:**  
Chief Engineer (Planning and Development), Sri Lanka Ports Authority  
45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka  
Tel. No. +94 (0) 112483456, Fax No. +94 (0) 112323055, Email address: [cepdgalle@slpa.lk](mailto:cepdgalle@slpa.lk)

**Note-2:**  
Ministry of Ports and Shipping, 19, Chaithya Road, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

**Note-3:**  
Resident Manager Office  
Sri Lanka Ports Authority  
Galle,

- Neither the SCAPC nor the SLPA will be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Interested Parties in connection with the preparation and submission of the RFPs.

**Chairman**  
**Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee**  
**Ministry of Ports and Shipping**  
15th September 2020

# SPORT

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2020



OBSERVER MOBILTEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2020



## FINAL COUNTDOWN AS THE CURTAIN AWAITS THE STANDING LIST OF NOMINEES

By **Bernard Perera**



The 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer 2020 selections were finalised on Friday with the Panel of Judges headed by Ashantha de Mel former Sri Lanka cricketer and National Selection Committee Chairman.

The Panel consisted of representatives from the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association and Sri Lanka Umpires Association which went through a strenuous task in selecting the nominees for various categories based on performances in three Divisions during the past season.

After perusing their performances five nominees are in contention with Navod Paranavithana from Richmond College Galle, Sri Lanka Under-19 captain Nipun Dananjaya from Joseph Vaz College Wennapuwa, Kamil Mishara from Royal College, Dilshan Madhusanka from Vijaya National School, Hungama and Sonal Gamage from Mahanama College, Colombo in the running.

Paranavithana made a monumental innings of 400 in the 2020 season.

The Schoolgirl Cricketer Award has four nominees in Kaveesha Dilhari of Devapathiraja Vidyalaya,

Ratgama, Umesha Thimeshani also from the same school, Janadi Anali from Anula Vidyalaya and Vishani Gunaratne of Ratnaveli MV in Gampaha who have all done well in the concluded inter school cricket season.

Dilshani became the highest run-maker for her school as well as among schoolgirl cricketers during the season.

Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association President and Principal of Nalanda College, Thilak Wathuhewa speaking on the occasion said that the Observer School Cricketer has paved the way for school players to reach greater heights in their cricketering careers.

More than half of the Schoolboy Cricketer Award winners have represented the country and later moved on to take up administrative positions at international level with the first winner Ranjan Madugalle ending up as the ICC's chief match referee.

The Observer School Cricketer competition has also encouraged enthusiastic young schoolboys to get involved in cricket with the hope of reaching greater heights while maintaining a healthy life.

In fact parents too played a vital role in encouraging their children to take to the sport in a serious manner helping the country to produce world class cricketers who have done their best to bring honour.



The selection panel that picked the winners of the Sunday Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year contest. Seated: Daminda Cooray (President, Sri Lanka Cricket Umpires Association), Jude Silva (Communications Channel Manager, Mobitel), Thilak Wathuhewa (Principal Nalanda College and President Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association), W. Dayaratne PC (Chairman ANCL), Asantha de Mel (chairman National Cricket Selection Committee), JAKS. Indrajith (Secretary, Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association), Upul Wewage (Secretary, Sri Lanka Cricket Umpires Association). Back row: Champika Weeratunge (SLSCA Girls Tournament Secretary), Y. Nishantha Kumara (Tournament Secretary Under 19 SLSCA), Viraj Chaminda de Silva (Technical Officer SLSCA), Amarajewa Dissanayake (Secretary, Central Province Cricket Umpires Association), AMCV Kumara (President, Southern Province Cricket Umpires Association), Deshapriya Dissanayake (ACUSL Assignment Committee Chairman), Kumar Gamhewage (General Manager, Batsman.com), Wasantha Ariyawickrema (Treasurer, ACUSL), Saman Hettiarachchi (Former Selection Committee Chairman, SLSCA), Manjula Vaz (SLSCA Treasurer) Pic by Dushmantha Mayadunne

## Another Easter Sunday drama Sport and religion conflict at Joes rugby

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

Sports and religion have never been known to be in conflict, with one pontificating clean living and the other demanding fair-play, but the scenario has turned different with arguably the country's foremost Catholic school St. Joseph's College in Colombo having to come to grips with the combination as far as its onetime champion rugby team is concerned.

It has been reported that parents of St. Joseph's College players have protested that the team had been ordered to practice on Easter Sunday last year which is considered sacrilegious or profane on the part of the school on a day that is most sacred to Christians.

The issue has surfaced after nearly 18 months had lapsed following the reappointment of Nilfer Ibrahim as the school's coach who was also the coach when the team practised on Easter Sunday, the day that also coincided with the jihadist bombing of three churches in the island.

"St. Joseph's College is where students learn their religious values and when you pick a day like Easter Sun-



File photo of the champion St. Joseph's College team of 2017

day or Christmas Day to get the boys to practice or train, questions and protests will be raised.

"Can you imagine a Buddhist school in the country playing a match on Vesak Poya," said one parent who referred to the protest as "major and serious" and lodged with the highest Catholic body in the country, the Bishop's House in Colombo.

Another parent of a student said their grouse was not against Ibrahim who coached the school to win the Knock-Out Championship three years ago or its hierarchy, but an individual

who "calls the shots" at the College.

Efforts by the Sunday Observer to reach out to the school's officials for comment or the unnamed individual concerned drew a blank.

St. Joseph's College is in the top ten rugby playing schools in the country having taken to the sport in 1955, some 62 years after Kingswood College in Kandy became the first in 1893.

But the Joes lifted their rugby morale to a higher level in the last five years by awarding scholarships to players from outside, which also raised eyebrows, as well as the inter-

est shown by a former College player and ex-Sports Minister Harin Fernando.

Schools rugby which is one of the biggest draws in the local sports scene is currently being throttled by the coronavirus with most players having their boyhood passion suppressed.

Neither the tournament organizers nor the sport's parent body Sri Lanka Rugby has been able to come up with a formula to start a championship that has been put on hold since mid-march.

## Restored CH and FC threaten to dump the rest in fray

BY ALTHAF NAWAZ

Rohitha Rajapaksa, the captain of last season, takes over the team's coaching while Sri Lanka flanker Sudharshana Muthuthanthri will lead a rejuvenated CH and FC at the new inter-club rugby season scheduled to start next month with a Sevens tournament.

Rajapaksa replaces veteran coach Viper Gunaratne after qualifying as the youngest rugby educator in the country having followed a World Rugby course conducted by Sri Lanka Rugby last year in Colombo.

He was assistant coach of the Sri Lanka youth team that won the Junior Asiad last year.

Muthuthanthri captained Havelocks when they ended League runners-up in 2013 and also plays as a



Muthuthanthri (Captain)



Rajapaksa (Coach)

Number Eight.

In 2018, he became the first Sri Lankan to be selected to play at the top-level Provincial Rugby tournament in New Zealand representing Auckland.

Janindu Dilshan, Kevin Dixon and Panduka Angammana have also joined CH and FC crossing over from Havelocks and according to Tanesh Dias, the General Secretary of the club, more players are negotiating to enroll.

"We have a rejuvenated structure and are working with a plan infusing some new faces to the squad which will be a mix of youth and experience. Our goal is to win all titles on offer," said Dias.

Shammi Silva is its Chairman while Didula Rajapaksa and Sudantha Bandara are committee members.

## Bangladesh batting coach McMillan out of Sri Lanka tour

DHAKA AFP: Former New Zealand cricketer Craig McMillan on Saturday pulled out as Bangladesh's batting consultant for their series in Sri Lanka starting in October because of a bereavement, the Bangladesh Cricket Board said.

"Craig has communicated to us that his father has passed away recently and therefore it would not be possible for him to take up the batting consultant's position of the National

Team for the upcoming tour at this moment of grief," BCB Chief Executive Officer Nizam Uddin Chowdhury said in a statement.

"We fully understand his situation. Our sympathies are with Craig and his family during this difficult time," he said. Bangladesh had appointed McMillan in August for the tour after former South African batsman Neil McKenzie stepped down from the post because of the coronavirus crisis.

## Sri Lanka basketball to be brought under Interim Committee?

The Sri Lanka Basketball Federation (SLBF) is likely to be brought under a government appointment Interim Committee following allegations made by players that current office bearers are attempting to seek re-election without having to answer for irregularities and mismanagement of the sport.

It is learnt that Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa has directed the Director General of Sports Amal Edirisooriya to obtain all documents related to charges levelled against SLBF officials and hand them over to the Criminal Investigation Department for investigation.

The National Sports Council has also been directed to conduct a separate probe. (KI)

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# IMPACT

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

## The importance of DIGITALISING COURT PROCEDURE



KALINGA INDATISSA PC

The current legal system of Sri Lanka dates back to 1801, the year that the British established the Supreme Court of Judicature in the island of Ceylon. Sri Lanka is a unique country where a mixed legal system functions. Ordinarily, there are two main legal systems in the world.

The civil law system, the origin of which is traced back to Rome, is the first legal system where statutes contain the law and the role of a Judge. Such a system is limited to the interpretation of statute law.

The second is the common law system which originated in England and which was largely created by the ecclesiastical approach of the church. Under the common law system, the role of a Judge was to identify new concepts of law and had a wider role than the role of a judge in a civil system.

In 1505, when the Portuguese arrived in the island, Ceylon had an established legal system. The king was the head of the judiciary and his subordinate officer exercised judicial power in different geographical locations, based on their standing in the administrative hierarchy.

In 1796, when the British captured the coastal areas from the Dutch there were two legal systems operating in the island. The Rule of the King prevailed in the midlands while the Roman Dutch Law was applied in the coastal areas.

Beginning in the 1880s, the British introduced the written law. The Penal Code, the old Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Procedure Code and the Evidence Ordinance are some such laws introduced during this period.

When one examines the law relating to procedure it would be correct to state that we have inherited a large volume of procedural concepts from English Law. Especially in the context of criminal procedure, the British administration in the 20th century preferred to apply a procedure similar to that in England with which they were quite conversant.

The procedural rules are applied even today, after 290 years. From the inception of our legal system in the current form until the mid 1990s, the courts in Sri Lanka based their judgments and orders on three types of evidence. Oral evidence was the first, where words spoken by a witness is admitted.

Documentary evidence was the second type, where the contents of the document could be used as material evidence. The third type facilitated the identification of material other than documents.

### Technology-based evidence

In the 1990s, the necessity to introduce provisions relating to technology-based evidence arose. This opening was necessary consequent to the judicial comments in a celebrated case, *Benwell v Republic of Sri Lanka*[1]. This was a case where the Australian government had requested for the extradition of Phillip Golden James Benwell, alleged to have committed several acts of embarrassment through the computer systems in Australia.

A loophole in the law in our legal system was detected at this point as information generated through a computer could not be identified as evidence in a Sri Lankan Court. This lacuna existed primarily in view of two reasons.

The interpretation of the term

'property' within our law was restricted to tangible property and did not extend to information in a computer. The traditional interpretation of the term 'document' did not include anything stored in a computer.

This lacuna was filled when Parliament introduced the Evidence (Special Provisions) Act No 14 of 1998 which recognised two types of Evidence, namely, computer evidence and audio and video evidence. In both instances, contemporary audio and video evidence is now admitted.

During the past three decades, technology has advanced to such an extent that the lawmaker would now be required to review the existing laws and consider legal reforms. Especially, in the context of criminal law, the mechanism adopted by criminals changed drastically.

In narcotic cases, new methods are adopted by criminals such as 'early cash' payment mechanisms. As for trafficking of narcotics, it is frequently reported in the newspapers that the criminals have adopted methods such as the use of mobile phones for such activity.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act No. 5 of 2006 also opens doors for criminals to adopt new methods in utilising this procedure for crime.

Tracing, tracking, forfeiting and confiscation of proceeds of crime has always been a problem for many legal systems. Consequent to several international conventions such as the Convention on the Suppression of the Terrorist Financing Act No. 25 of 2005 and International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes of November 2000, the member states are merely compelled to enact domestic laws in this area of law.

Accordingly, the Sri Lankan Parliament passed several important statutes giving legal recognition to the above Conventions.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2006, Convention on the Suppression of the Terrorist Financing Act No. 25 of 2005 and the Financial Transaction Reporting Act No. 6 of 2006 are such laws currently applicable in Sri Lanka in this area of the law.

It is relevant to note here that during the past few years, a large number of investigations had taken place in the country pertaining to the above area of

the law.

Another area where technology is used by wrongdoers would be social media related circumstances. The Parliament of Sri Lanka has enacted the Computer Act of 2007 to deal with computer crimes.

The provisions of this Act demonstrate that most offences under this Act are largely based on the concept of hacking or unauthorised access. The circumstances where the owner of the computer commits offences using his own computer, and where the offence relates to national security, national economy or social order it is covered by this Act.

If an analysis is done on traffic passing through social media, there are many instances where users on social media may commit common law offences such as criminal defamation, criminal intimidation, extortion, blackmail, spreading of rumours and similar offences.

Unfortunately, the legal mechanism currently available to handle such situations is barely adequate. This is more so in the context of obscene publications, obscene material, child pornography and sexually explicit material exchanged through social media.

### Data Protection Act

Another issue which has a serious impact in this context is the absence of a Data Protection Act. There have been instances where some telephone companies refused to submit data on the basis that such data is lost. There is currently no law which obligates or which makes an institution accountable in this context.

Another problem I see in the context of the current criminal justice system is that the law enforcement agencies have been set up separately under the normal law.

An investigation is conducted by the Police, analysis is done by the Government Analysts' Department and prosecutions by the Attorney General's Department. They work independently at different stages of a criminal investigation or a trial. While it is my experience that such independent functions could result in long delays in litigation, it is my view that all these agencies should be brought under one umbrella in order to expedite such delays. Such a transformation would be

totally unconventional.

Therefore, it is essential that a separate unit is set up in every district consisting of prosecutors, police officers, officers of the Government Analysis Department, officers of the EQD

and other forensic analysts.

Such a team of people working together would minimise the delays within the criminal justice system, and eradicate allegations of corruption against individual institutions.

I am happy that the current Minister of Justice is focused on digitalising court procedure. Digitalising the court mechanism would include the use of technology for the legal process involved in criminal investigations. This is a separate concept that the Minister, being a senior practitioner and actively involved in legal practice, would know the requirement in this area. Filing of pleadings and filing of written submissions are two primary concerns and, in my view too, Parliament should provide for laws for the recognition of electronic filing.

As a person who has practised law for 34 years, I welcome the Justice Minister's concept of digitalising court proceedings and pleadings.

While such a mechanism would facilitate the litigants and the legal profession, I think the Government should focus on establishing a separate unit under one umbrella to conduct criminal investigations. Such a unit should contain professionals such as analysts, IT specialists, accoun-

tants, auditors, forensic experts and medical experts.

If both these concepts can be worked out and if the law reforms are implemented, the issue of law's delay would be addressed.

I would like to summarise the steps that are necessary to introduce their transformation.

1. Have a re-look at all procedural laws and laws touching upon admissibility of evidence.
2. Have a re-look at all existing laws dealing with technology-based material.
3. Introduce a Data Protection Act.
4. Establishment of a separate unit for law enforcement and criminal investigation.
5. Devolve the investigations and analysing authority to all districts.
6. Introduce a more simplified mechanism of admissibility of evidence.
7. Introduce legislation regarding accountability of service providers.
8. Reconsider laws relating to criminal defamation.
9. Introduce laws relating to social media.
10. Digitalise the court procedure.

[1] (1978-79) 2 SLR 194.

Compiled by Aanya Wipulasena



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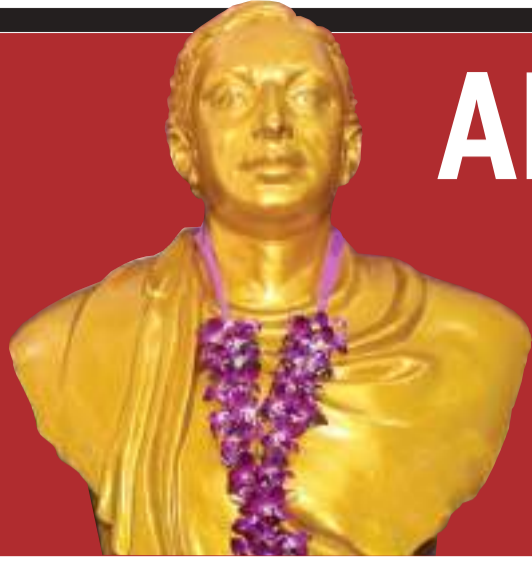
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DURING THE PAST THREE DECADES, TECHNOLOGY HAS ADVANCED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THE LAWMAKER WOULD NOW BE REQUIRED TO REVIEW THE EXISTING LAWS AND CONSIDER LEGAL REFORMS. ESPECIALLY, IN THE CONTEXT OF CRIMINAL LAW, THE MECHANISM ADOPTED BY CRIMINALS CHANGED DRASTICALLY. IN NARCOTIC CASES, NEW METHODS ARE ADOPTED BY CRIMINALS SUCH AS 'EARLY CASH' PAYMENT MECHANISMS. AS FOR TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS, IT IS FREQUENTLY REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS THAT THE CRIMINALS HAVE ADOPTED METHODS SUCH AS THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES FOR SUCH ACTIVITY

Feature



# ANAGARIKA DHARMAPALA BIRTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION



## In remembrance of Anagarika Dharmapala

(THE 156TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANAGARIKA FELL ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2020. THE FOLLOWING LINES ARE IN CELEBRATION OF THE EVENT.)



The 156th birth anniversary commemoration of Anagarika Dharmapala was held under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Mahabodhi Agrashravaka Maha Vihara in Maligakanda on Thursday.

The President was received by Mahabodhi Society Chairman and Chief Sanghanayaka of Japan Ven. Banagala Upatissa Thera.

After paying a floral tribute to the memorial of Anagarika Dharmapala, President Rajapaksa planted a sapling of *Rath Handun* to mark the launch of *Suwa Dharani*, the traditional medicine preservation project by the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine.

The President who was engaged in religious observances at *Dathu Mandira* at Agrashravaka Vihara, paid a floral tribute before the Dharmapala statue in the main hall.

Ven. Upatissa Thera told the gathering that President Rajapaksa who leads the country along a nationally recognised thinking is the only leader to follow the path of Anagarika Dharmapala.

Central Bank Governor Prof. W. D. Lakshman presented the Dharmapala Commemorative Coin of Rs. 500 denomination to the President.

Sudhammika Hewawitharana, a relative of Sri-math Anagarika Dharmapala presented a souvenir with the image of Anagarika Dharmapala to the President.

President Rajapaksa presented mementos to Bodhi Chiththa Bhikkhuni, the Head of the Vietnamese delegation and to Secretary of the Mahabodhi Society Dilshan Jayasuriya.

The President launched the Relax TV channel on Peo TV 113 which will go on air under the guidance of the Board Member of the Sri Lanka Mahabodhi Society and the Chief Incumbent of the Agrasrawaka Maha Vihara, Ven. Monaragala Pannalankara Thera.

Ven. Upatissa Thera handed over 10 locally manufactured bicycles, donated by Managing Director of the Raleigh Bicycle Company J. Perumal to the Mahabodhi Society.

The Maha Sangha, including the Most Venerable Ittapanne Dhammalankara Thera, Ministers Dinesh Gunawardena, G. L. Peiris, State Ministers Nalaka Godaheva, Sisira Jayakody and UNP Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardena were also present.



The pioneer of true national thinking  
Was none other than the historical  
Hate-figure of anti-nationalists  
The great Anagarika Dharmapala  
Who engineered social reform through it  
To kindle hopes of freedom from foreign rule.  
History will recognise Dharmapala  
As perhaps the first ideological-  
Champion of the unarmed fight for freedom,  
And the first proponent of modernity  
Truly based on the Buddhist tradition.  
Though Brits and colonial parasites  
Projected him as a Don Quixote  
Tilting at windmills against an empire  
Through their vile malicious propaganda.  
Being a leader gifted with great foresight,  
He warned the majority Sinhalese  
Of a racially divided country  
Where they would be at the receiving end  
When the foreigner would leave them at last  
Unless they were united as a race.  
Today, as we can see, that prophecy  
Has come true, sad though it is to say this.  
Yet the Anagarika's life mission  
Was passing on the word of the Buddha  
Across the world for all peoples' wellbeing.  
He was convinced that Sinhala Buddhists  
Had a unique responsibility  
To protect Buddhism for the whole world  
As Lanka is the repository  
Of the Dhamma in its first pristine form  
The hallowed Theravada tradition  
Committed to writing at Matala,  
Central Sri Lanka, one hundred plus-  
Years Before the Common Era began.  
Though religions are anachronistic  
In the human reason ruled world today  
Their ethical teachings are relevant  
To their politically organised  
Adherents, while not being so to others,  
A situation that causes friction  
Usually with unholy repercussions  
That endanger the very survival  
Of the future of civilisation.  
The Buddha preached an ethical doctrine  
Whose essence is wisdom and compassion,  
Something that Albert Einstein chose to call  
A cosmic religion in the sense that  
All humans could embrace its moral code  
Based on kindness, reason, and mind culture,  
And work to create a safe peaceful world.  
Dharmapala knew this before Einstein  
As he showed in his great dedication  
For spreading the Dhamma across the globe  
Without any proselytising aim.  
Being a true disciple of the Buddha  
He didn't seek to convert non-Buddhist  
people.  
But he believed that the Dhamma was  
The Sinhala Buddhists' gift to the world  
As custodians of the pure Teaching.  
Meanwhile he was passionately concerned  
About their material wellbeing as well  
As any good Buddhist leader would be  
He advocated the education  
Of the young for acquiring good life skills  
And the study of science and technology  
In addition to cultural subjects.  
Lanka's freedom movement and its leaders  
And all patriotic politicians  
That followed in the subsequent decades  
Were deeply influenced by this great man.  
All our prime ministers and presidents  
Have been inspired by his nationalism.  
Had the Anagarika been living-  
Today, he would have highly commended  
The current President Gotabaya  
For his moral uprightness, gracefulness  
And his commitment to Buddhist values.  
All Members of Parliament on both sides,  
If they really want to serve the nation  
Ought to forget their self-centred concerns  
And serve the nation from opposite ends  
Through synergetic accommodation  
So that this fourth decisive surge that we-  
Are in the middle of making since the Year-  
The Buddha Jayanti was observed  
Towards independence from foreign sway  
In order to stand on our own two feet,  
Will not be suppressed like the previous three.  
May Peace and Progress Bloom in our Land  
Fresh and pure out of its muddy waters!



# NEUTRALISING VENOM WITH VENOM

- Dr. Anslem de Silva

By  
Frances  
Bulathsinghala



We feature this week an interview with Dr. Anslem de Silva, world renowned Sri Lankan biologist and herpetologist, who is considered the father of modern herpetology in Sri Lanka.

His many achievements include the award for outstanding performance in the field of herpetology and toxinology by the International Society of Toxinologists at the 10th World Congress of Animal, Plant and Microbial Toxins, in November 1991, University of Singapore, Singapore as well as receiving four times the Sri Lanka President's Award for Scientific Publications in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016 and in recognition of his contributions towards Herpetology of Sri Lanka being elected as an Honorary Life Member, of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. In 2019, he received the Sir Peter Scot Award of Conservation Merit, the first Sri Lankan to receive this highest IUCN award.

He is the founder and President of Amphibia and Reptile Research Organisation of Sri Lanka (ARROS). Dr. Anslem de Silva is also the regional chairman of the Crocodile Specialists Group of the IUCN, South Asia /Iran and co-chairman of Amphibian Specialist Group IUCN/SSC Sri Lanka.

He has published nearly 500 research publications (which include 60 odd books and chapters in books) on herpetofauna in Sri Lanka in the past five decades.

His current research is of the *Saratha Sangrahaya*, one of the earliest works authored by King Buddhadasa (340-368 AD) who is reputed to have surgically removed a tumour from a sick cobra.

Dr. Anslem de Silva has conducted many educational programs for traditional snake bite physicians on snakes and their main text book (Sithiyamsahitha *Visha Vadiya Chinthmani* Vol. 1 by Sisirakumar Liyanarachchi 1971) on traditional snakebite treatment is dedicated to him.

## Excerpts

**Q:** Your fields of study are herpetology, biology, taxonomy as well as Archeology and you are linking these with indigenous knowledge. You are considered the father of modern herpetology in Sri Lanka. Could you detail the beginning of this interest?

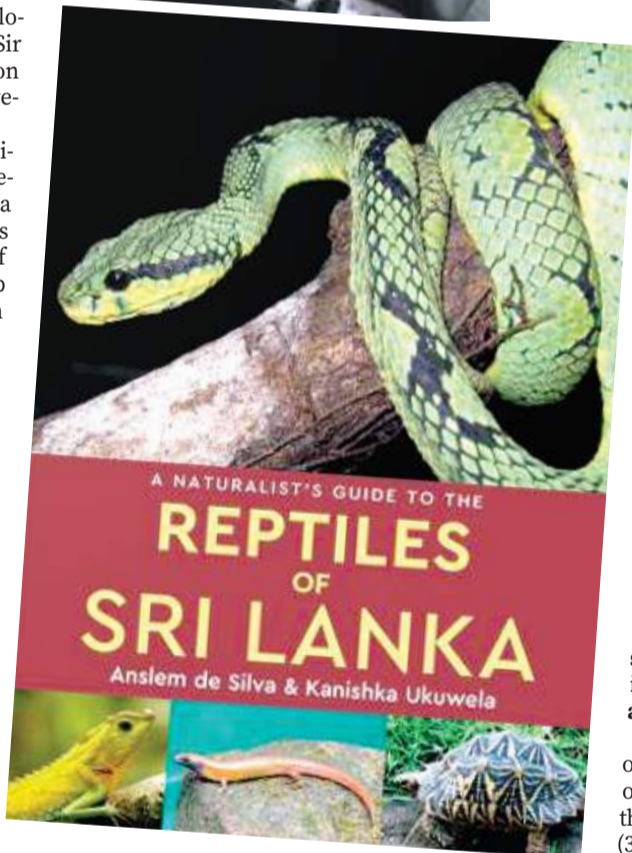
**A:** I was influenced by my father who was the Chief Clerk in the Public Works Department. He loved animals and had animals at home. He died when I was 5 years old.

We lived in Matara, our ancestral hometown, close to the sea. I used to catch small crabs in our garden and bury them thinking that they would grow and multiply. My herpetology journey started at the age of 7.

This beachfront ancestral home in the Fort, Matara, has been an abode to a few marine turtle hatchlings, star tortoises, snakes, a hatchling saltwater crocodile (*Varanus salweenensis*) and a land monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*).

My first exposure to wild turtles, terrapins and tortoises of the country was in the early 1950s when I was a student of St. Servatius' College, Matara. My everyday walk to school entailed my passing through a lonely stretch of beach front from the Matara Ramparts to the school.

Some parts of the road were flanked with scrub jungle, and the beach side with *Ipomea* and many pandana trees (*Pandanus odoratissimus*).



Morning walks to school brought me face-to-face with disoriented green turtle hatchlings (*Cheloniemydas*) straying onto the metalled road and heading landward. I would pick them up and place them near the shore facing the sea, eager to witness their race toward the waves, and watched with amazement as the hatchlings scrambled, undaunted, towards the ocean.

**Q:** Today, children grow up in artificial settings, far removed from the natural world. Yet we speak the rhetoric of sustainability. Your views?

**A:** Today's children have modern technologies: computers, smart phones, TVs by which they can learn a lot - more than what we knew -, but they will have no time to see the real nature, to live, experience and be a part of the natural world. It would be nice if teachers can take children regularly to various ecosystems so that they can experience nature. Respecting the concept of sustainability which is what our traditional way of living is about, should begin at a young age.

**Q:** It is known that the first book that influenced you to study reptiles by travelling throughout the country was *Snakes of Ceylon* written by Frank Wall. How do you rate the existence of biodiversity or ecosystems that protect snakes?

**A:** Frank Wall's *Snakes of Ceylon* (1921) was presented to me by my late brother Noel de Silva in 1958. In the long walks I have undertaken to see nature, I have seen many snakes by road side thickets. These thickets are now rare. They have been replaced

with concrete jungles.

I live in a forest garden cottage in Gampola, Kandy with a rich diversity of fauna and flora - busy with a half-acre organic farm.

What we see today is that animals are getting extinct fast due to manmade reasons - habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, invasive species, chemical agriculture, pathogens and diseases, road kills and climate change. The excessive application of agrochemicals is a key reason for the loss of biodiversity. The use of chemicals has increased over the past three decades, especially in paddy fields, vegetable and tea plantations.

Reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals get killed due to road/air traffic, pollution of marine habitat by ships and oil spills. This is a reason why most of our reptiles and amphibians are becoming critically endangered, (116 species of amphibians).

According to the IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2020), of threatened species, 72 (62%) species of amphibians in Sri Lanka are threatened with extinction, either directly or indirectly, 18 species are extinct and 20 species are critically endangered.

Of the known 221 species of reptiles, nearly 40 are critically endangered.

**Q:** Sri Lanka has had for thousands of years a precise and detailed indigenous medical system, a part of the *Deshiya Chikitsa/Sinhala Wedakam* or *Hela Wedakam* tradition that predates Ayurveda which had an intriguing branch of healing that deals with the animal world, especially snakes and pertaining to the removal of poison from the human body through diverse processes. Could you explain if/how the survival of this tradition is important for the sustainability of the ecosystem?

**A:** I am doing a research on the *Saratha Sangrahaya*, one of the earliest works authored by King Buddhadasa (340-368 AD) who is reputed to have surgically removed a tumour from a sick cobra.

Many statements in *Saratha Sangrahaya*, are what modern researchers find. Another important statement in traditional snakebite treatment is *Visen visa nasi* (to kill/neutralize venom, you need venom) - this is exactly what modern antivenom serum is doing. I conducted educational programs for traditional physicians on snakes years ago.

Their main text book on traditional snakebite treatment was dedicated to me. (Sithiyamsahitha *Visha Vadiya Chinthmani* Vol. 1 by Sisirakumar Liyanarachchi 1971).

**Q:** How many snakes are killed per day in Sri Lanka?

**A:** There are no studies on this aspect, except random studies in certain areas. For example, in 1999, I reported that road kills could cause serious problems to populations of reptiles, such as *Aspiduratrachyrocta* and *Calotesnigralabris* in Horton Plains as the number of visitors and vehicles arriving at the Horton Plains National Park kept increasing daily.

One of my herpetology students and I conducted a study on this. This research was based on a six-kilometre stretch of the road from the Matale junction to the main gate of the Rajarata University of Mihintale along the Anuradhapura-Mihintale road, which was selected to determine the pattern of reptile mortality due to road traffic.

The survey was conducted from March to December 2006. Observations were conducted by visiting the sampling area for about 15 days each

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month while cycling slowly on a push bicycle. Run-over amphibians and reptiles were photographed, and brought to the laboratory for identification and preservation. Data, such as the habitat type on either side of the road kill and the part of the body run over were recorded in a data sheet. During the study, 138 reptile road kill specimens belonging to 24 species were collected. These comprised seven agamid lizards, 11 chelonians, 10 varanids and 110 snakes. Rare species, such as the Brown Vine snake *Ahaetullapulverulenta* (Henakandaya) and a number of endemic species were included.

Of the snakes, the most frequently run over were the Buff-striped Keelback *Amphiesmastolatum* and the Checkered Keelback water snake *Xenochrophis* species. The Chelonian road kills include *Melanochelystryjughathermalis* (Spotted Black Turtle), *Geochelonelegans* (Star Tortoise) and *Lissemyspunctata* (Flapshell Turtle). No gecko or skink road kill was

found during the study. The incidence and pattern of the reptiles killed varied with the habitat type of the study site, species and age class of the reptile and the weather conditions. Based on these observations, conservation measures and recommendations to protect and decrease the number of reptiles killed on the Anuradhapura-Mihintale road by traffic have been suggested.

Herpetologist Sameera Karunaratna et al published another paper a few years ago on road traffic mortality. Many animals get killed in our roads annually.

**Q:** Are most snakes venomous or harmless?

**A:** Of the 105 species of snakes, only a few have caused deaths to humans: russells viper, two krait species, cobra and the hump nose vipers (*Polonhelisa*), but of course, the 15 odd marine snakes are highly venomous.

Many people kill harmless snakes assuming that they are venomous vipers. During the early stages of the Mahaweli project, I was a consultant on snakes and snakebite to new settlers. I can remember that most drivers purposely ran over vipers to kill them.

**Q:** Are there legal provisions to protect snakes?

**A:** According to the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, snakes are protected - but killing venomous snakes is 'allowed'. Venomous and non-venomous snakes are killed out of fear and ignorance, as a precautionary measure against snakebite.

This frequently happens in agriculture related activities e.g. harvesting, weeding, guarding fields and cutting grass. Rural domestic hazards are caused mainly by kraits (*Bungaruscaeruleus* and *B. ceylonicus*).

**Q:** Can't we train youth to save snakes? This is done by a young man in Habarana; Puthrasigamani Jeganathan, who has been saving snakes in the vicinity for no personal benefit for about two decades and has now trained a battalion of snake savers who promptly go to houses to save snakes. Jeganathan's son is also a snake saver! Can't this be done at a national level?

**A:** Yes, it should be done at a national level. This is popular in India. Wildlife Conservation Minister and the Director General can discuss with experts and start to train youths who are will-

ing to study about snakes and on saving snakes. Puthrasigamani Jeganathan is a good friend of mine.

**Q:** Why are snakes important to the eco system?

**A:** They add to the bio-diversity of the country. They help farmers by feeding on rodents. Snake venom is used in preparation of medicines. Pertaining to ecotourism - many foreign herpetologists visit Sri Lanka to see some of our endemic snakes.

**Q:** As the founder and President of the Amphibia and Reptile Research Organisation of Sri Lanka (ARROS), could you detail the functions of the organisation?

**A:** We have conducted awareness programs for the people, such as in schools and for wildlife personnel on reptiles and amphibians. We have published the first herpetological journal in the country. We also held international and national conferences on herpetology, including the World Congress of Herpetology.

**Q:** You have published almost 500 research publications related to herpetofauna over the past five decades. Could you detail a few of them important for people?

**A:** Anslem de Silva. 2003. The biology and status of the star tortoise in Sri Lanka. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

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Anslem de Silva and K. Ukuwela. 2020. A Naturalist Guide to Reptiles of Sri Lanka. (2nd Edition) John Beaufoy Publishing Ltd. UK.

De Silva, A. and Lenin, J. (2010). Muggur Crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*. Pp.94-98 in Crocodiles. Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan. Third Edition, ed. by S.C. Manolis and C. Stevenson.



WHAT WE SEE TODAY IS THAT ANIMALS ARE GETTING EXTINCT FAST DUE TO MANMADE REASONS - HABITAT LOSS AND FRAGMENTATION, POLLUTION, INVASIVE SPECIES, CHEMICAL AGRICULTURE, PATHOGENS AND DISEASES, ROAD KILLS AND CLIMATE CHANGE. THE EXCESSIVE APPLICATION OF AGROCHEMICALS IS A KEY REASON FOR THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

## Feature

By  
Rear Admiral  
Dr. Shemal  
Fernando, PhD



**PADRE PIO SAW THE IMAGE OF CHRIST IN THE POOR, THE SUFFERING, AND THE SICK AND GAVE HIMSELF PARTICULARLY TO THEM. HE ONCE SAID, "BRING GOD TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE SICK. THIS WILL HELP THEM MORE THAN ANY OTHER REMEDY."**

The feast of the virtuous Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, popularly known as Padre Pio is celebrated universally on September 23. He was born in 1887, lived 81 years and died in 1968. He was the only priest in the history of the Catholic Church to bear the stigmata – physical wounds like those suffered by Jesus Christ for a full 50 years. He was considered exceptionally holy throughout his lifetime. In one of the largest liturgies in history, Pope John Paul II canonised Padre Pio in 2002. In his homily, Pope John Paul II revealed that as a student, he had the chance to meet Padre Pio personally in 1958 in Rome and thanked God for allowing him to enter Padre Pio's name in the Book of the Blessed.

Once Padre Pio said thus, "The person who meditates and turns his mind to God, who is the mirror of his soul, seeks to know his faults, tries to correct them, moderates his impulses, and puts his conscience in order." St. Pio compared weekly confession to dusting a room weekly, and recommended the performance of meditation and self-examination twice daily: once in the morning, as preparation to face the day, and once again in the evening, as retrospection. His advice on the practical application of theology he often summed up in his quote, "Pray, Hope and Don't Worry".

### Early life and ordination to priesthood

Francesco Forgione was born to Grazio Mario Forgione (1860-1946) and Maria Giuseppa Di Nunzio (1859-1929) on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, in the Benevento region northeast of Naples. He was baptised in the nearby Santa Anna Chapel, where he later served as an altar boy. He had an older brother, Michele, and three younger sisters, Felicità, Pellegrina, and Grazia. By the time he was five, he had already made the decision to dedicate his entire life to God.

Pietrelcina was a town where feasts days of saints were celebrated throughout the year, and the Forgione family was deeply religious. They attended Holy Mass daily, recited the Rosary nightly, and abstained from meat in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

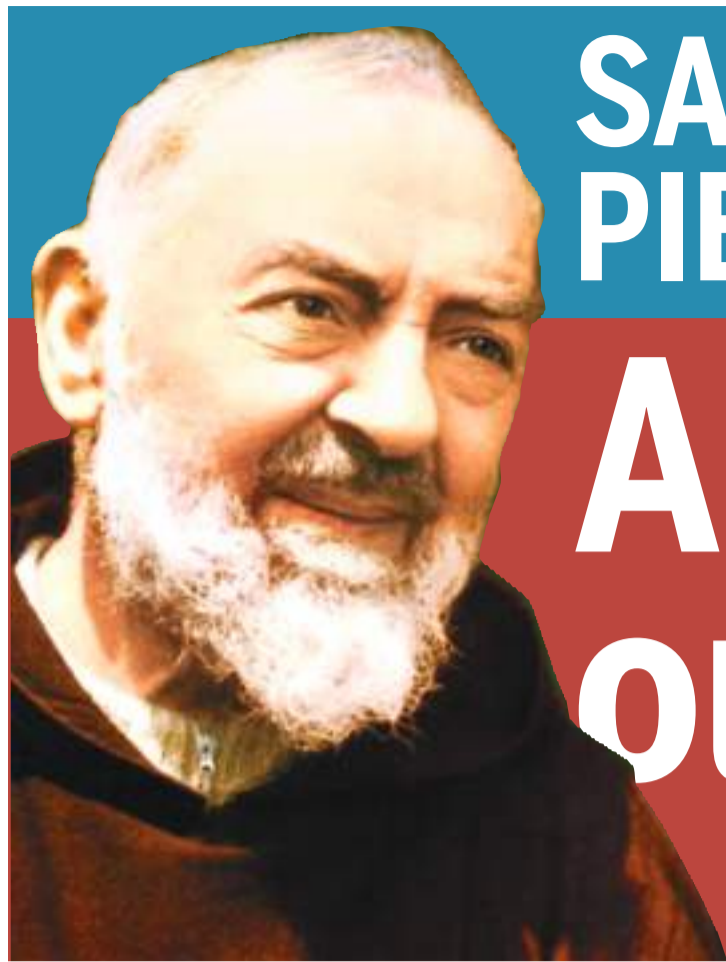
Francesco's parents and grandparents narrated Bible stories to their children. Young Francesco was afflicted with a number of illnesses.

As a youth, Francesco had experienced heavenly visions and ecstasies. In 1897, after he had completed three years at the public school, Francesco was said to have been drawn to the life of a friar after listening to a young Capuchin.

When Francesco expressed his desire to his parents, they made a trip to Morconeto find out if their son was eligible to enter the Capuchin Order and the friars there accepted him.

Francesco's father went to the United States in search of work to pay for private tutoring for his son. It was in this period that Francesco received the Sacrament of Confirmation on September 27, 1899. At 15, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin friars and took the Franciscan habit and the name of Fra (Friar) Pio. He took the simple vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Fra Pio travelled to the friary of Saint Francis of Assisi in Umbria to commence his study for the priesthood. At 17, he fell ill, complaining of loss of appetite, insomnia, exhaustion,



# SAINT PIO OF PIETRELcina:

# A Saint of our times

fainting spells and migraines. He could digest only milk and cheese. Religious devotees point to this time as when inexplicable phenomena allegedly began to occur. During prayers for example, Pio appeared to others as he was in a stupor, as if he was absent. One of Pio's fellow friars later claimed to have seen him in ecstasy, and allegedly levitating above the ground.

In 1905, Pio's health worsened to such an extent that his superiors decided to send him to a mountain convent, in the hope that the change of air would do him good. This had little impact, however, and doctors advised that he return home. Even there his health failed to improve. Yet, in 1907, he still made his solemn profession. In 1910, Pio was ordained a priest and four days later, he offered his first Holy Mass at the parish church.

In a 1911 letter, he wrote to his Spiritual Advisor, Padre Benedetto describing something he had been apparently experiencing for a year: "Then, last night something happened which I can neither explain nor understand. In the middle of the palms of my hands a red mark appeared, about the size of a penny, accompanied by acute pain in the middle of the red marks. The pain was more pronounced in the middle of the left hand, so much so that I can still feel it. Also, under my feet I can feel some pain."

### Stigmata, First World War and military service

In another letter in 1912, to his spiritual companion and confessor, Father Agostino, Fr. Pio wrote of his devotion to the mystical body of Christ and the intuition that he himself would bear the stigmata of Christ. In 1915, Fr. Pio clarified that he had been favoured with visions since his novitiate period (1903 to 1904). Although he had been granted the stigmata, he had been so terrified by the phenomenon that he begged the Lord to withdraw them. He wrote that he did not wish the pain to be removed, only the visible wounds, since he considered them an indescribable and almost unbearable humiliation.

During the World War I, on November 15, 1915, he was drafted and on December 6, assigned to the 10th Medical Corps in Naples. His health being precarious, he was permitted to remain with his family. In 1916, he returned to his community life. He moved to an agricultural community in San Giovanni Rotondo in Foggia where he remained until his death in 1968. In the priesthood, Padre Pio was known to have performed a number of successful conversions to Catholicism.

Due to poor health, he was declared unfit for war service and discharged on March 16, 1918. Peo-

ple who had started rebuilding their lives after the war began to see in him a symbol of hope.

Those close to him attest that he began to manifest several spiritual gifts, including the gifts of healing, bilocation, levitation, prophecy, miracles, extraordinary abstinence from both sleep and nourishment, ability to read hearts, gift of tongues, gift of conversions, and pleasant-smelling wounds.

On September 20, 1918, while hearing confessions, Padre Pio claimed to have had a reappearance of the physical occurrence of the stigmata. The blood flowing from the stigmata purportedly smelled of perfume or flowers. He reported that the pain was more acute on specific days and under certain circumstances. He also said that he was suffering the pain of the crown of thorns and the scourging. Though he preferred to suffer in secret, by early 1919, news had begun to spread. Padre Pio often wore red mittens or black coverings on his hands and feet.

The Vatican initially imposed severe sanctions on Padre Pio in the 1920s and it forbade him from saying Holy Mass in public, blessing people, answering letters, showing his stigmata publicly, and communicating with his Spiritual Director.

The Bishop of Volterra, Raffaele Rossi, Carmelite, was formally commissioned on June 11, 1921 to make a canonical inquiry. After eight days of investigation, he completed a benevolent report, "Fr. Pio was a good religious and the San Giovanni Rotondo convent was a good community. Whatever is extraordinary about what Fr. Pio does cannot be explained, but certainly not by the intervention of the devil, or by deception or dizzi-

ness." Rossi saw these stigmata of then 34-year-old Fr. Pio as a 'real fact'.

World War I continued and in July 1918, Pope Benedict XV, who had termed the World War "the suicide of Europe," appealed to all Christians urging them to pray for an end. On July 27 of the same year, Padre Pio offered himself as a victim for the end of the war. Days passed and between August 5 and 7, Padre Pio had a vision in which Christ appeared and pierced his side.

### Physical wound

As a result, Padre Pio claimed to have received a physical wound in his side. This occurrence is considered as a transverberation, indicating the union of love with God within Christian mysticism. In a letter to Padre Benedetto, dated August 21, 1918, Padre Pio wrote: "While I was hearing confessions on the evening of August 5, I was suddenly terrorised by the sight of a celestial person who presented himself to my mind's eye. He had in his hand a sort of weapon like a very long sharp-pointed steel blade, which seemed to emit fire. At the very instant that I saw all this, I saw that person hurl the weapon into my soul with all his might. I cried out with difficulty and felt I was dying. This agony lasted uninterruptedly until the morning of the seventh I cannot tell you how much I suffered during this period of anguish".

On September 20, 1918, accounts state that the pains of the transverberation had ceased and Pio was in "profound peace." On that day, as he was engaged in prayer in the Church of Our Lady of Grace, he received another celestial vision, which led to religious ecstasy. When the ecstasy

ended, Padre Pio claimed to have received the visible stigmata. This time, it allegedly stayed visible for the next 50 years of his life, only disappearing in the last moment of his life, leaving no trace on his skin.

By 1925, Pio had converted an old convent building into a 20-bed hospital intended primarily for people in extreme need. In 1940, Padre Pio began plans to open a hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo, to be named the 'Home to Relieve Suffering.' The hospital opened in 1956, and is considered one of the most efficient hospitals in Europe. In order that Padre Pio might directly supervise this project, Pope Pius XII, in 1957 granted him dispensation from his vow of poverty.

In 1933, Pope Pius XI ordered a reversal of the ban on Padre Pio's public celebration of Mass, arguing, "I have been badly informed." In 1934, the friar was allowed to hear confessions and also to preach. Pope Pius XII, who assumed the papacy in 1939, even encouraged devotees to visit Padre Pio. Finally, in the mid-1960s Pope Paul VI dismissed all accusations against Padre Pio.

In 1947, Father Karol Jozef Wojtyła (later Pope John Paul II) visited Padre Pio, who heard his confession. During this meeting, Padre Pio told him he would one day ascend to "the highest post in the church." Wojtyła believed that the prophecy was fulfilled when he became a cardinal. According to tradition, Bishop Wojtyła wrote to Padre Pio in 1962 to ask him to pray for Wanda Poltawska, a friend in Poland who was suffering from cancer and the cancer was apparently found to be in spontaneous remission.

In the 1999 book, Padre Pio: The Wonder Worker, an Irish priest Malachy Gerard Carroll describes the story of Gemma de Giorgi, a Sicilian girl whose blindness was believed to have been cured during a visit to Padre Pio. She was brought to San Giovanni Rotondo in 1947 by her grandmother and she was born without pupils. During her trip to see Padre Pio, the little girl began to see objects, including a steamboat and the sea. Gemma's grandmother did not believe. Padre Pio told her, "The child must not weep and neither must you for the child sees."

On September 21, 1968, the day after the fiftieth anniversary of his receiving the stigmata, Padre Pio felt great fatigue. The next day, on September 22, he was supposed to offer a Solemn Mass, but feeling weak, he asked his superior if he might say a Low Mass instead.

Due to the large number of pilgrims, Padre Pio's superior decided the Solemn Mass must proceed. Padre Pio carried out his duties but appeared extremely weak and fragile. This

was his last celebration of the Mass. Early in the morning of September 23, Padre Pio made his last confession and renewed his Franciscan vows. As was customary, he had his rosary in his hands, though he did not have the strength to say the Hail Marys aloud. Till the end, he repeated the words *Gesu, Maria* (Jesus, Mary). Just before 2:30 a.m., he said, "I see two mothers" (taken to mean his mother and Mary). At 2:30 a.m. he died in his cell in San Giovanni Rotondo. With his last breath he whispered, "Maria!"

On the day of Padre Pio's death, mystical and the Servant of God, Maria Esperanza de Bianchini from Venezia reported that he appeared to her in a vision and said, "I have come to say good-bye. My time has come. It is your turn." Her husband saw his wife's face transfigured into that of Padre Pio. On the following day, they learned that Padre Pio had died. Witnesses say they later saw Esperanza levitating during Mass and engaging in bilocation. Padre Domenico da Cese, a fellow Capuchin stigmatist, reported that on September 22, 1968, he saw Padre Pio kneeling in prayer before the Holy Face of Manoppello, although it was known that Padre Pio had not left his room.

His body was buried on September 26 in a crypt in the Church of Our Lady of Grace. His Requiem Mass was attended by over 100,000. He had often said, "After my death I will do more. My real mission will begin after my death." The accounts of those who stayed with Padre Pio till the end state that the stigmata had completely disappeared without a scar. Only a red mark "as if drawn by a red pencil" remained on his side but it disappeared.

In 1982, the Holy See authorised to open an investigation to determine whether Padre Pio should be canonised which continued for seven years. In 1990, Padre Pios was declared a Servant of God, the first step in the process of canonisation.

A discussion of the effects of his life on others followed and cases such as a reported cure of an Italian woman, Consiglia de Martino, associated with Padre Pio's intercession was focused on. In 1999, John Paul II declared Padre Pio blessed. After further consideration of Padre Pio's virtues and ability to do good even after his death, including discussion of another healing attributed to his intercession, John Paul II declared Padre Pio a saint on June 16, 2002.

### Sanctuary

Sanctuary of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, built in the village of San Giovanni Rotondo to the memory of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina. On March 3, 2008, the body of Padre Pio was exhumed from his crypt, forty years after his death, so that his remains could be prepared for display. A church statement described the body as being in 'fair condition'. On April 24 the body went on display in a crystal, marble, and silver sepulcher in the crypt of the monastery. Padre Pio has become one of the world's most popular saints.

The construction of the first church in honour of St. Pio in Sri Lanka started in 2004 in Athurugiriya and was completed in 2008. The renowned church builder and my beloved uncle, Rev. Fr. Bertram Dabrera in his capacity as the Project Director spearheaded the Herculean task at the request of the Archbishop of Colombo, the Most Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando.

He was ably supported by Rev. Fr. Kingsley Jayamanne as the Director of Finance with Gaminni Kannangara as the Director Coordinating. During the four year construction, I helped the project in numerous ways.

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina is known as the Patron Saint of Civil Defence volunteers, after a group of 160 petitioned the Italian Bishops' Conference for this designation. I firmly believe that St. Pio miraculously intervened in my life by providing a three-year stint with the Civil Defence Force in Sri Lanka at a crucial juncture in my life.

(The author holds a PhD, MPHil and double MSc; his research interests encompasses a variety of topics; he is a recipient of National and Presidential Accolades for Academic pursuits.)

BRING GOD TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE SICK. THIS WILL HELP THEM MORE THAN ANY OTHER REMEDY - PADRE PIO





Paris Saint-Germain's German midfielder Julian Draxler (R) fights for the ball with Metz's Tunisian defender Dylan Bronn (L) during the French L1 football match at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, on September 16, 2020. (AFP)

# FOOTBALL LOSES 11 BILLION TO COVID-19

FIFA on Wednesday put the cost of Covid-19 on football around the world at \$11 billion in lost revenue.

The pandemic has already led to over 150 football associations to seek financial help from the \$1.5 billion emergency relief fund set up by football's governing body.

Olli Rehn, chairman of FIFA's coronavirus steering committee, laid bare for the first time the true financial impact the virus has had on the game through fixture list chaos, empty stadiums and loss of TV rights revenue.

"It's a huge number and it covers the football economy in its entirety, including all youth academies," Rehn, a Finnish politician and governor of the Bank of Finland, told a press conference.

"This will impact next year as well, there is a carry over.

"That is why this Covid-19 relief fund is not time-bound - they may request loans later on if they need to," Rehn, who is also independent deputy

chairman of the FIFA Governance Committee, said.

He said that while Europe was hit hardest in terms of absolute cost, it was the associations outside Europe which "have suffered more".

"In particular in South America, many on account of their relative means and the spring to autumn season," he said.

Last month European Club Association chairman Andrea Agnelli predicted lost revenue of four billion euros over two years for its member clubs.

Each national association can request a FIFA grant of \$1million (\$2m for confederations) plus \$500,000 for women's football.

Loans are available to national associations up to a maximum value of \$5m (\$4m for confederations).

Rehn was at pains to stress that unlike in the past it was imperative the money made available by FIFA "is being used for the right purposes".

"Corruption has no room in foot-

ball," he stated.

"Good governance is at the heart of this Covid-19 relief fund," he said.

"We have made this clear to member associations. I know some member associations have complained about heavy compliance procedures - I'm quite used to that. We do require full compliance and we have been working with globally-known auditing companies.

He gave some examples of how the relief fund is already being put into use, like in Thailand, where it has helped restart the national league competition, including coronavirus testing, but also to implement video assistant referee (VAR) technology.

Mexico spent its entire \$1.5m grant on its national women's league, and in Brazil the funds are supporting the testing programme in the women's competition.

And in Uruguay, the money has helped the federation re-hire staff it had been forced to lay off, who were crucial to its effective operation.

## Tony Opatha: What Sri Lanka did not understand about him?

BY INDIKA WELAGEDARA

Anthony Marinon Opatha, better known as Tony Opatha, one of the greatest fast-bowling all-rounders Sri Lanka produced passed away last week at the age of 73.

He was the spearhead of the Sri Lanka bowling attack from 1970 and his hard work and determination were key factors that could not be replaced until he retired at a young age of 29 after the second World Cup in 1979. He was never dropped from the side.

Opatha played for St. Peter's College and in his very first match took six wickets for just nine runs against Thurstan College who were all out for 19. He then went on to captain St Peter's in 1967 and won the Big Match against St Joseph's taking seven wickets in the match while breaking into the club scene with Saracens at the age of 17.

Opatha then moved to play for SSC and in his very first match plucked 7 for 39 before joining CCC for one season. They bowled out Tamil Union for just 9 runs, the lowest score in domestic cricket



Tony Opatha

where Opatha had six wickets for 2 runs.

He then joined Air Force and captained them in the Sara Trophy tournament and in Sri Lanka's first unofficial Test against Pakistan in 1974 at Lahore, Opatha took eight wickets and made 33.

A year later Opatha with a sensational bowling performance against a strong West Indies side led by Clive Lloyd at the P. Sara Oval in 1975 took four scalps that included Viv Richards to dismiss

them for 119. Opatha also coached his alma mater for three years at a time when they became the best all-island team with Rohan Bultjens as captain and he also had the distinction of coaching the rival Joes for three years.

But Opatha's wonderful career was hampered by the rebel tour to South Africa in October 1982, which he and 13 other Sri Lanka cricketers undertook only to return and be banned for 25 years.

Speaking about the rebel tour to the South African media Opatha very correctly said: "They can come and see the way the Sri Lankan people live. Then they will certainly tell that we were trying to make a living. I have to feed my family and I have to go out to make a living for my family first. I'm not going to please the whole world, I have to please myself first. Like you said charity begins at home. And it doesn't begin around the world. If you could tell me a sportsman who is in sport just for fun; then I'll call him a liar. Because today (1982) the name of sport is money."

He was the father of four daughters.





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## Cricket in Kandy sees a silver lining

By Hafiz Marikar



Thanks to the Kandy District Cricket Association, the sport is showing signs of developing well at club level and history says cricket was once one of the popular sports of Kandy.

There used to be a strong cricket culture in Kandy in those days with the Belmont Cricket Club, Tioga Cricket Club and St George's Club as some of the famous teams of that era.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa whose vision is to uplift the standard of school cricket in the country will be one of the key players in its progress along with Sri Lanka Cricket.

The cricket loving public in Kandy will be benefited by this fine gesture by Sri Lanka Cricket honoring the proposals of the Central Province which will benefit outstation cricket. It will be a great opportunity for up-and-coming cricketers to upgrade their playing standards and create a pathway to play a higher level of cricket.

It has also been a long felt need for the Kandy District Cricket Association to obtain an Indoor Facility.

In the past players of the calibre of Muttiah Muralidaran, Ruwan Kalpage, Piyal Wijetunga, Mahesh Gunatil-

lake, ACM Lafeer, Marlon Von Haught and Bernard Perera from St. Anthony's College, TB Kehelgamuwa, Sonny Yatawara, Chamara Kapugedera, Sadun Weerakkody from Dharmaraja College, Ravi Ratnayake, Nilantha Rathnayake, Kumar Sangakkara, Kaushalya Weeraratne, Sachith Pathirana, Niroshan Dickwella, Lahiru Kumar from Trinity College, Nihal Samarasekera, Ishak Shahabdeen from St. Sylvester's College, Kosala Kulasekera from Vidyarthi College, Asela Gunaratne from Sri Rahula College represented Sri Lanka at various levels.

In a district that has produced so many cricketers, the administration lacks the facilities for schools, clubs and district squads that take part in tournaments organized by Sri Lanka Cricket and the Sri Lanka Schools Association. Many young school leavers who can afford to settle down in Colombo play a higher level of cricket while the others give up the game since there is no major club to play at the highest level.

Sri Lanka Cricket president Shammi Silva visited Kandy recently and observed the proposed location of a three acre land along with Provincial and District officials that has been earmarked for development to be ready by 2021.

With a view of promoting outstation cricket and providing an opportunity for up-and-coming cricketers to upgrade

their standards the recommended proposals will be implemented in the Kandy district within a short period of time.

A modern Indoor Facility with 10 pitches, ten side turf pitches, two Astro turf pitches and two matting side nets are among the requirements.

Further infrastructure facilities will be developed at the Palkelele stadium to benefit schools in the outskirts of Kandy along with turf pitches at St. Sylvester's College and a sprinkler system at the Asgiriya Trinity College ground.

Thanks to the good work of the Kandy District Cricket Association officials, specially Roland Perera the president, Malcom Perera vice president and Janaka Pathirana the secretary competitive cricket is taking root once again.

In total 30 teams are participating, namely Kandy Cricket Club, Old Trinitians SC, Old Antonians SC, Kandy Youth CC, Old Rajans SC, Madawala United SC, Galagedera CC, Prisons SC, Old Sylvestrians SC, Ekamuthu SC, Visuvius SC, Saracens CC, Gampola CC, Southerland SC, Liverpool SC, Zelincans SC, Blue Universal, Kandy Bloomfield SC, Old Zahirians SC, Black Egale SC, Old Bahuvannas SC, Onslaught CC, Kandy Academy CC, University Staff SC, Madawella United SC, Kandy Doctors CC, Kotmale CC, University SC, Kandy Zeylanikans CC and Galhinna CC are up against one another.

## Matara athletes bestowed with Colours

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Athletes in the Matara district were honoured at their annual Colours Awards ceremony conducted by the Matara District Athletic Association held last week at the Grand Navro Hall Beach Road Matara.

Altogether 39 school athletes received Colours along with 47 junior athletes.

Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma was the Chief Guest on this occasion and encouraged the young athletes to pursue with their

hopes and dreams while special merit awards were bestowed on Asian high jump medal winner Manjula Kumara Wijesekara who is a product of Vijitha MMV Dickwella, South Asian medal winners Tharanga Vinodini, Safreen Ahamad and Asian Cross Country medal winner Hasanthi Madumali from Sujatha Vidyalaya Matara.

Also felicitated were senior coaches Nihal Abeywickrema and DSK Gamage while special merit awards were presented to National athletic coach YK Kularatne, Ruhunu University senior sport consultant KH Keerthi

Kumara and Matara district athletic coach Lal Abeywickrama. Former Southern Province Sports Director Felicia Jayawardena and newly appointed Director General of the Sports Medicine Institute of the Sports Ministry Dr Lal Ekanayake who is the present President of the Matara District Athletic Association were also among the special merit award recipients.

The new web site of Matara district Athletic Association was launched by the Chief Guest Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma at this occasion.



National athletic coach YK Kularatne receiving his special merit award from Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma

## 32 academies to contest U-19 football

BY RUZAIK FAROOK

The Sri Lanka Football Academy Association (SLFAA) has organized an Under 19 Academy Cup tournament for the first time starting November 1 at the Race Course Ground, Colombo.

A media briefing on the event was held at the Akram Foundation Auditorium,

Maradana and the president of the SLFAA Mohamed Akram said that entries for the championship close on September 30.

The tournament will be held with the participation of 32 academies and the final will be on December 5. Entry forms could be obtained from the SLFAA office, Akram Foundation, 83, Maligakanda Road, Maradana, Colombo 10.

## Book on sports poems by journalist

Veteran sports journalist Nisman Ranasinghe will be launching his second book "Sports Kavi" a unique book of Sinhala poems on sports personalities on September 27 at the Duncan White Auditorium.

The book is dedicated to former na-

tional track and field coach and Director of Sports Yogananda Wijesundara, who passed away last year.

"I am dedicating the book to Wijesundara coach and he valued sports literature very much," said Ranasinghe.

# SPORTS



## INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2020

September 19 - November 10, 2020  
 -The Indian Premier League season begins with defending champions Mumbai Indians playing last year's finalists Chennai Super Kings. The delayed competition will be played across the UAE, with Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi hosting the matches.

### TEAMS

**CHENNAI SUPER KINGS**  
 CAPTAIN: MS DHONI  
 COACH: STEPHEN FLEMING

PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	N/R	CHAMPION
165	100	63	1	1	3 (2010, 2011, 2018)

#### TEAM STATS

Highest Score: **MURALI VIJAY** 127  
 Best Bowling: **RAVINDRA JADHAV** 5/16

**DELHI CAPITALS**  
 CAPTAIN: SHREYAS IYER  
 COACH: RICKY PONTING

PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	N/R	CHAMPION
177	76	97	2	2	NO

#### TEAM STATS

Highest Score: **RISHAB PANT** 128  
 Best Bowling: **AMIT MISHRA** 5/17

**KINGS XI PUNJAB**  
 CAPTAIN: KL RAHUL

PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	N/R	CHAMPION
176	80	94	2	0	NO

#### TEAM STATS

Highest Score: **VIRENDER SEHWAG** 122  
 Best Bowling: **ANKIT RAJPOOT** 5/14

**KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS**  
 CAPTAIN: DINESH KARTHIK  
 COACH:

PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	N/R	CHAMPION
178	92	83	3	0	(2012/2014)

#### TEAM STATS

Highest Score: **BRENDON MCCULLUM** 158\*  
 Best Bowling: **SUNIL NARINE** 5/19

**MUMBAI INDIANS**  
 CAPTAIN: ROHIT SHARMA  
 COACH:

PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	N/R	CHAMPION
187	107	78	2	0	4 (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019)

#### TEAM STATS

Highest Score: **SANATH JAYASURIYA** 114\*  
 Best Bowling: **ALZARRI JOSEPH** 6/12



### MATCHES SCHEDULE

19 September - 19:30 (D/N) Mumbai Indians VS Chennai Super Kings	16 October - 19:30 (D/N) Mumbai Indians VS Kolkata Knight Riders	23 October - 19:30 (D/N) Chennai Super Kings VS Mumbai Indians
20 September - 19:30 (D/N) Delhi Capitals VS Kings XI Punjab	17 October - 15:30 (D/N) Rajasthan Royals VS Royal Challengers Bangalore	24 October - 15:30 (D/N) Kolkata Knight Riders VS Delhi Capitals
21 September - 19:30 (D/N) Sunrisers Hyderabad VS Royal Challengers Bangalore	17 October - 19:30 (D/N) Chennai Super Kings VS Delhi Capitals	24 October - 19:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Sunrisers Hyderabad
22 September - 19:30 (D/N) Rajasthan Royals VS Chennai Super Kings	18 October - 15:30 (D/N) Sunrisers Hyderabad VS Kolkata Knight Riders	25 October - 15:30 (D/N) Royal Challengers Bangalore VS Chennai Super Kings
23 September - 19:30 (D/N) Kolkata Knight Riders VS Mumbai Indians	18 October - 19:30 (D/N) Mumbai Indians VS Kings XI Punjab	25 October - 19:30 (D/N) Rajasthan Royals VS Mumbai Indians
24 September - 19:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Royal Challengers Bangalore	19 October - 19:30 (D/N) Royal Challengers Bangalore VS Chennai Super Kings	26th October - 19:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Kolkata Knight Riders
25 September - 19:30 (D/N) Chennai Super Kings VS Delhi Capitals	20 October - 19:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Delhi Capitals	27 October - 19:30 (D/N) Sunrisers Hyderabad VS Delhi Capitals
26 September - 19:30 (D/N) Kolkata Knight Riders VS Sunrisers Hyderabad	21 October - 19:30 (D/N) Kolkata Knight Riders VS Royal Challengers Bangalore	28 October - 19:30 (D/N) Mumbai Indians VS Royal Challengers Bangalore
27 September - 19:30 (D/N) Rajasthan Royals VS Kings XI Punjab	22 October - 19:30 (D/N) Rajasthan Royals VS Sunrisers Hyderabad	29 October - 19:30 (D/N) Kolkata Knight Riders VS Chennai Super Kings
28 September - 19:30 (D/N) Royal Challengers Bangalore VS Mumbai Indians		30 October - 19:30 (D/N) Rajasthan Royals VS Kings XI Punjab
29 September - 19:30 (D/N) Delhi Capitals VS Sunrisers Hyderabad		31 October - 15:30 (D/N) Delhi Capitals VS Mumbai Indians
30 September - 19:30 (D/N) Rajasthan Royals VS Kolkata Knight Riders		31 October - 19:30 (D/N) Royal Challengers Bangalore VS Sunrisers Hyderabad
1 October - 19:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Mumbai Indians		1 November - 19:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Chennai Super Kings
2 October - 19:30 (D/N) Chennai Super Kings VS Sunrisers Hyderabad		1 November - 19:30 (D/N) Kolkata Knight Riders VS Rajasthan Royals
3 October - 15:30 (D/N) Royal Challengers Bangalore VS Rajasthan Royals		2 November - 19:30 (D/N) Royal Challengers Bangalore VS Delhi Capitals
3 October - 19:30 (D/N) Delhi Capitals VS Kolkata Knight Riders		3 November - 19:30 (D/N) Sunrisers Hyderabad VS Mumbai Indians
4 October - 15:30 (D/N) Mumbai Indians VS Sunrisers Hyderabad		
4 October - 19:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Chennai Super Kings		
5 October - 19:30 (D/N) Delhi Capitals VS Royal Challengers Bangalore		
6 October - 19:30 (D/N) Mumbai Indians VS Rajasthan Royals		
7 October - 19:30 (D/N) Chennai Super Kings VS Kolkata Knight Riders		
8 October - 19:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Sunrisers Hyderabad		
9 October - 19:30 (D/N) Delhi Capitals VS Rajasthan Royals		
10 October - 15:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Kolkata Knight Riders		
10 October - 19:30 (D/N) Chennai Super Kings VS Royal Challengers Bangalore		
11 October - 15:30 (D/N) Sunrisers Hyderabad VS Rajasthan Royals		
11 October - 19:30 (D/N) Mumbai Indians VS Delhi Capitals		
12 October - 19:30 (D/N) Royal Challengers Bangalore VS Kolkata Knight Riders		
13 October - 19:30 (D/N) Sunrisers Hyderabad VS Chennai Super Kings		
14 October - 19:30 (D/N) Delhi Capitals VS Rajasthan Royals		
15 October - 19:30 (D/N) Kings XI Punjab VS Royal Challengers Bangalore		

#### PRELIMINARY

Qualifier 1 November 19:30 (D/N) 1st placed team VS 2nd placed team	Eliminator November 19:30 (D/N) 3rd placed team VS 4th placed team
Qualifier 2 November 19:30 (D/N) Loser of Qualifier 1 VS Winner of Eliminator	<b>FINAL</b> 10 November 19:30 (D/N) Winner of Qualifier 1 VS Winner of Qualifier 2

The 60-match tournament will take place without spectators at three 'bio-secure' venues - Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah Cricket Stadium and the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

#### HIGHEST NUMBER OF WICKETS IN IPL

Lasith Malinga (Mumbai Indians)  
**WICKETS: 170** MATCHES : 122  
 OVERS : 47/1



The IPL, which usually takes place between March and May, has been delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

#### MOST RUNS IN IPL

Virat Kohli (Royal Challengers Bangalore)  
**RUNS: 5412** MATCHES : 177  
 INNINGS : 169

#### TEAM COMPOSITION RULES (AS OF 2020 SEASON)

- The squad strength must be between 19 and 25 players, with a maximum of 8 overseas players.
- Salary cap of the entire squad must not exceed US\$12 million.
- Under-19 players cannot be picked unless they have previously played first-class or List A cricket.
- A team can play a maximum of 4 overseas players in their playing eleven.

**RAJASTHAN ROYALS**  
 CAPTAIN: STEVEN SMITH  
 COACH: PADDY UPTON

PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	N/R	CHAMPION
147	73	69	3	2	1 (2008)

#### TEAM STATS

Highest Score: **AJINKYA RAHANE** 105\*  
 Best Bowling: **SOHAIL TANVIR** 6/14

**SUNRISERS HYDERABAD**  
 CAPTAIN: DAVID WARNER  
 COACH: TOM MOODY

PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	N/R	CHAMPION
108	57	49	2	0	1 (2016)

#### TEAM STATS

Highest Score: **DAVID WARNER** 126  
 Best Bowling: **BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR** 5/19

**ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE**  
 CAPTAIN: VIRAT KOHLI  
 COACH: SIMON KATCH

PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	N/R	CHAMPION
181	83	92	2	4	NO

#### TEAM STATS

Highest Score: **CHRIS GAYLE** 175\*  
 Best Bowling: **ANIL KUMBLE** 5/5



## Love hate relationship

The Aussies have always captured the attention of Sri Lankan cricket fans. We have had a love-hate relationship as well. Australia is always a hard side to beat in whatever form of cricket they play in.

Be it T20, limited over or Test cricket. They may lose a game or two, yet they have the will-power and the determination to come from behind and win the most important game.

They proved this once again when after losing the first two games in the T20 series to England, they came back strongly to win the final game and with it regain the top spot in the T20 rankings, putting to second England.

At one time chasing a modest 146 for victory and being 70 for one it looked as they would cruise to victory. But then a sudden collapse saw them tottering at 87 for 4 and looking on the skids of defeat.

It was then that Mitchell Marsh the hard hitting right hand batsman and son of former Aussie opener Geoff Marsh with 39 not out which was a most valuable knock took Australia past the line with support from Ashton Agar 16 not out that saw the Aussies to a nail-biting victory with three balls to spare. England made 145 in 20 and Australia made 146 for 5 in 19.3 overs.

This Aussie victory is all the more creditable considering that they had dropped their mauler of bowlers left handed David Warner. It was too much of a risk to take because Warner has the ability to win a game off his own bat. It is said that those who dare win and the Aussie selectors in believing in this saying and daring won the all important game without Warner.

"Six months is a long time without cricket so it's great to get the opportunity today. It's nice to finish off the series and nice to contribute," Marsh who was Player of the Match told Sky Sports.

In the first two games of this one-day series, the Australian batsmen were on top of the England attack and seemed to be motoring to victory. But the England bowlers posted road blocks at important junctures and the Aussie batsmen were stranded and had to reluctantly concede victory.

But when it came to the final and most important game there was no stopping the rampaging Aussies. Congratulations to the Aussies for regaining the top spot in T20 ranking from England.

Opatha passes away  
It is with great grief that this column records the passing away of former Sri Lanka cricketer allrounder Anthony Tony Opatha after a sudden alleged heart attack last week.

The passing away of Opatha came as a shock to his many cricketing colleagues and friends who knew him and kept his interesting company.

Opatha although he gave up the game after the controversial rebel tour of South Africa, kept himself fit and healthy coaching many schools including his old school St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya.

After excelling at SPC he played for SSC, CCC and also Saracens in top division cricket and was a strong allrounder and took a lot of wickets with his devastating medium pace swing bowling and big hitting as a right hand batsman. He played in the first two World Cups in England in 1975 and 1979.

He had a mind of his own and a courage of his convictions and a rebel in his own right, even if his convictions were against the grain. He is best remembered when he shook the local cricket world by organizing and taking a rebel team of cricketers to South Africa.

South Africa was removed from all international sport because of its inhuman apartheid policies and being starved of cricket they lured cricketers to tour with an attractive deal.

The temptation was far too great to say no when Opatha was approached by the South African agents and he fell prey and promising some of the outstanding cricketers big money, he secretly winged a team to South Africa.

Sri Lanka had only just attained Test status and this rebel tour shook the local cricket board and put its cricket a near 25 years back and the local cricket board headed by former Minister Gamini Dissanayake had no option but to slap a ban of 25 years on those who toured.

But Opatha did not regret because he had the courage to stand by his conviction and the heaps of criticism he and the rebel cricketers received did not deter them.

Sri Lanka lost four promising cricketers who went on that tour, Mahesh Gunetilleke, Anura Ranasinghe, Bernard Perera and Ajit de Silva.

Regardless of all this Opatha was well regarded in social and cricketing circles. He will be missed.

erodrigopulle@gmail.com

# WHILE OTHERS FALL WE STAND FOR ALL

By  
**Dinesh Weerawansa**



The long-awaited 42nd Observer -Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year contests have been fixed to be held in mid-November, no sooner the GCE Advanced Level examination is over. The Mega Show has been planned to be held at the BMICH.

Schoolboy and schoolgirl cricketers who will carry away the top awards were picked last Friday by officials of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) and Cricket Umpires Association at a meeting at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo. The distinguished panel was chaired by Ashantha de Mel, the chairman of the National Selection Committee.

Having De Mel as chairman of the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy and Schoolgirl Cricketers of the Year was a fitting tribute to one of Sri Lanka's top fast bowlers in the early Test era.

As Sri Lanka's bowler who sent down the first ever over in the inaugural Test against England in 1982, he also captured the country's first Test wicket, that of Geoff Cook. In fact, Sri Lanka played its inaugural Test four years after the Observer Cricketer of the Year contest was inaugurated.

Ashantha Lakdasa Francis de Mel, who had the honour of bowling Sri Lanka's first ball in a Test match, was one of the few Sri Lanka bowlers in the 1980s who bowled above medium pace. He also had the ability to bowl a well disguised out-swing that baffled batsmen.

He had his early education at Ispathana College, Colombo up to Ordinary Level and then moved to Royal College Colombo. The most notable event as a bowler came at the 1983 World Cup in England, where he made maximum use of the seaming conditions to bag his only two ODI five-wicket-hauls. At Headingley against Pakistan, he took five for 39 and once again took five wickets - this time for only 32 runs, as New Zealand crumbled to 181 and Sri Lanka won the match by three wickets, their only win in the tournament in Derby.

He ended the 1983 World Cup

**WE HAVE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED THESE EVENTS AS THE MOTHER OF ALL SHOWS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE TEENAGERS. BUT THE RIVAL EVENTS WILL NOT BE AT PLAY THIS TIME AS THEIR SPONSORS SEEM TO HAVE ENDED THEIR INNINGS DUE TO LACK OF MILEAGE OWING TO THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN**



**Former Sri Lanka paceman and Chairman of national selectors Ashantha de Mel was the head of the selection committee which picked the winners of the Observer-Mobitel contest along with the SLSCA and Umpire Association**

having Sri Lanka's best bowling figures in every match. He was the tournament's second highest wicket taker with 17 wickets, one behind champion India's Roger Binny. His international career ended in 1987 due to a knee injury.

The SLSCA delegation at Friday's selection committee meeting was led by its president Thilak Waththuhewa, Principal of Nalanda Vidyalaya. Apart from the SLSCA top officials, several umpires and batsman.lk officials also supported the panel with their statistical data in picking the winners.

Rewarding schoolboy cricketers at the end of each season was first moved by Sri Lanka's flagship English newspaper Sunday Observer with the inaugural show taking place in 1978/79.

From its humble beginnings at the Nawarangahala to the posh Grand Ballroom of the Colombo Hilton, the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year contest has gone from strength to strength via the BMICH and Galadari Hotel. But for a longer duration, the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer show has been associated with the BMICH - the venue for this year's event too.

Returning to the BMICH was mainly due to the fact that it has the capacity to accommodate a large gathering in keeping with the Government's Health Ministry regulations after the Covid-19 pandemic. Hence, the Mega Show that was originally held at the BMICH will return to the same arena for its second innings.

The Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy and Schoolgirl Cricketers of the Year has improved in every aspect to become the best in rewarding the champion of champions. Even the initial sponsor Haliborange to Bata Shoe Company and current sponsor SLT Mobitel, the quality and standards of the contest has improved every year since Sri Lanka's first school cricket awards show.

A couple of competitive shows which copied the Mega Show are not rewarding cricketers this year. We have always encouraged these events as the Mother of All Shows for the benefit of the teenagers. But the rival events will not be at play this time as their sponsors seem to have ended their innings due to lack of mileage owing to the Covid-19 lockdown.

Nevertheless, the sponsor of the Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year show - SLT Mobitel played a straight bat with the Sunday Observer to maintain the uninterrupted run of the event for the 42nd year. Thus, the 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricket-

er of the Year will be the only formal school cricket awards show for the year 2020.

Hence, this event has turned out to become the showpiece of Sri Lanka school cricket that has given birth to legendary cricketers from Asia Cup winners to World champs, man of the series winners at ICC World Cup tournaments, highest wicket taker in Test cricket, Chief ICC Match Referee and the best umpire in the ICC elite panel.

These are some of the memorable happenings

among many that tell how the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year contest has been associated with Sri Lanka cricket history.

It has been the feeder pool for the national team, providing an ideal opportunity for the next generation of cricketers once they graduate from the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 'cricketing university'.

Organized by the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL), the event is sponsored by the country's national mobile service pro-

vider Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel for the 13th successive year. Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom and SLT Mobitel Rohan Fernando and SLT Mobitel CEO Nalin Perera have given their maximum financial backing to keep the Mega Show alive.

The Sunday Observer realized the need to reward the raw talent of the country's schoolboy cricketers way back in 1978-79 at a time when there had been no organized inter-school cricket tournaments, apart from the traditional first XI matches between the leading schools.

With the introduction of the Show and its expansion it has a separate segment for outstation schoolboy cricketers and it went a long way in inspiring players from remote areas to showcase their talent.

The ANCL Chairman and board of directors have always given their best support to keep the Mega Show alive. Chairman/CEO W. Dayaratne, President's Counsel, together with Director Editorial Dharma Sri Kariyawasam, Director Legal and Administration Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana, Director Finance Janaka Ranatunga and Director Operations Canishka Witharana have helped this show to go from strength to strength.

42<sup>nd</sup> OBSERVER MOBILTEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2020  
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## 42<sup>nd</sup> OBSERVER-MOBILTEL Most Popular School Cricketer 2020

Vote for your favourite Schoolboy/Schoolgirl Cricketer and elevate him/her to win the prestigious OBSERVER-MOBILTEL Most Popular Schoolboy/Girl Cricketer of the Year title.

Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer 2020

Cricketers from schools competing in Division one, two and three of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2019/20 are eligible to be voted.

Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer 2020

Schoolgirl Cricketers from schools competing in all Island school's of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2019/20 are eligible to be voted.

Nominee  
Boy : .....  
Divisions for Boy : Division I  Division II  Division III   
All Island Girl : .....  
(Each coupon must contain only one vote)  
School : .....  
Sender's Name : .....  
Address : .....  
Mobile No. : .....

Vote online now: [vote.schoolcricketer.lk](http://vote.schoolcricketer.lk)

One Sunday Observer coupon valid as three votes: Other papers one vote.

Win prizes in the weekly coupon draw:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize : Mobitel 4G Wi-Fi router    2<sup>nd</sup> Prize : Rs. 2,500  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize : Rs. 1,500    4<sup>th</sup> Prize : Rs. 1,000

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Most Popular Schoolboy/girl Cricketer Contest is now on. Mail the completed coupon to the SPORTS EDITOR, SUNDAY OBSERVER, LAKE HOUSE, COLOMBO 10.

CONDITIONS:

Children of Lake House & Mobitel staff are not eligible to participate in the competition.

Each coupon must contain only one vote for one player and for one contest.

In all matters connected with the contest, the decision of the Sports Editor, SUNDAY OBSERVER is final.

DATE 26-09-2020

NO. 29

Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer		
1. Anuda Jayaweera (Ananda College)	72,234	
2. Shehan Fernando (St. Benedict's College)	70,671	
3. Lohan de Soya (Dharmasoka College)	68,056	
4. Sukitha Manoj (St. Sebastian's College)	66,108	
5. Thevindu Seneviratne (Royal College)	58,899	
6. Ahan Wickramasinghe (Royal College)	54,612	
7. Ranudha Somaratne (Trinity College)	49,301	
8. Dunith Wellalage (St. Joseph's College)	49,118	
9. Kanishka Rantillekege (Ananda College)	44,631	
10. Dimuth Sandaruwan (Richmond College)	35,713	
11. Nipun Dananjaya (St. Joseph Yaz College)	29,321	
12. Navod Paranaivithana (Mahinda College)	25,258	
13. Ruchira Adikari (Anuradhapura Central)	21,914	
14. Bhanuka Manohara (Richmond College)	21,714	
15. Pawantha Weerasinghe (Ananda Sastralaya)	18,358	
16. Ruwin Peiris (Trinity College)	18,038	
17. Vanuja Kumara (St. Peter's College)	15,831	
18. Ashen Daniel (St. Joseph's College)	15,079	
19. Savindu Perera (Maris Stella College)	13,101	
20. Dilmin Ratnayake (S. Thomas' College)	11,673	
21. Matheesha Pathirana (Trinity College)	10,561	
22. Nikil Sashmitha (Tissa Central Kalutara)	9,991	
23. Abishek Anandakumar (Trinity College)	9,615	

Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer		
1. Renuka Damayanthi (Bandaranayake MV)	50,108	
2. Nimesha Wijesundera (Marapola MV)	49,347	
3. Suranja Lakmali (Gonapola BMV)	47,906	
4. Janadi Anali (Anula Vidyalaya)	40,078	
5. Sachini Nethmini (Wadduwa Central)	39,563	
6. Umsha Himeshani (Devapathiraja Vidyalaya)	31,679	
7. Kavisha Dilhari (Devapathiraja Vidyalaya)	23,508	

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## SPORT

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

## IGALAGAMAGE COMES CLOSE TO GRABBING ELITE SLOT

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka may have discovered a batsman that is just the kind of stroke-maker who can open the innings as a solid hitter of the ball and a mainstay at the crease in Test or ODI cricket in the form of Lahiru Igalagamage who bowed out as the leading run-maker in the inter club championships.

Representing NCC the right hand opening batsman Igalagamage became the highest individual scorer of the recently concluded Premier League Tier A club cricket tournament with 1039 runs in nine matches with an average of 86.58. This was a remarkable achievement for the lesser known 26-year old who has now been drafted into a preliminary 23-member squad for an upcoming home Test series against Bangladesh.

“My dream is to catch the eye of the National selectors to open the batting for my country in both Test and one day cricket,” said Igalagamage. “From the very start of the season I had good confidence to reach the 1000-run mark”.

Last season (2018-19) Igalagamage piled up 861 runs to be placed fifth among the highest run scores in this same tournament with a century and seven half centuries to his credit and this season he finished with a career-best 290 not out against Ragama CC which spoke wonders of his talent.

He even surpassed the established Test batsman Dinesh Chandimal who was pushed into second place with 1027 runs in the concluded championship. On his

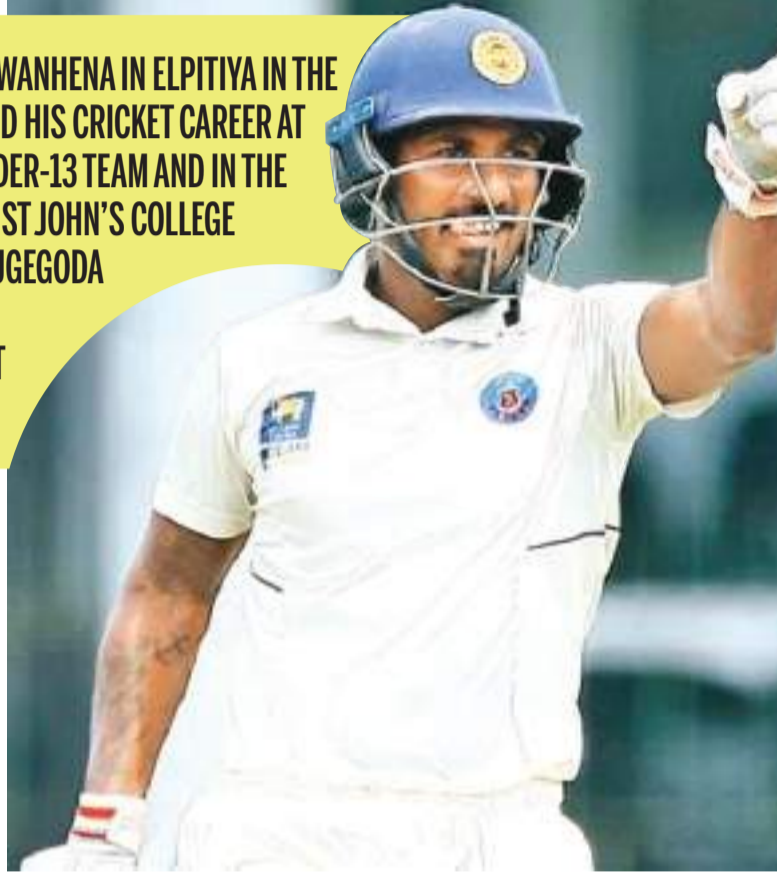
**BORN IN THE VILLAGE OF BATUWANHENA IN ELPITIYA IN THE DISTRICT OF GALLE, HE STARTED HIS CRICKET CAREER AT ANANDA VIDYALAYA IN THE UNDER-13 TEAM AND IN THE SAME YEAR CROSSED OVER TO ST JOHN'S COLLEGE IN COLOMBO'S DOWNTOWN NUGEGODA FROM WHERE HE ROSE IN THE RANKS TO THE UNDER-19 FIRST ELEVEN TEAM**

way to making 1039 runs Igalagamage plundered one double century, two hundreds and six fifties.

Igalagamage made his First Class debut in 2014 playing for NCC against CCC and fell two runs short of a half century taking the crease as a number three batsman on the occasion. In his 53 First Class matches played to-date he has 3401 runs with six centuries and 16 fifties.

Igalagamage is somewhat of a stranger playing against the big names in Colombo. Born in the village of Batuwahena in Elpitiya in the district of Galle, he started his cricket career at Ananda Vidyalaya in the under-13 team and in the same year crossed over to St John's College in Colombo's downtown Nugegoda from where he rose in the ranks to the Under-19 First Eleven team.

He hammered three centuries playing in the Under-17 team that won the Championship from eight matches to be adjudged the



Lahiru Igalagamage

Sunday Observer runner-up in the best batsman category among the outstation schools.

The turning point of the cricket career came when he enrolled at NCC to play in the Under-23 tournament with Duminda Perera as his coach.

His performances took him to membership in the senior team to play alongside Upul Tharanga,

Niroshan Dickwella, Lasith Malinga and Angelo Perera.

He had a first taste of Sri Lanka cricket playing for the Emerging as well as the A team and his current performances in the domestic scene makes him a potential candidate to open the batting as the selectors have yet to find a suitable bet to partner Dimuth Karunaratne.

## Asian yachting championships to be finalized next week

BY KASUN IRUGALBANDARA

The Yachting Association of Sri Lanka (YASL) will take a final decision next week on whether to conduct the International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA) approved Asian and Oceania Sailing Championship in Sri Lanka.

The YASL is also waiting for confirmation from the participants before going ahead in conducting the event. Acquiring the Optimist boats from India will also take two months in which case the event will be held in December.

“We have held discussions with hotels regarding the hosting of the event and Cinnamon Lakeside hotel is ready to extend their support to make it a success. The advice from the health sector will also be sought to conduct the event. If these areas are cleared we can

go ahead with the event,” an official of the YASL told the Sunday Observer.

There were some 125 entries at the beginning of this year for this event and the Covid-19 pandemic reduced the number of entries to 65 by last week.

“If the event is cancelled the YASL has to refund the entry fees to the participants. Each entry fee cost US\$ 800 and with the high exchange rate the Association will be burdened by a heavy loss. Rental of each boat cost \$600 and we have to provide all facilities too to a competitor,” he said.

“We need to organize this event before the year ends. Sailing is one event that promotes tourism in the country.”

Some participants have begun training at the Bolgoda Lake while the Navy camp in Crow Island at Mattakkuliya is not opened for training yet.

## Eagle Logistics win MCA title

Eagle Logistics emerged champion of the 18th DPGC Challenge Trophy MCA E division 25-over League Tournament at the MCA last week.

Eagle Logistics beat Allianz Insurance by 48 runs in the final.

Eagle Logistics won the toss and elected batting first and scored 144 for 7 in 25 overs. Opener Dineth Thimodya scored 52 in 61 balls while Dulaj Egodage made 44.

Allianz Insurance were bowled out for 96 runs in 21.4 overs as Mohamed Farri took 3 for 13 runs and Prageeth Fernando 3 for 35.

Nilantha Wijekoon (3DH International Group) was the best batsman and man of the tournament while Geethika Jayathilake (Commercial Leasing and Finance) was the best bowler. Dulaj Egodage (Eagle Logistics) was man of the final.

**Eagle Logistics:** 144/7 (25 overs) (Dineth Thimodya 52, Dulaj Egodage 44, Nishan Madhushka 17, Prageeth Fernando 17, Dulaj Jayawardena 24/2, Mayura Ranasinghe 27/2)

**Allianz Insurance:** 96 (21.4 overs) (Mohamed Farri 3/13, Prageeth Fernando 3/35)-(YK)

## CCC School of Cricket showpiece on Sep 26, 27

The CCC School of Cricket will celebrate 22 years with their annual inter house cricket tournament on September 26 and 27 on their home ground at Maitland Crescent in Colombo.

Over 300 players from Under-9 to Under-15 and over will represent their Houses called Bradman, Sobers, Ten-

dulkar and Jayawardena. An Old Boys versus Present Boys match is also on the cards. The chief guest will be Sri Lanka batsman Kusal Mendis.

Parents and the Executive Committee led by CEO Harsha Peiris have made elaborate arrangements to ensure the event is a success.

## Windies Cricket Academy carnival in Matale

The 14th annual mini cricket carnival of the Windies Cricket Academy of Matale is scheduled to be held September 26 and 27 at Ukuwala ground.

The biggest cricket event in the Matale town will be conducted in the under-8,12, 14 and 19 categories with 12 teams contesting.

According to the head of the Windies Cricket Academy, Ravi PUNCHIHewa, each team will comprise of eight players and play in seven overs per side games.

Over 100 cricketers from the Windies Cricket Academy will take part in this cricket carnival and the players will wear their official colour clothing playing with a white ball. The first round will be played according to a round robin system and the two teams with the highest points will qualify for the final.

There will also be special awards for the best bowler, best batsman, best fielder, best up-and-coming cricketer, most number of fours and sixes, best all-rounder and man of the final.

The Principal of St. Thomas' College Matale, Dhammika Hewawasam will be the chief guest on the opening day while Sampath Bank Matale Branch Manager Dinusha Ekanayake will be the chief guest at the prize giving on the final day.

The head of Windies Cricket Academy and SLC match referee Ravi PUNCHIHewa and CEO of Windies Cricket Academy Diluka Wijegoonawardena also will grace the occasion as special guests. (DR)

## Dialog President's Cup VB finals on Sept 25, 26

BERNARD PERERA

Sri Lanka's most prestigious volleyball championship for men and women, the Junior and Senior showpieces for the Dialog Axiata President's Cup will be on September 25 and 26 at the National Youth Services Council Courts, in Maharagama.

In the junior women's final Mahauswewa Ratanapala SC will take on Hirdaramani, Kegalle at 1.00 pm while the men's junior final will be between Nattandiya United and St. Joseph Vaz SC scheduled for 3.0 pm on September 25.

The senior women's final will be between Mahauswewa Ratanapala and Golden Birds, Radawana at 1 pm while the men's senior final will be be-

tween Gampaha Siyane Tharu SC and Debagama Ran Tharu SC scheduled for 3 pm on September 26 at the same venue.

On the final day Minister of Youth and Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa will be the chief guest. The Volleyball Federation has made arrangements to have live telecast of these finals on both days.

## Golf calls up 19 players for Sri Lanka pool training

BY KASUN IRUGALBANDARA

Sri Lanka Golf (SLG) commenced practices for their national pool players last week after a long break due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The governing body for golf called up 19 members of the pool to resume practices daily in preparation of the upcoming tourna-

ments. The executive committee has decided to resume the annual Amateur Golf Championship this year which is one of the oldest golf tournaments in the world and has been held on 131 occasions.

“We are hoping to conduct this championship in December this year.

“We had originally planned to conduct it in February but it was

postponed several times. We will confirm the dates after watching the national pool players at practice.

“Foreign participation is not possible due to the Covid-19 virus and the venue is likely to be the Royal Colombo Golf Club (RCGC) course,” Duminda de Soyza the media spokesman of SLG told the Sunday Observer.

## Former athletics chief Diack gets four-year prison term

PARIS AFP: The former head of athletics' world governing body, Lamine Diack, was on Wednesday found guilty by a French court of corruption in covering up Russian doping cases and sentenced to four years in prison, two of which were suspended.

Diack, an 87-year-old Senegalese who led the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), now renamed World Athletics, for 16 years was also fined 500,000 euros (\$600,000).

The presiding judge in the court in Paris, Rose-Marie Hunaault, said Diack's actions had “caused serious

damage to the fight against doping”.

Other senior figures in track and field, including Diack's son Papa Massata Diack and the IAAF's former head of anti-doping Gabriel Dolle, were also given prison terms for their part in a scheme in which 23 Russian athletes had their doping offences hushed up so they could compete at the 2012 London Olympics and 2013 world championships in Moscow.

The judge said Diack was unlikely to go to prison, telling him: “Given your age you can expect conditional release.”



Lamine Diack

Papa Massata Diack, a former marketing consultant for the IAAF, who was tried in absentia.

## Wind blows where the surfer goes

BY TB RAHAMAN

Preparations for the forthcoming surfing competition at Arugam bay are perfect according to Hiran Ukwatte the president of the Surfing Federation of Sri Lanka that will play a major role in conducting the event.

Already there are 15 foreigners who have entered to participate in the Open event and some local surfers will be included so that they will be exposed to compete with foreigners.

The main event for local surfers is the National event that has attracted 50-plus competitors. The numbers will be restricted so that the events can be worked off in two days.

“Enthusiasm to surfing among the Sri Lankan community has gathered momentum and already a large number of enthusiastic surfers and crowds are

heading to Arugam bay to prepare for the event,” said Ukwatte.

“The beach at Arugam bay is quite wide and can accommodate a large number of spectators. Besides, surfing has become a natural habitat to the people there. Even the people in the South tend to take to surfing naturally. It is like going to bathe in the sea for them,” added Ukwatte.

There are about 50,000 surfers in the whole of Sri Lanka and the Surfing Federation conducts the Nationals in three stocks per year. The first was held in Madhia early this year and the second was held in March in Hikkaduwa and this one in Arugam bay will be the third stock.

These events are held to bestow rankings and those who are really good will receive automatic admission to foreign competitions. The first national surfing event was held in 2018 and the

Federation will conduct three stocks for the year to complete the nationals.

“There will not be any trials for selections and the top two rankings will be sent for the Asian Championship while four will be selected for other international events,” said Ukwatte.

“Surfing has become a lifestyle for the people living close to the beaches. Almost all of them go free surfing to enjoy themselves. There are many movements too to manoeuvre in surfing on surf boards of different sizes. Those used in competitions are the short board and many surfers are skilled to tackle the waves accordingly,” said Ukwatte.



Hiran Ukwatte





# BUSINESS

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## Services of Sri Lanka Standards Institution

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### NEWS SNIPPETS



**Oil prices rise**  
Oil prices rose late last week on the third day of positive price movements for the commodity, as the market responds favourably to OPEC's meeting chatter. WTI crude prices rose by more than 2% by 1:00 pm EDT on Thursday, reaching more than \$41 per barrel. Brent crude hit \$43.39 by 1:00 pm EDT, a 2.77% jump on the day. The upward price movement is despite actions on the U.S. Gulf Coast as producers start to get back online after a devastating and slow-moving Hurricane Sally. - Oilprice.com

### Workshop on 'Rightsizing Organisations'

The Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC) will present a two-day workshop on 'Rightsizing your Organisation for Business Sustainability' on September 29 and 30 at the EFC auditorium. The workshop, open to EFC members and non-members, will enable insights into multiple aspects of rightsizing organisations. It will be conducted by a resource pool drawn from the EFC's professional staff and external experts in relevant areas. The objective of the workshop, as the Assistant Director General, Advisory Services and Head of Training, EFC, Yashoravi Bakmiwewa said, is to help decision makers restructure their business operations in order to ensure long term sustainability.

### Recovery of manufacturing activity continues

Recovery of manufacturing activity continued in August 2020 as reflected by PMI, benefitting from the normalisation of business activities in the country. New orders and production sub-indices remained at expansionary levels in August while a noticeable development was observed in the Employment sub-index. The expansion of manufacturing activities was mainly supported by the manufacturing of food and beverages sector. Some respondents in the sector highlighted that they have recruited new employees with the anticipation of upcoming seasonal demand. The stock of purchases expanded at a slower rate in line with the movements of Production and New Orders.

# FTAs with EU, USA and Japan on the cards

## USD 1.5 b FDI agreements inked this year

Sri Lanka has signed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) agreements to the tune of around USD 1.5 billion this year and investments worth another USD 1 billion are in the pipeline, Board of Investments of Sri Lanka (BOI) Director General Sanjaya

Mohottala told the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Free Trade Zone Manufacturers' Association (FTZMA) on Wednesday. He said Sri Lanka has done well so far this year compared to regional countries despite the setback from

the global pandemic that dried up investments across the globe. "We are confident there would be more investments coming into the country due to the consistent and clear policies of the new government which has assured that policies will not be

changed for the next four to five years," Mohottala said. Sri Lanka's FDI's increased by around USD 153 million in the first quarter of 2020. However, according to experts it is unlikely that the country would meet the ... **TO PAGE 28**



### Covid-19, an opportunity to boost bilateral ties

*- Japanese Ambassador*  
BY AANYA WIPULASENA  
Sri Lanka and Japan should introduce strategic moves to convert the global pandemic challenges into opportunities as most of the changes caused by Covid-19 are here to stay, Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Akira Sugiyama told the Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka-Japan Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in Colombo last week. He said that the current situation could open new business opportunities and with the lessons learnt from the pandemic Sri Lanka and Japan could turn a new leaf. Sugiyama commended the efforts... **TO PAGE 28**



Sri Lanka has an adequate supply of raw material to manufacture clay-based products which are in demand the world over. The age-old industry which thrived in the past is today left in the hands of a few craftsmen such as Pathirage Sampath Tharanga of Kesbewa who is determined to keep the industry alive. **Pic: Sarath Peiris**

### Quota for vehicle imports, key to regulate market - Past CMTA chairman

A quota for vehicle imports is the best way to control the number of vehicles flooding the local market creating a host of issues to the economy, said Ceylon Motor Traders Association (CMTA), Past Chairman Tilak Gunasekera. He said the quota system permitting a limited number of vehicles to be imported by franchise holders and recon importers had been proposed to the authorities on many occasions in the past but to no avail. The Government imposed an import control of vehicles and other non essential goods this year to limit the

### 'SL yet a developing economy due to entrepreneurship absence'

Sri Lanka wouldn't have remained a developing country for over seven decades since Independence had the country adequate entrepreneurs to steer the economy to excellence, said a well-known entrepreneur reminiscing the missed opportunities for economic prosperity. KIK Group Chairman Lalith Kahatapitiya said entrepreneurship ... **TO PAGE 28**

### Progress of sectors under NES not adequate - Past NEC Chief

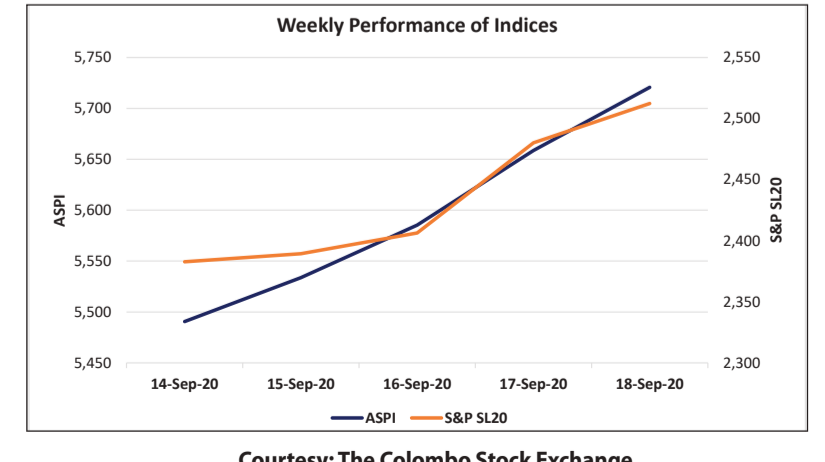
The progress of sectors under the National Export Strategy (NES) is not satisfactory despite the efforts to achieve the outcomes of the national strategy said the past head of the National Export Chamber on the progress of the NES. National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) Immediate Past President Ramal G. Jasinghe said although there have been efforts to deliver the expected outcome of the NES it is clear that the progress under the sectors are not sufficient. There should be greater focus on the IT-BPM sector given the unexpected boost of digitisation as a result of the global pandemic to ... **TO PAGE 28**



### Colombo Stock Exchange goes digital

The digitalisation of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) will place our stock market in line with emerging markets and create a new breed of investors far and wide to unveil the untapped potential of the market, said Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) SEC Director General Chinthaka Mendis at a ceremony to mark CSE's digitalisation last week. He said the process was complicated and there were many constraints and obstacles along the way, however... **TO PAGE 28**

EXCHANGE RATES		US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
Sep 14 - Sep 18						
Monday	186.61	222.37	1.7765	240.49	27.809	
Tuesday	186.54	222.92	1.7829	242.08	27.964	
Wednesday	186.61	222.34	1.7900	242.08	28.051	
Thursday	187.12	221.45	1.7989	243.05	28.131	
Friday	187.18	223.07	1.8034	243.65	28.087	



Business

# Execution, vital to win in Covid-19 battered market

It's a tough environment today, demanding flawless execution to stay profitable. In a highly volatile market, more frequent strategy shaping is needed and a medium term strategy may be too short. Dramatic changes are taking place each day in terms of product offering, channels used, tactical pricing and promotions making strategy alignment a very difficult task.

Even the most brilliant strategy is worth nothing if it isn't executed well, especially by your front line — the employees who interact daily with your customers. Unfortunately, these employees are regularly asked to execute strategies that others developed and that they may not understand, never mind feel committed or connected to.

Developing good strategy involves a lot of hard work, but it's not where things tend to go wrong. In business, even the most robustly designed and painstakingly planned strategies can fail. Even worse, it is often the blindingly obvious that can trip you up. This is relevant for any business, of any size, in any sector.

To make the strategy work, firstly, all employees must believe in the strategy as strongly as the CEO does, and behave in line with it. And finally, they must be willing to explain the strategy and its implications to any doubters within the company.

**Execution**

Putting up with a sub-par or

mediocre team will make your strategy unachievable or sub-optimised at best. Companies should prioritise going after the best people and then motivating them to do extraordinary things. Focusing on management is usually the best place to start in any strategy.

Getting people to buy into your strategy makes it easier to implement and to implement well. Communication is therefore critical, and keeping it simple but convincing pays dividends.

Increasingly, enterprises need an enduring purpose to inspire and motivate their people. The whole team needs to know that what they are doing matters to the company.

The heart and soul of execution is accountability — it is this which motivates people to follow through

on their commitments. It is essential with any plan that it is clear who is responsible for what, and that accountability is tied to results, not activities. This is essential because, while activity within an organisation is unceasing, it is only results that really matter.

**Top team**

Create bold plans, hire the best people to implement them, pursue a focused strategy in a consistent, single-minded way and move and adapt rapidly. Crucially, a leader's ability to do this is directly linked to the quality



**BIZ TALK with Kishu Gomes**

ity and single-mindedness of the top team - if they consistently believe in and implement the strategy, there is a very good chance these pitfalls will be avoided.

To successfully implement strategy there is also a need to expunge confirmed doubters, as their cynical attitude towards the strategy can spread and become toxic, making implementation more difficult and expensive.

The doubter can also be a bad role model for his or her juniors, radiating scepticism throughout the company.

They may be good and effective employees, but if they're getting in the way of strategy execution it is critical they be moved to less integral roles. Or, in more extreme cases, a CEO may find it necessary to manage a few high-profile dismissals.

**The heart and soul of execution is accountability — it is this which motivates people to follow through on their commitments. It is essential with any plan that it is clear who is responsible for what, and that accountability is tied to results, not activities**



**Pelwatte Dairy partners leading supermarket chains**



**Pelwatte products**

Pelwatte Dairy Industries has extended value-for-money deals that can be availed at Sri Lanka's leading supermarket chains.

The home-grown company is known for its healthy, fresh and delicious range of dairy products that include milk, yoghurt, ice-cream and butter — salted and unsalted varieties, for home and industrial use. As a brand that caters to people from all walks of life, Pelwatte Dairy constantly endeavours to make quality dairy products accessible to all Sri Lankans. Pelwatte Dairy is offering attractive discounts from September 15 right through the whole of October. "The trust and satisfaction of our consumers has always been our primary priority, and we at Pelwatte Dairy Industries remain highly focused and committed to building that trust. The only way a company can truly achieve this trust is by creating the best value for its consumers, and that is exactly what Pelwatte Dairy is all about. We offer maximum value to our customers through our commitment to Quality, Taste and Health, which is strongly reflected in our products. That is what drives our growth," said Managing Director of Pelwatte Dairy Industries, Akmal Wickramanayake.

## The winning path to life

'Who Moved My Cheese' translated into Sinhala

Dr. Spencer Johnson's book 'Who Moved My Cheese?' is a short and simple, light-hearted parable about change. Although it was first published in 1998 its content is valid even in today's context.

In a recent write-up, the president of Accrue Performance Marketing, John Watson said, "With the Covid-19 pandemic, the 96-page book is more relevant now than ever".

It describes a modest way to deal with the changes in your work and in your daily life. For this reason it is regarded as a great motivational business fable.

The book has been translated to over 40 languages worldwide and over 30 million copies have been sold.

That itself is a testimony to the high importance of the insights of the story in the book.

It has now been translated to Sinhala with the title *Divi Maga Dinana Maga* (Winning Path To Life) by Ajantha Seneviratne. It is a Sarasavi Publication.

The story features four characters, two mice and two little people. They live in a maze and look for cheese.

The mice and humans, in pairs, travel through the lengthy corridors of the large twisting maze searching for cheese.

It's not simple by any means as the journey is a physically as well as emotionally difficult one for these four little characters as they search for their favorite food, cheese.

While they were enjoying



where you look for it: the organisation you work for, the family or community you live in.

The story in the book is divided into three sections. In the first section named 'A Gathering', a set of former classmates talk about the changes that have been affecting their lives and their means and ways of trying to deal with those changes.

Each of them was talking about how their lives turned out differently than they had thought during school days.

The second section is the actual core story of the book: Who Moved My Cheese? When faced with change, the two mice do better because they keep things simple, while the complex brains of the two little people and human emotions complicate things for them though, we all know that people are more intelligent than mice. You will get the answer to this by reading the book.

The third section 'A Discussion' is where the former classmates meet again to discuss how the story they heard could impact their individual lives.

Each started to compare themselves against the four characters to see how changes in their own lives have evolved and how they have reacted to them.

The ultimate message in the book is: As Change is inevitable we should anticipate it, adapt to it and learn to enjoy it.

Because of the strong message it is equally important to all ages.

cheese in a Cheese Station, suddenly, the situation changes.

The four characters explore various ways to respond to the change that they come across, unexpectedly. There we understand how the four characters act like various types of behaviour that we have in us.

Though it's seemingly simple, the book captures and explores powerful and resonant truths that could be seen in us.

According to Johnson, cheese is a metaphor for what you want in life. It can be a good job, a loving relationship, money, possessions, health or spiritual peace of mind.

On the other hand, maze is

## Ceylinco Insurance ranked Sri Lanka's most respected insurer

Ceylinco Insurance was ranked the nation's most admired and respected insurer by the LMD magazine in its 16th annual edition of the nation's Most Respected and Admired Entities.

Ceylinco Insurance PLC comprises Ceylinco General Insurance Ltd and Ceylinco Life Insurance Ltd. Having climbed 14 positions from the previous year, Ceylinco Insurance remains in the 12th position among the Most Respected and admired entities in the country.

Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ceylinco Insurance Ajith Gunawardena said, "An organisation that practises



**Ajith Gunawardena, Rajkumar Renganathan, Patrick Alwis, Thushara Ranasinghe**

innovation can elevate the entity to become a powerhouse of creativity, where pioneering ideas are born and given expression to become full-fledged products and services that enhance people's lives."

Chairman of Ceylinco Life,

Rajkumar Renganathan said, "The LMD-Nielsen survey covers a well-informed sample of 800 senior executives of listed companies. It is, therefore, a credible barometer of public perception, which is essential to business success."

## Prime Group's website wins two awards

Prime Group, a real estate company, won two awards at the 10th BestWeb.lk 2020 awards ceremony recently.

Prime Group's corporate website won the Gold Award in the 'Corporate' category and the Silver Award in the 'Overall Winners' category.

Chairman of Prime Group, Brahma Premalal said, "As one of the leading property developers in Sri Lanka that is constantly looking at leveraging new technologies to reshape the real estate industry, we are proud and humbled to receive these awards."

Having a high-quality web presence has become imperative to establish credibility as a business and also plays a crucial role in customer satisfaction now more than ever."



**From left: Digital Media, Dineth Silva, Assistant General Manager, Dushantha Ranganana and Director of Prime Group, Ruminda Randeniya receive the Gold award for the 'Best Corporate Website in Sri Lanka'.**

"Prime Group has an exceedingly strong digital presence in the Sri Lankan Real Estate sector with multiple digital channels. With customer experience as our primary focus, our website has been designed to make property searches extremely easy and convenient, thereby generating massive web traffic."

The commitment and dedication of our teams and the futuristic approach of the Group in general have been the driving forces behind this success," he said.

## Everybody knows HR

The job title not only indicates the job performed. But also the social status.



By Janaka Kumarasinghe

## CLC Islamic Finance turns five

Launched in 2015 under the Islamic Business Division (IBD) of CLC as an Islamic Finance Window under regulations of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), CLC Islamic Finance offers financial services to customers of all walks of life.

It meets the due requirements of compliance through a three-member Shari'ah Supervisory board with a dedicated in-house Shari'ah advisors comprising local and international scholars.

The growth of CLC Islamic Finance in the past five years is reflected by a multitude of achievements - a series of awards that elevated its profile in South Asia, product offerings with returns that surpass the minimum payout rates of the Central Bank, a company spokesman said.

Head of CLC Islamic Finance, Ihsam Awfer said, "We offer the maximum permissible profit share rate for regulated finance companies on deposits to investors on Mudharabah and Wakala Investments which is also one of the highest in the industry. The



**Ihsam Awfer**

business unit's asset base now stands above Rs. 4 billion and liabilities at Rs. 2 billion." As part of this safe business model, CLC Islamic Finance offers many innovative products. In 2019, CLC Islamic Finance introduced the Mudharabah Growth Savings Account. The Business Unit also offers Ijarah Leasing, Diminishing Musharaka Finance, Murabaha - Trade Finance, Wakala Working Capital Finance and Musawamah Import Finance in terms of advances.

"Our strength also lies in CLC's 30 long years of experience in the industry that spurred us towards innovative finance solutions driven by our passion to ensure Shari'ah compliance in all transactions," he said.

# Talent drought amidst Covid-19



**STRATEGIC STRIDES**  
by  
**Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri**

Talent has always been a buzzword in business circles. We saw a wave of writings such as 'Winning the War for Talent' spreading around the world. Despite the popularity of the concept, it is still complex and challenging in global and local scenarios. This has aggregated amidst the Covid-19 pandemic where a dearth of expertise on multiple fronts was felt in hampering the restoration of normalcy. Today's column is all about talent drought with implications to individuals and institutions alike.

## Talent in focus

Talent comes from Biblical times. It was one of several ancient units of mass, involving a precious metal. The meaning and use of the word talent has changed over time. Today, we call it a special natural ability or aptitude such as a talent for drawing. Also, it represents a capacity for achievement or success; ability: young men of talent.

We often hear the term as a talented person: The cast includes many of the theater's major talents.

In essence, talent has moved from currency to capability. Yet, capability has its own currency value. In that sense, it has not lost its original meaning.

## Triple Cs of talent

There is a specific set of attributes associated with talent, especially in the HR circles. Dave Ulrich, a veteran HR thinker calls talent as equivalent to competence multiplied by commit-

ment multiplied by contribution. In mathematical terms it looks as:

Talent = Competence x commitment x contribution

As Ulrich explains, competence means that the individuals have knowledge, skills and values required for today and tomorrow. In brief, it involves right skills at the right place for the right job. Commitment on the other hand is what makes the competence to put into action.

Committed employees show a high level of involvement in their jobs with a high level of identification with their organisations.

In other words, they thrive on their jobs while enjoying working at one's organisation.

Contribution is the deepest and the subtlest component of the three. It highlights ones purpose in serving others. According to Ulrich, contribution occurs when employees feel that their personal needs are being met through their participation in their organisation.

"Organisations are the universal setting in today's world, where individuals find abundance in their lives through their work and they want this investment of their time to be meaningful. Simply stated, competence deals with the head (being able), commitment with the hands and feet (being there) and contribution with the heart (simply being)"

## Talent issues

According to a recent report by McKinsey, HR professionals need to think about the effects of large workforce transitions being accelerated by the COVID-19 crisis and how reskilling plays a key role in helping close talent gaps while keeping employees connected to jobs. As the report further explains, the agenda for post-pandemic learning and development extends beyond reskilling, however, to other categories of cost-effective training, namely, broad-based digital training in essential skills and focused upskilling rooted in changing work.

"Many organisations are expanding remote training to address challenges, such as effective leadership of remote teams (a new skill set for most managers) and building personal resilience in difficult circumstances. Many forms of upskilling are function and work-group specific and tied to different ways of working. For example, a sales force that is moving from a largely in-person to a hybrid remote model will need to be upskilled in the practices that drive remote success.



The right data-driven approach can bolster sales-force performance — and help HR departments draw a direct line from talent to revenue."

Much of the academic work on talent management has argued in favour of "putting talent management issues on top management's agenda". As Group Managing Director of Hay Group, Murray Dalziel said, "These issues aren't HR issues anymore. They are line (functional) management issues. There's been a profound shift."

A survey of CEOs in the European context finds that most CEOs feel that talent management is 'too important to be left to HR alone' (Economist Intelligence Unit 2006). Furthermore, the majority of those CEOs surveyed report that they spend more than 20% of their time on these issues. Former Senior Vice President of General Electric (GE), Bill Conaty, argues that the first principle of mastering talent management is ensuring the support of an enlightened leadership team, starting with the CEO, as "the enlightened CEO recognises that his top priority for the future is building and deploying the talent that will get it there".

As the Boston Consulting Group observes, the challenge for HR is convincing organizational leadership of its capability to manage global talent. In essence, top leaders question the ability of HR to accommodate the strategic importance of talent management, while the HR departments themselves believe that they lack the competencies needed to effectively address the global challenges of talent management.

Considering the Sri Lankan scenario, the picture is not so rosy. Based on a recent survey done by a leading consultancy firm, most acute issue in the recruitment and selection process has been identified as finding the right talent.

In Sri Lankan society, I see two

types of talent which I call raw talent and required talent. Raw talent is the multitude of school leavers seeking employment. Required talent is what CEOs of leading organisations look for. There is an obvious gap between the two. Bridging the R-R gap is one critical challenge for people managers.

## Ten talent challenges

From the continued impact of the difficult global economic situation on HR departments to a growing focus on workforce diversity, the coming times will be more challenging, says HR Zone website. Recruitment consultancy firm, Futurestep, features top ten talent trends. Let's go through them with local context in mind.

1. To outsource or not to outsource?

As budgets continue to be scrutinised, organisations will increasingly start exploring whether or not outsourcing makes sense for them in their specific situation.

They will start developing business cases and thinking more broadly about the bigger picture rather than concentrating on the detail of individual tactics.

2. Balancing short- and long-term talent strategies

A trend that will become more acute in the year ahead is the need to balance shorter-term financial challenges with longer-term strategic needs — such as the imperative to build a brand that can attract talent over the longer term.

Because of the economic climate, many companies are finding it hard to dedicate the necessary time, resources and budget to develop and execute a talent strategy that will continue to attract colleagues in the short and long term.

3. Workforce planning goes global

The globalization of workforce planning is a trend we will see more of

in the coming years as organisations start — both through desire and necessity — to think about their talent on a more global basis.

As companies expand internationally, and different markets present more attractive business opportunities, they will have to think about their workforce and talent in this way too.

4. Employer branding gains recognition

Businesses will start to treat job candidates like true consumers to attract and engage talent globally. Smart employers are starting to recognize that many of the strategies and tactics used by consumer brands to attract and maintain relationships with customers can be applied to job candidates.

5. New talent battlefields emerge

The war for talent, which was once ferocious and dominant, will become more subtle and focused in time to come. Employers will recruit fewer people than they once did but, against the current economic backdrop and drive for growth, will instead focus on critical hires.

6. The rise of talent communities

Consumerist-based ideas will lead to the development and use of higher numbers of 'talent communities', resulting in the continued maturation of talent pool management techniques. The challenge — and also the opportunity — over the year ahead will be to find ways of building a sustainable strategy for engaging internal and external talent.

The issue is that, although organisations know that they will need talent at some point in the future, in today's economic climate, they don't have the luxury of hiring people when they first encounter them.

7. Engagement and employee-development

An engaged workforce is essential to foster growth and innovation, but

the ongoing economic uncertainty has left workforces exhausted — employees feel insecure in their jobs and many feel that there is little to no commitment to them from their employer.

During the years to come, employers will need to become more egalitarian in their engagement approach — engaging all employees if they want to keep hold of talent.

In addition, employee-driven development is expected to become the new normal. The majority of employees across the world today do not have an actionable development plan, however — they may know where they are going career-wise, but they are unclear on the steps required to get there.

8. HR starts to adopt new technology

HR technology options are becoming more engaging — there has been a growing shift away from monolithic systems that do little to engage employees and software providers are innovating at a rapid rate.

9. Increased push for diversity

Organisations will increasingly start demanding greater diversity in the workplace in time to come, particularly in sectors such as engineering where there is a growing focus on gender equality, particularly in the boardroom. As a result, many business leaders are now looking to HR to ensure that their company is representative of society.

10. Focus on internal promotion

Pressure facing recruitment and talent managers now will almost inevitably lead to a greater focus on upskilling employees for internal promotion. Tighter budgets, the need for specific skills and increased complexity in terms of global workforce planning will mean that many businesses look internally rather than externally to solve their staffing issues.

## Way forward

In the midst of a talent drought, only sharp strategies with concrete action will see the showers of talent rain. A sector such as hospitality cannot grow simply with sun, sea and sand, sans solid talent. We need to think and act in systematically converting raw talent into required talent in multiple sectors. It reminds me of what Mahatma Gandhi said a long time ago. "The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems." That's where the talent becomes potent.

## Uber Eats, an opportunity provider for youth

### ● Hopes to provide earning opportunities for 1,000 women

Uber Eats, an opportunity provider plays a pivotal role in enabling youth achieve financial independence by displaying their skills, said Bhavna Dadlani — Lead of Uber Eats Sri Lanka in an interview with the *Sunday Observer Business*.

#### Excerpts:

**Q. How does Uber Eats employ delivery partners and restaurant partners? What benefits do these partners have?**

**A.** Uber Eats is an opportunity provider. We have thousands of restaurants and tens of thousands of delivery partners who have chosen Uber Eats as their ally to grow and prosper.

The company provides opportunities to restaurants to grow their business, expand their customer base and leverage global technology through powerful data insights, dedicated restaurant marketing tools and more.

Through our efforts, countless new entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka have got that chance they needed to display their talent.

An increasing number of Sri Lankans are choosing to be their own bosses and work for themselves, at their own convenience.

Riding with Uber Eats provides that very opportunity.

**Q. Since its inception, how has the platform grown in terms of revenue and reach?**

**A.** Since our launch in 2018, we have seen phenomenal growth as a result of the overwhelming response we've received from Sri Lankan eaters, delivery partners and restaurants alike.

It wouldn't be even a bit of a stretch if we were to say it's actually the love and support we have received from eaters that keeps us going. We

began operations in a small area serving only Colombo 2 to 8. We now serve the entire city of Colombo and its immediate suburbs, along with Negombo, Kandy, Katugastota and Peradeniya.

**Q. How does Uber Eats contribute to the economy?**

**A.** We see ourselves as an ally of the Government and the people. We work in close proximity with the government, offering support in every way we can. During the recent lockdown, we worked nights to ensure crucial supply lines were open, and that essential supplies reached the Sri Lankan people.

Offering help to the marginalised, we donated dry rations to thousands of families, many of whom had lost livelihood opportunities.

Through the two years, we are proud to have enabled thousands of flexible earning opportunities for delivery and restaurant partners that were not previously available. All our partners earn at their own pace and are in full control of their working hours. We received positive feedback about this flexibility, allowing partners to spend more time with friends and family — which is highly appreciated and goes a long way in our communities.

**Q. Being a global company, how does Uber Eats customise for specific needs of Sri Lanka?**

**A.** While Uber Eats has presence across several countries, our teams in Sri Lanka are all Sri Lankan domain experts with an understanding of the needs of the people. Each member in our Sri Lankan team is as local as the other, and relishes 'short eats' as much as all Sri Lankans do.

The expertise of working with multiple flavours, tastes and dishes across markets around the world, combined with the strength and

experience of a Sri Lankan team allows us to deliver the best of both worlds to local eaters. By leveraging our global technology and network, we are able to raise the bar for Sri Lanka through international standards and sharing knowledge of best practices.

**Q. What is the Uber Eats DiviyataDiriya campaign?**

**A.** Uber DiviyataDiriya is focused on leveraging the power of our platform to facilitate financial independence for women, marginalised and underserved communities, through flexible economic opportunities that uplift the livelihoods of themselves and others around them.

We are marching towards our aim of providing earning opportunities to 1,000 women through our platform by December.

**Q. Who benefits from this campaign?**

**A.** While a number of communities have already benefited from Uber DiviyataDiriya, we have been focusing on providing safe and flexible earning opportunities to hundreds of Sri Lankan women entrepreneurs in an industry which traditionally had limited female representation.

We hope to encourage more Sri Lankan women to join the workforce by delivering financial independence through technology, and positively contributing towards the Sri Lankan economy.

**Q. What challenges did Uber Eats Sri Lanka face when Covid-19 hit?**

**A.** Our priority during the curfew was the safety and well-being of our community — this meant enabling access to essential items to the people of the country, as well as earning opportunities for restaurant, vendor



Ms. Bhavna Dadlani

**Uber DiviyataDiriya is focused on leveraging the power of our platform to facilitate financial independence for women, marginalised and underserved communities, through flexible economic opportunities**

eaters, restaurants and delivery partners stay safe, too.

All of this was done within a matter of days to offer earning opportunities back to our partners, and to keep supply lines open, ensuring people got their essential items delivered at their doorsteps.

**Q. What safety precautions did Uber take to protect customers, delivery partners and restaurant partners?**

and delivery partners to keep our cities moving. We worked nights to ensure we adhered to all safety regulations, and updated our app to help

**A.** We always urge everyone to follow the health and safety guidelines recommended by the WHO and Health Promotion Bureau.

Restaurant partners have been encouraged to ensure all packaging is safely sealed, while Delivery Partners are equipped with sanitisers and face masks, and undergo temperature checks with the assistance of the Colombo Municipal Council. Dedicated safety training sessions are mandatory for all Delivery Partners to ensure all recommended guidelines are followed, including practicing effective social distancing and carrying out contactless deliveries through the 'Leave At Door' feature.

Overall, what is Uber Eats' projection for the future in Sri Lanka, in bouncing back from the pandemic?

We hope to play a key role in helping Sri Lanka bounce back by leveraging our global technology and expertise.

The past few months alone have seen the launch of multiple new features and services, including the delivery of essential items.

These were complemented by various safety additions such as mask detection, supplying personal protective equipment to delivery partners, and even organising training sessions to help them better understand the need to ensure the highest possible safety standards.

The future remains bright, and we hope to continue building on these while introducing even more new features and services for our eaters, restaurants and delivery partners. We continue to operate within the vision of the government of providing earning opportunities to the Sri Lankan people, with tens of thousands of Sri Lankan entrepreneurs gaining financial independence through the platform in our current operational areas and even as we expand further.

## Business

## Microsoft launches program to boost employability of differently-abled

Microsoft launched a program to increase employability for people with disabilities (PwDs) recently. The Microsoft Enabler Program pioneers disability inclusive workplaces across Asia Pacific by removing the barriers for a more diverse workforce.

With over one billion PwDs in the world, disability-inclusive employment can lead to 1-7% rise in GDP in Asia Pacific through increased economic productivity. (United Nations ESCAP)

The program will pilot in five markets: Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, before expanding to the rest of the region by the end of this year.

Organisations committed to the program will receive training from the Non-Profit organisations (NPOs) to become inclusive employers and these businesses will in turn provide job shadowing, internships, mentor-

ing and opportunities in tech jobs for PwDs identified by the NPOs.

Microsoft will provide industry training in cloud and artificial intelligence, and a platform for all three to collaborate towards an inclusive future for every person.

"There are no limits to what people can achieve when technology reflects the diversity of everyone who uses it," said Chief Partner Officer at Microsoft in Asia Pacific, Vivek Puthucode.

Microsoft will provide online training in data engineering and programming, cloud computing on Microsoft Azure and application development in GitHub to the PwDs. These modules will provide crucial technology skills that are globally recognised, and highly sought after in our digital first and remote everything world, therefore, providing them with a learning path for industry leading skill sets that improves



their employability. For the employer partners, Microsoft will conduct workshops on inclusive design and assistive technologies enabled through artificial intelligence on Microsoft Azure. Microsoft's part-

ners in the region commit to providing opportunities for PwDs by providing job shadowing, training, mentoring and internship attachments in technical roles. These opportunities will be offered in close collaboration

with the NGOs who will match the most suitable PwD profile, skills, qualifications, and ambitions with the requirements of the role.

"Accessibility starts with building a culture of inclusion in the work-

place. The more you focus on it, the more your culture will improve and evolve.

The company culture and workplace environment are important elements of a successful accessibility program," said Puthucode.

To expand the talent pipeline for partners and connect job-seeking PwDs to tech roles, the program will also feature a virtual job fair, at the end of second quarter of 2021, that brings together Microsoft partners and NPOs. PwDs can use the opportunity to showcase their skills, experience from their job attachments and interests, while businesses share roles available to connect with potential hires. The virtual event will also include educational sessions about accessibility in the workplace, assistive technology and training, support and tools to help organisations sustain their accessibility programs.

## 'SL yet a developing... Continued from page 25

...is the astuteness and skill in an entrepreneur to spot opportunities, needs and come up with innovative solutions which add value to society.

"Had we had this entrepreneurship we would not have remained a developing country for so long," he said.

He said government policies play a huge role in creating an atmosphere where entrepreneurship will emerge from the society.

There's time for them to develop the business and face competition before the market reopens for global players.

"On the other hand, if a government does not encourage local entrepreneurship and relies on foreign products and services, you cannot expect much from local entrepreneurs," Kahatapitiya said, adding that some economists who believe in a consumer centric economy argue that government policies need to

facilitate lowest prices to consumers, thus encouraging cheap imports instead of local products. For example, if a local product costs Rs. 1,000 and an imported product can be given to consumers at Rs. 900, they encourage people to go for the Rs. 900 imported product forgetting that the local product retains the Rs. 1,000 within the country whereas the imported product makes the country poorer by Rs. 900 as the entire amount needs to be sent out of the country for that import. "I strongly believe all government policies need to be focused on facilitating and developing local entrepreneurship for all types of production and services.

"You cannot expect plants to grow on unfertile soil.

"Whenever the soil is fertile, you can see all types of vegetation popping up effortlessly. Similarly, if a conducive background for entrepre-

neurship is set through government policies, entrepreneurship will start emerging from the people.

"Lack of opportunities for higher education facilities has resulted in the country losing top students and talented youth who are being grabbed by other countries for employment. This is a serious condition which needs immediate attention of the government. "If we are to develop our economy and come out with innovative solutions for economic development, the best of brains need to be retained in the country.

"Consecutive governments had believed that foreign employment is a good way of bringing foreign exchange into the country. But they have failed to realise the value of our own human resources.

"Due to this we have become a nation supplying labour to other countries.

"A very simple calculation of the contribution made to the GRP of this country by per person working abroad versus a person employed in Sri Lanka, it becomes clear that a person employed in Sri Lanka contributes nearly three times that of a migrant worker.

It is up to the economists and the government to do the arithmetic and find these figures out and correct our policies accordingly.

It is sad to see Sri Lanka becoming a manual labour producing country to develop foreign countries. Instead, shouldn't we be producing much value-added products and services from Sri Lanka, using our own human resources? All governments so far have only seen the substantial foreign remittances flowing into the country year after year from migrant workers, but failed to do their arithmetic to find out how much they

would have contributed to our GDP, if they were employed within the country. Subsequent governments had succumbed to pressure from other countries to give into signing trade agreements without a comprehensive study on the long-term effects of the agreements. While these agreements have failed to benefit the country they have also destroyed many local enterprises and industries. Hence a well-structured trade policy should be developed before getting into any foreign trade or service agreements.

"We need to be vigilant over forces acting to destabilise the country and hinder economic development. There can be many external forces igniting racial disharmony as geopolitical strategies.

These should never be neglected, and lessons need to be learnt from all such incidents that happened in the past," Kahatapitiya said.

## Covid-19, an... Continued from page 25

...of the government in tackling the outbreak successfully.

"Japan provided a USD 9.6 million grant to help Sri Lanka fight Covid-19 which is affecting the global economy negatively," he said, adding that the Government effectively implemented a curfew to fight Covid-19 but the global situation has affected the island's economy especially in the export and tourism sectors.

The council's outgoing President Mahen Dayananda said the main items exported from Sri Lanka to Japan were ships and boats, tea and spices, apparel and clothing all of which accounted for Rs. 47.31 per cent of total exports from Sri Lanka in 2019.

"However, the total value of imports to Sri Lanka from Japan decreased by 39.2 percent from Rs. 257,588 million in 2018 to Rs. 156,514 million in 2019.

## FTAs with EU,... Continued from page 25

...two billion dollar FDI target this year due to the impact of the global pandemic. The country received FDIs worth around USD370 million early this year which comprised the USD250 million mixed development project by Shangri-La for an apartment and a shopping complex in Colombo. Sri Lanka hopes to sign Free Trade Agreements with the European Union, USA and Japan in the next three years according to the BOI DG.

"We are pushing the move which hopefully will be finalised in the next three to four years," Mohottala said. Sri Lanka has signed FTAs with India, Pakistan and Singapore, and is negotiating an FTA with China. The FTAs with India and Pakistan cover only trade in goods. The agreements provide for duty-free entry and duty preferences for manufactured and agricultural goods. Domestic value addition of 35 percent is required to qualify for concessions granted under the agreements. The Singapore-Sri Lanka FTA came into force

on May 1, 2018, and covers investments and goods. Moves are also under way to issue multiple visa facilities to promote investments. "We are also concerned about green Free Trade Zones to add another feather to the cap while taking pride on being an ethical sourcing destination," Mohottala said, adding that steps will be taken to bring about flexibility in labour through reforms aimed at supporting and creating a people and investor-friendly working environment in the country. Mohottala said plans promote pharmaceutical manufacture in line with the government policy and boost export income through apparel exports.

"We are also looking at setting up zones for aquaculture promotion and double the vertical for rubber and ICT," Mohottala said. FTZMA officials called on the authorities to take cognizance of the need to expedite labour law reforms and regulations to increase production for the local market by 50 percent. - LF

## Colombo Stock... Continued from page 25

...I'm happy to declare that all the regulatory and operational requirements are now in place to facilitate the new era. "What is now needed is what the CEO of Microsoft, Satya Nadella advocates, promoting the use of digital technology, in his memoir 'Hit Refresh', Nadella claims that the intensity of the use of digital technology is what segregates the developed world from that of the developing world today," Mendis said, adding that steps should be taken to increase and intensify the use of digital technology, for that matter we need to educate our people better, and we also need to teach them to invest in the stock market.

The habit of making investments should be inculcated in the minds of our children from their formative age.

"The SEC can no longer be restricted to its traditional role of market regulation and take the conventional approach to boost the confidence of investors. SEC has been particularly busy over the past few months, starting with the feasibility study of the entire stock market, we

have been focusing on technical and regulatory reforms vis-à-vis to make our market business-friendly, particularly to make our market attractive for local and foreign investors," Mendis said.

He said the country can no longer sustain economic development at the cost of foreign debt. We don't need to look elsewhere, this is the place to raise capital to fund the ambitious development projects of the government.

"South Korean President Park picked winners from the stock market, the likes of Samsung, Hyundai and LG that had the potential and innovation to go beyond and rest is history. Similarly winners from our listed companies could be picked by looking at their potential, drive and commitment. We need to incentivize and nurture such winners, free such winning companies to go out and compete with global giants to make headway in economic development, which would change the whole complexion of our stock market that will convert us to a dynamic entrepreneurial state," Mendis said.

## Quota for vehicle... Continued from page 25

If this amount is multiplied by the number of importers one could guess the quantity of vehicles imported to the country," Gunasekera said. The value of the rupee plummeted to over Rs. 200 against the Greenback last year and con-

tinues to hover around Rs. 185 per US Dollar. The gross foreign reserves crossed USD 7 billion by the end of July this year. However, the CMTA, a trade association that represents automotive manufacturers through their local

## Progress of sectors... Continued from page 25

...exploit the changing work ecosystems.

He said that the processed food and beverage sector has overall, sustained their exports, given the nature of the exports, and its necessity due to the pandemic situation.

However, he said looking deeply into value addition, the products exported are not on par with the regional players. The exploitation of plus factors, such as the medicinal value of Sri Lankan food products and its use in traditional processing methods, specialised and developed in this country could be a strong differentiator.

On the other hand improving productivity and quality of the output of processing operations is a significant need to meet the needs of the global market.

He said the NES focuses on five main export areas such as processed food and beverage sector, spices and concentrates, IT-BPM, boating industry, wellness tourism and electrical and electronic components. The overall export performance, during 2019, exports grew by 14.4 percent with a value of USD 16,140 million.

This growth was mainly due to industrial exports and agricultural exports indicated a decline.

Regarding the NES, the favourable impact of the restoration of the EU GSP+ facility, conducive external trade policies with improved institutional support and some trade diversion resulting from the US-China trade tensions helped increase export earnings. However, we have experienced and faced the brunt of the global economic contraction due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On capitalising of the global shift from US and China for sourcing Jasinghe said Japanese investments moving away from China could be an opportunity for Sri Lanka.

The country should explore the opportunity of attracting Export Catalyst Investments and technology transferring partnerships as a way forward.

To do business with the Japanese, one should maintain extremely transparent and ethical business practices, therefore, Sri Lankan business should build the infra structure, to be appealing to such global investors. Regional opportunity with the East Asian countries - taking into account the growth potential still

Product	2019 JAN- JUNE	2020 JAN- JUNE	% GROWTH	2019 JAN- JUNE	2020 JAN- JUNE	% GROWTH
Apparel & Textiles	2,752.58	1,936.66	-29.64	503.91	402.04	-20.22
Tea	684.95	571.66	-16.54	113.18	114.93	1.55
Coconut & Coconut based Products	314.05	281.61	-10.33	54.53	65.01	19.22
Rubber & Rubber Based Products	457.11	349.17	-23.61	80.80	68.89	-14.74
Electrical & Electronic Products	195.38	144.11	-26.24	33.14	31.06	-6.28
Food Feed & Beverages	193.06	56.28	-70.61	34.47	31.59	-8.36
Spices, Essential Oils & Oleoresins	144.09	114.49	-20.54	24.40	31.71	29.96
Fish & Fisheries Products	151.61	105.5	-30.41	22.50	26.30	16.89
Fruits, Nuts and Vegetables	37.08	30.59	-17.50	5.57	6.72	20.65
Cut Flowers & Foliage	10.09	6.64	-33.69	1.73	1.47	-15.03
Other Export Crops	14.38	39.16	272.32	2.56	9.30	263.28
Diamonds, Gems & Jewellery	157.79	71.16	-54.90	23.28	10.13	-56.49
Footwear and Leather	46.14	17.3	-62.51	5.73	3.56	-37.87
Base Metal Products	90.69	55.46	-38.85	13.83	9.63	-30.37
Petroleum Products	165.66	170.65	3.01	32.21	29.64	-7.98
Others	515.08	311.9	-39.45	132.17	64.04	-51.55
Total	5,929.74	4,362.34	-26.43	1,084.01	906.02	-16.42

Sources: Sri Lanka Customs / Sri Lanka Export Development Board

lying within the East Asian countries; Sri Lanka could enter into partnerships and carefully negotiated bi-lateral or multilateral trade arrangements to reap benefits from the available potential. Stressing on the need to create a conducive business environment in the country for export oriented investments Jasinghe said the country also should attract the investments and technologies to make use of these opportunities by building a conducive business environment. Sri Lankan exporters are doing their best within their capacities to exploit new markets related to the changes in the international market place which has been affected by

the Covid-19 crisis. The Export Development Board (EDB) in consultation with Sri Lankan Missions Overseas is spearheading efforts to identify the emerging opportunities in international markets and guide exporters.

Exporters have used this opportunity to reach newer markets. For example Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and rubber based products such as face masks were targeted at 12 markets, protective gowns sent to 17 markets. Exports that amounted to USD 227 million during April 2020, increased to USD 606 million by May 2020. However, he noted the challenge to the exporters is to develop innovative products to suit

the emerging demands from the international markets in the post pandemic era, provide wider digitised service exports, managing internal and domestic costs to ensure that competitiveness is maintained, maintaining sustainability related responsibility within the entire supply chain are factors that stands out at present.

"Adopting strategies to face the aforementioned challenges, is workable, and has been proven by the resilience and innovative nature of the export community, to make use of this unprecedented opportunity and place Sri Lanka's exports firmly on the global map," Jasinghe said.

importers, called upon the Government recently to provide a clear direction on the period of the vehicle import suspension and emphasised the need to regulate automotive imports to legitimate importers that have been vetted by the

Government. The Association noted that the vehicle import ban had adversely affected thousands of Sri Lankans and it is the responsibility of the authorities to communicate as to when the ban would be lifted so that businesses and citizens

can plan ahead. The CMTA suggests that the Government implement a scheme to screen and register vehicle importers to control the quality and quantity of imports of vehicles. This is a practice that is employed by almost all countries and

will provide assurance to consumers as they are buying a vehicle from a credible corporate entity and not unscrupulous operators. Only about 30% of vehicle imports are through manufacturer authorised importers.

## Business

# Creating an extraordinary workplace

by  
**Hemantha Kulatunga**



Renowned psychologist and behaviour change expert Ron Friedman said, "The secret to a happy workplace is not spending money. It is about creating conditions that allow employees to do their best at work."

Successful organisations nurture individual differences, add value to the employee instead of extracting from them, offer something meaningful as a vision, and finally work is rewarded lavishly. They also make the rules simple and apply to everyone equally.

Research results of the UK based Hay Group reveal that highly engaged employees are 50% more likely to exceed expectations and outperform than average workers. The research also divulges that companies with highly engaged employees do better in areas such as employee retention, customer satisfaction, and revenue performance. Employees who feel encouraged to express themselves at the workplace display substantially higher levels of commitment toward individual performances. They show more tendencies towards team spirit as well.

The organisations that genuinely look for employee satisfaction are aware that organisational culture, work behaviour, and management styles make a dominant current. The benefits of harnessing the full range of talents are important ingredients. Therefore, nurturing individuality is a clear incentive to make workers happy in the workplace.

## Efficiency

When stimulating employees, it is necessary to make them feel that they are the same people at home and when at work. This action can tremendously encourage the employee's sense of belonging. They feel comfortable by

being themselves even at the office. This sentiment can make the workers think more creatively and enhance their efficiency.

Employees usually wish to know what is going on in the organisation. Therefore, it is a good practice to tell the whole story without holding back unless they are sensitive information. Therefore, two-way information flow is an important part of the employer-employee relationship in a successful organisation. It is always good to let the staff know company information before they find out from a third party. In such situations, workers tend to feel neglected or left out of information.

In my personal experience, I have come across companies that suppress information even without valid reasons. In a good organisation, all available channels of communication are open to the staff where employees feel that even bad news is accepted positively by the management.

The ideal organisation transforms the best employees even better in performance and productivity. When the availability of talent is scarce, it is easier and more productive to develop existing staff rather than looking for new workers. As an example, I have come upon a very efficient salesman who has initially joined the company he works for as a driver. A good manager has identified the capability of the person and trained him to be in his sales team, making him a very successful field salesman. Making staff multi-tasking is very productive and also helps reducing labour costs in an organisation.

A company that is keen to provide good working environments should make the employees believe that they are offered an opportunity to develop themselves. Employee loyalty, a very important criterion in organisational success, can be tremendously developed by inculcating the impression that the employer is genuinely interested in career development.

## Loyalty

The workers can be influenced



and inspired by offering development opportunities, predominantly through training and other career development programs. When this set-up is established, even the weak employees can see the future path of improvement and invariably become loyal to the organisation. When the workers are motivated on career and personal development, they attempt their best to generate value for the company. Promising to bring out the best is a high-reward strategy for an organisation.

Good companies make the employee aware of where they stand in the market. It is a very important measure to make them feel important as usually workers are inclined to be proud to announce that their employers are successful and they work in a flourishing organisation.

This may encourage them to exceed their prevailing duties and do better.

They can be made to think that they are accomplishing something worthwhile. In this state, undeniably they feel proud to say where they

**Today, employees are increasingly skeptical about the hierarchical power of authority and becoming suspicious of charisma. This is a challenge the management of companies have to manage carefully**

work. Constant appreciation of performance makes employees happy and most or all of them expect some kind of admiration by the authorities. This is a hugely effective motivational tool to improve productivity. Whether the general functioning is good, average, or bad, workers tend to improve when they see a regular performance appraisal. Periodical appraisal and appreciation of their contribution to the organisation is vitally important to encourage workers.

This practice not only improves two-way communication but also helps negate any imbalance of negativity in the company. Celebrating success is another essential factor in a team. Usually, the employees most often are fatigued due to the monotony of whatever they do almost every day. Hence, they are always looking forward to amusement.

Although the staff of an ideal com-

pany understands that they are a professional family, they should be offered opportunities to enjoy. Hence, employee-centric companies provide opportunities at every possible occasion such as achievements, innovations, and even individual birthdays to gather staff and celebrate.

## Respect

Perfect companies try to keep staff-related matters simple, as much as possible. The rules that govern the organisations should be clear and must apply to everyone equally. The reasons for rules are communicated and the whole organisation understands why they are made. The authority of these organisations is highly respected with adherence to the chain of command.

When the workers are made to understand the rules, regulations, and the organisational culture at the

beginning of one's employment, such employees do not resist the general rules of the organisation at a later stage.

Therefore, irrespective of the size, organisations must have induction programs to make new workers understand the said criteria.

Despite all employee-friendly theories discussed above, organisations need the culture of respecting superiors as suggested by the German-British philosopher Ralf Dahrendorf's theory of 'imperatively coordinated associations' that describes organisational groups based on power relations.

The organisational culture customarily is created on the ideals of people in the authority.

Today, employees are increasingly sceptical about the hierarchical power of authority and becoming suspicious of charisma.

This is a challenge the management of companies need to manage carefully.

What employees expect is a sense of moral authority from the importance of the final result they can produce. The organisation that they dream of, gives them powerful reasons to conform and support the purpose.

Depending on the work environment created by the ownership, work can either be liberating or exploitative. To create an authentic organisation using human potential, the challenges must be considered carefully and cautiously.

The suggestions to create a dream company environment are purely based on the understanding the employer and the employee maintain in official and personal matters. Workers in such an environment feel better and secure with their respective careers.

Hence, companies should consider the reasons for workplace happiness. By making the workplace a cheerful place, productivity, efficiency, effectiveness, and success can be achieved while being content.

## NDB enters into landmark agreement with iLoan Lanka

NDB has teamed up with iLoan Lanka (Pvt) Limited to provide SMEs with better access to trade finance, by providing trade credit to the underbanked and unbanked micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (mSME) in their trade with the distributors of large manufacturers in Sri Lanka.

In an era where Fintech's are more focused on disrupting the way banks operate, iLoan is a unique Business to Business Fintech that focuses on disrupting the way lending happens by providing a Verified and Secured Trade Credit Network for Banks to channel their trade based credit offerings.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has identified the urgent need to find solutions to the increasingly widening trade credit gap which is over US\$ 600 billion in Asia alone.



From left: Dilip Samanthilaka, Senior Director Alpen Capital, Thushani Hewavitharana, Relationship Manager NDB, Fazley Azhar, Chairman, Indika Ranaweera, Vice President, SME, Middle Markets and Business Banking NDB, Dimantha Seneviratne, Director and Group Chief Executive Officer NDB, Roshan Weerasinghe, Director iLoan, Shamraz Shamsudeen, COO iLoan, Indika Kudagamage, AVP Business Banking, SME, Micro Finance and Liabilities NDB, Shanka Abeywardene, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Planning and Business Intelligence NDB, Sydney Downhall, Regional Manager, Colombo Region NDB.

## SLT enables QR bill payment facility



General Manager of BOC, Sugath Gunasekara (left) and Chief Executive Officer of SLT, Kiththi Perera exchange the agreement.

Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) has taken bill payments to the next level with a cashless bill payment facility through the addition of QR codes on all SLT bills. The dynamic QR code system now makes even the final transaction convenient and effective.

Payments for all SLT bills can be made through any Lanka QR certified payment app. Scanning the QR code on the SLT bill from the designated banking apps will lead the customer to the bill payment transaction effortlessly.

The facility for central bill collection of this process is provided by the Bank of Ceylon.

The agreement between SLT and the Bank of Ceylon was exchanged by Chief Executive Officer of SLT, Kiththi Perera and General Manager of BOC, Sugath Gunasekara. Group

Chief Finance officer of SLT, Sanjeeva Samaranyake, Assistant General Manager of BOC, Aruna Kumara and other representatives of both companies were also present.

General Manager, Bank of Ceylon, Sugath Gunasekara said, "Customers can enjoy the freedom of making bill payments anywhere at any time with a single click using BOC SmartPay or with any other Lanka QR certified payment app."

CEO of SLT, Kiththi Perera said, "In a dynamic and evolving industry such as telecommunication, it is SLT's objective to keep upgrading our products and services that will provide convenience to our customers. The inclusion of the Dynamic QR code bill payment facility is another step towards taking our services to a more cash-less, yet secure process."

## Dilmah Tea voted a trusted and respected brand

Ethical tea brand Dilmah, has won the palates and hearts of consumers in Australia and New Zealand, with their recent recognition as one of the most Trusted Brands. Dilmah was first launched by founder Merrill J. Fernando, in Australia over 33 years ago, followed by New Zealand.

In Sri Lanka, Dilmah has been ranked among the 20 Most Respected Entities in Sri Lanka by a Nielsen Survey for LMD Business Magazine, and No. 1 in the Food and Beverage category. New Zealanders have voted Dilmah their Most Trust-



**New Zealanders have voted Dilmah their Most Trusted Tea Brand**

ed Tea Brand six years in a row, in the Reader's Digest survey. In Australia, Dilmah was voted as one of the most trusted brands in 2020 months after its natural infusions were chosen Product of the Year 2020 in a survey of over 10,000 Australians. Dilmah maintains a commitment to taste, goodness and purpose, fulfilling founder Merrill J. Fernando's commitment to quality and integrity. Consumer trust is connected with authenticity, where products come from, and just as importantly, how the brands they support are giving back.

## Huawei MateBook X Pro launched in Sri Lanka

Huawei launched the Huawei MateBook X Pro laptop in Sri Lanka recently.

It has a portable ultra slim design. Huawei MateBook X Pro features a 13.9-inch full view display. Design-wise, the laptop mimics a professional notebook outlook with a metallic body that is just 14.6mm thin and weighs only 1.33kg.

The laptop has a full-size backlit keyboard and its touchpad supports accurate multi touch capabilities that further assists in navigating the laptop and is powered by a 56Wh long lasting battery that provides up to 13 hours of video playback.

**HUAWEI MateBook X Pro™**



**The Huawei MateBook laptop**

Country Head of Huawei Devices, Sri Lanka, Peter Liun said, "As a leading technology solutions provider, Huawei is gaining momentum in the laptop arena and MateBook series has

**HUAWEI MateBook 13**



been the pillar of its success. Much like its predecessors, Huawei MateBook X Pro is certain to disrupt the laptop arena." Multi-Screen collaboration is one feature common to all

these laptops. It enhances the productivity and efficiency of all these laptops and it makes file sharing much easier without physically connecting the laptop with the smartphone.

Multi-screen collaboration is a versatile feature that enables the users to project the smartphone screen on the laptop and take charge of it while continuing the laptop tasks. It also allows the users to drag and drop files between smartphone and laptop, edit smartphone files from the laptop and control apps.

The fingerprint scanner embedded to the power button is another shared feature.

## Kishu Gomes appointed Group MD, Dreamron Group



Kishu Gomes receives his letter of appointment.

Award winning corporate leader Kishu Gomes who joined the Dreamron Group of Companies and made significant strides in re-structuring the business to record stellar performance amidst Covid-19 challenge was recently appointed Group Managing Director with amplified authority and accountability.

He joined the Dreamron Group as its Group CEO in November last year to empower a truly local company with his decades of diverse knowledge and corporate leadership experience working for two large American multinational organisations over three decades of which 18 years was as the Managing Director and CEO of Chevron Lubricants Lanka PLC and Chevron Ceylon Ltd. Riding on the success story of the Dreamron Group over two decades, Gomes has re-structured the business using his past

experience in re-structuring at Chevron, to lay the foundation for exponential business growth for the four business entities under the Dreamron Group, Kindai Kagaku Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Harumi Holdings (Pvt) Ltd, Dreamron Lanka (Pvt) Ltd and Dreamron College of Art and Beauty. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the export arm of the Group, Kindai Kagaku made entry into three new markets including Poland to increase its footprint in the global market taking the number of export markets up to 30.

A veteran in the field of cosmetics, Chairman Dr. Priyanka Perera will continue to contribute his vast knowledge and expertise to prop Gomes' efforts, while Directress Mrs Nisha Perera, will continue to add her strength to the whole group with specific focus on further strengthening the Beauty College run by the Dreamron Group.

## Business

# SL records highest cryptocurrency mining encounters across region

The findings of the latest edition of Microsoft's Security Endpoint Threat Report 2019, for the Asia Pacific, which was released recently, has found that Sri Lanka experienced the highest cryptocurrency mining encounters across the region in the past year.

Findings were derived from an analysis of diverse Microsoft data sources, including eight trillion threat signals received and analysed by Microsoft every day, covering a 12-month period, from January to December 2019.

"As security defences evolve and attackers rely on new techniques, Microsoft's unique access to billions of threat signals every day enables us to gather data and insights to inform our response to cyberattacks," said Assistant General Counsel, Microsoft Digital Crimes Unit, Microsoft Asia, Mary Jo Schrade.

"The Microsoft Security Endpoint Threat report aims to create a better understanding of the evolving threat



landscape and help organisations improve their cybersecurity posture by mitigating the effects of increasingly sophisticated attacks," she said. According to the report, Asia Pacific continued to experience a

higher-than-average encounter rate for malware and ransomware attacks - 1.6 and 1.7 times higher than the rest of the world, respectively. Sri Lanka recorded the 2nd highest malware encounter rate at 9.07 percent in 2019.

**During such attacks, victims' computers are infected with cryptocurrency mining malware, allowing criminals to leverage the computing power of their computers without their knowledge**

Despite a 14 percent decrease, this was 1.7 times higher than the regional average.

According to the report, Sri Lanka recorded the highest cryptocurrency mining encounter rate across the region. While a 45 percent decrease was recorded, from 0.46 in 2018 to 0.25 in 2019, this remained five times higher than the regional and global average. During such attacks, victims' computers are infected with cryptocurrency mining malware, allowing criminals to leverage the computing power of their computers without their knowledge.

Country Manager, Microsoft Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Hasitha Abeywardena said, "While recent

fluctuations in cryptocurrency value and the increased time required to generate cryptocurrency have resulted in attackers refocusing their efforts, they continue to exploit markets with low cyber awareness and low adoption of cyber hygiene practices."

Businesses and people have a crucial role to play in navigating cyberspace securely and are encouraged to take the following steps:

\* Have strong tools to safeguard employees and infrastructure. This means looking into multi-layered defense systems and turning on multi-factor authentication (MFA) as employees work from home. It enables endpoint protection and protect against shadow IT and unauthorised app usage with solutions like Microsoft Cloud App Security

\* Ensure employee guidelines are communicated clearly to employees. This includes information on how to identify phishing attempts, distinguishing between official communications and suspicious messages that

violate company policy, and where these can be reported internally

\* Choose a trusted application for audio/video calling and file sharing that ensures end-to-end encryption

#### Guidance for individuals:

\* Update all devices with the latest security updates and use an antivirus or anti-malware service. For Windows 10 devices, Microsoft Defender Antivirus is a free built-in service enabled through settings

\* Be alert to links and attachments, especially from unknown senders

\* Use multi-factor authentication (MFA) on all accounts. Now, most online services provide a way to use your mobile device or other methods to protect your accounts in this way

\* Get educated on how to recognise phishing attempts and report suspected encounters, including watching out for spelling and bad grammar, and suspicious links and attachments from people you do not know.

## AASL renews security service provider licence

Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited (AASL) was issued the Aviation Security Service Provider Licence, on the satisfactory demonstration to the Director General of Civil Aviation of its conformance to requirements stipulated in the Civil Aviation Act No. 14 of 2010 recently.

The AASL will continue to provide aviation security services, in accordance with the approved Airport Security Program through which they are authorised to provide Aviation Security Services at civil Airports in Sri Lanka, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake, Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, Colombo Airport, Ratmalana, Batticaloa International Airport and Jaffna International Airport.

It is a regulatory requirement to appoint an Aviation Security Service Provider with a licence issued by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to provide security services at the civil airports in the country.



Director General of Civil Aviation, Capt. Themiya Abeywickrama presents the Aviation Security Service Provider Licence to Chairman, AASL, Maj. General (Rtd.) G. A. Chandrasiri at CAASL headquarters, Katunayake. Vice Chairman, CAASL, Amitha Wijayasuriya, Actg. Additional Director General CAASL, P. A. Jayakantha, Vice Chairman, AASL, Rajewasiri Sooriyaarachchi, senior officials of CAASL, AASL and Aviation Security stakeholders including State Security agencies and industry were also present.

## Club HNB members get access to tax services with Frontier Advisory

HNB PLC has entered into a partnership with Frontier Advisory (Pvt) Ltd. to provide members of its private banking arm, Club HNB, elite tax and regulatory consultation services.

Through the partnership, Club HNB members will now have access to a gamut of advisory services designed to ensure value, convenience and compliance for clients - both in their personal and professional tax obligations.

HNB DGM, Retail & SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne said, "While taxation is an essential obligation, it can often be a tedious and complex process. For high net worth clients, ensuring complete compliance and elimination of human error can be particularly challenging.

"Through our partnership with Frontier Advisory, we offer Club



From left: HNB Head of Club, Michelle de Silva, HNB DGM Retail & SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne, with Frontier Advisory Directors, Faryal Fazla Farouq, Mohamed Azreen Zaheer and Mohamed Hussain Kariapper after signing the agreement.

HNB members a deeply personalized, affordable and comprehensive solution to rationalising their tax burden in a holistic manner," he said.

Frontier Advisory provides clients with a diversity of services aimed at improving businesses through a broad range of value added consulting services.

Advertorial

For large corporates, understanding the pulse of one's stakeholders assures longevity and relevance. From serving a few to serving many, Cargills has undergone numerous changes as a corporate entity throughout its rich history of over 175 years. Reflecting on its journey thus far, Cargills transformed from a primarily wholesale and retail business to a pivotal player across multiple sectors within the food and beverage industry in Sri Lanka.

From introducing the first bona fide supermarket, Cargills Food City which revolutionised modern retailing in the country, to acquiring long-standing food brands and elevating them to new heights, Cargills has never shied away from diving into new ventures.

At its core is a deep intrinsic understanding of its stakeholders, from farmers to customers across all 25 districts. Whilst the looming pandemic in March 2020 sought to disrupt the normal, this same understanding, a pulse if you will, directed a new norm.

### Tiding over a pandemic

Like many other businesses, Cargills was compelled to adapt. While it has a wide network of supermarkets across the island, which was in fact operational during this time, there were no customers to be served due to the imposed lockdown. Almost overnight, the Cargills Rewards website was transformed to a new system for customers to order their groceries. It was a simple solution that leveraged its supply chain to help facilitate hyperlocal delivery for customers within a 5km radius of its outlets.

Furthermore, container trucks carrying well displayed groceries were dispatched to neighborhoods, pioneering Asia's first mobile supermarket, 'Cargills 2 Home'. This ingenuity was driven by the top brass, who too feel the pulse of their stakeholders and so brought the supermarket experience to the customer's home.

### The first retailer to launch an e-grocery mobile application in Sri Lanka

At the height of the lockdown, customers were desperate for their daily essentials their families so relied on. While frustrations mounted, many questions were asked primarily pertaining to where their order was and why all ordered items weren't delivered. Nevertheless, until today, these same questions are raised by customers who continue to shop for their groceries online. Through overwhelming feedback and criticism across social media & other channels, Cargills faced a simple, albeit difficult question to answer- how can online grocery shopping be convenient and hassle free?

### Introducing: Cargills Online

Cargills Online was conceptualised to be not just an e-commerce platform, but a complete overhaul of the grocery supply chain ensuring convenience and guaranteeing customers get what they order.

Cargills envisioned a more advanced online platform than those that existed in the niche e-grocery segment. A platform that will ensure consumers have an alternative to its own Food City where the lowest prices would now be online as well.

# Cargills

## A supermarket in your pocket



### Ensuring each product is delivered

In theory, the task of delivering each item a customer ordered sounds simple, but is difficult to achieve from an inventory management perspective. To ensure receipt of the ordered good, Cargills constructed a purpose-built, e-commerce fulfillment centre during the height of curfew. This centre, or what the industry refers to as a dark store, helps Cargills Online guarantee fulfillment of a customer's order.

### Hygiene

To ensure the highest level of hygiene standards are met when every order goes to the customer's homes, sanitization chambers, footbaths, & disinfecting wash basins were included

into the construction of the centre. Moreover, regular health screens in the form of temperature checks are rigorously carried out to further ensure that those that engage with customers are of good health. Upon delivery, each of these agents is masked and performs a final hand sanitization before the handover to the customer.

### Delivering dry, chilled & frozen

Significant investment was made into the last mile to warrant each product ordered by the customer is as good as if it were taken off the production line in which it was manufactured or from the farm in which it was grown. From the delivery vehicles to the boxes in which the order is

delivered, Cargills Online will ensure that your products will be delivered under the right conditions be it ice cream at -10 degrees Celsius or even fresh fruits and vegetables.

### Customer service

Given the detailed FAQ section on the platform and the consistent notifications to track an order across each stage are insufficient, a dedicated team of customer service agents are available on call should a customer have any concerns regarding their order. In fact, early customer feedback described the Cargills Online customer service as "next level".

### The first end to end e-grocer in town

Cargills Online is not just a platform which has images of products for sale. It is a comprehensive end to end solution for customers to continue ordering groceries online, building on the trust and legacy of Cargills, and establishing e-grocery as a viable alternative to the conventional brick and mortar store.



## Business

## HCL Technologies launches Global Development Centre in Colombo

HCL Technologies (HCL) opened its Global Development Centre in Colombo recently.

The new development centre was opened by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay via a virtual ceremony.

Founder, Managing Director and Chief Strategy Officer, HCL Technologies, Shiv Nadar and President and Chief Executive Officer, HCL Technologies, C. Vijayakumar also participated.

HCL's office in Colombo will be home to world-class infrastructure, multi-layered data and physical security protocols, and high-end systems to support its global customer base. HCL will primarily focus on offering next-generation solutions to serve major blue-chip organisations.

The inauguration was also attended by Corporate Vice President, HCL Technologies, Srimathi Shivashankar, BOI Chairman Susantha Ratnayake, HCL partners from PwC, officials of SLASSCOM, ESOFIT and leading business personalities.

The office in Colombo which currently has a seating capacity for over 650 employees, already has over 100 new HCL local recruits. By the end of November, it hopes to add 600 seats at this centre. HCL plans to deploy about 3,000 people in the coming three to five years of which 1,500 employees will start working in Sri Lanka in the next 18 months.

"We have a strong cultural link up with Sri Lanka. India and Sri Lanka have contributed to each other's growth and prosperity. Our efforts are focused on creating employ-

ment and we plan to establish a very large presence here. I look forward to seeing motivated and energised young Lankans join HCL and help us deliver on our promise - to our clients and to the country," said Founder and Chief Strategy Officer, HCL Technologies, Shiv Nadar.

The company will help the local workforce 'stay rooted' in their native place and invites Sri Lanka expats to come back home and be a part of this transformational journey. HCL will also implement its Work Integrated Education Program to foster growth by actively cooperating with local ICT and engineering institutions to develop and train the local talent pool. For freshers, HCL will focus on hiring A/Level, Higher National Diploma (HND) students through skills training and hiring program.

## Laugfs Terminals marks 100th ship call

Laugfs Terminals Ltd. marked the 100th ship call, for loading of LP Gas at its all weather LP Gas Storage and Transshipment Terminal Complex at the Hambantota International Port last week.

This facility is operated by Laugfs Terminals Ltd., a fully owned subsidiary of Laugfs Gas PLC. The installed cargo capacity of this terminal complex is 30,000 m<sup>3</sup>, which can achieve 1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> of LP Gas per annum as transshipment, by way of import, storage, mixing of elements of Propane and Butane and exports to identified markets.

The call of the 100th ship at the terminal complex through Hambantota International Port is a landmark event in the country since it denotes the beginning of creating an 'Energy-Hub' around the port in addition to it being a 'Maritime-Hub' in the short to medium term with increased ship calls for trading and transshipment purposes.

Laugfs Terminals took only 14 months to achieve this important feat which is significant when compared against the general gestation periods for infrastructure projects of this nature and also from the point of view of the energy trading projects globally that



will usually take at least 24 months to reach optimum levels of operations. At present, the terminal records an average of 15-20 ship calls per month and it will soon

be increased to 30 ship calls per month and it will be a situation where at least one ship will either be loading or unloading LPG cargo at the terminals everyday.

## HNB Finance bags accolades

Asian Banking and Finance Awards

HNB Finance secured multiple victories at the Asian Banking & Finance Awards 2020. The company was lauded as the Marketing & Brand Initiative of the Year - Sri Lanka and as Website of the Year - Sri Lanka.

Held for the first time as a digital awards presentation ceremony, the Asian Banking and Finance Awards draws entries from a wide spectrum of exceptional financial institutions based all across Asia.

"We are honoured to be recognised at

the Asian Banking and Finance Awards alongside numerous other international financial institutions in the Asian region.

This victory is testament to the great investments we have made to ensure that our customers are treated to a credible, comprehensive portfolio of financial services that keep up with the revolutionary advancements in the world outside," said HNB Finance Executive Officer and Managing Director Chaminda Prabhath.

"As the face of the organisation in the digital sphere, our website has grown to become a key component in our integrated digital marketing strategy.

"It is a clear indication of our evolution over the years to become a major player in the financial sector, and, therefore, we are pleased to offer our diverse portfolio of services and products to our beloved customers on an easy to navigate platform," he said.

## Surf Mirissa in London and Melbourne

Inspired by the popular Sri Lankan surfing destination Mirissa, Surf Mirissa was launched as a start-up clothing brand in 2015.

Gradually evolving its presence from pop-up stores based in Colombo initially to leading retail stores. The brand recently established a small presence in London and Melbourne in a number of stores owned by Sri Lankans living in the two cities. The latest Surf Mirissa Collection was

launched in August 2020, drawing inspiration from tropical elements of Sri Lanka and the island lifestyle.

The brand launches a new collection every two months with its designs promoting the surfing culture around the coasts in Sri Lanka. Surf Mirissa even has a dedicated collection to promote Sri Lankan surf destinations such as Unawatuna, Mirissa, Arugam Bay and Hiriketiyi. Its owner, Nimesh Yatawara said,

"We are focused on offering fashionable, comfortable and meaningful beach lifestyle inspired clothing in Sri Lanka and beyond.

"Our vision is to see the brand expand globally, while taking the message of the local surf scene with us. "While developing into a more successful brand, we also want to divert attention to popular surf destinations in the country and the community," he said.

## Trade deficit narrows in July

The external sector recovered further in July 2020 supported by an increase in merchandise exports and increased workers' remittances amidst reduced merchandise imports.

Several notable achievements were observed in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. Earnings from merchandise exports surpassed US \$ 1 billion in July for the first time since January 2020 and recorded a positive year-on-year growth for the first time since February 2020.

Merchandise imports remained subdued with the continuation of restrictions imposed on the importation of non essential goods. A substantial increase was observed in workers' remittances in July 2020, recording the highest amount of monthly remittances since January 2018.

The level of gross official reserves of the country increased to US dollars 7.1 billion by end July 2020 with the receipt of the SAARCFI-NANCE swap facility from the

Reserve Bank of India. Net inflows to the domestic foreign exchange market eased the pressure on the exchange rate and enabled the Central Bank to absorb foreign exchange on a net basis to build up gross official reserves.

Foreign outflows from the government securities market and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) continued during the month, though at relatively low levels. The Sri Lankan rupee recorded a marginal appreciation during the month of July 2020.

The deficit in the trade account narrowed by US dollars 509 million in July 2020 to US dollars 209 million, from US dollars 717 million in July 2019, as exports increased while imports recorded a decline. Also, on a cumulative basis, the trade deficit narrowed by US dollars 844 million to US dollars 3,470 million during the period January-July 2020 from US dollars 4,314 million in the corresponding period of 2019.

### INVITATION FOR BIDS



### AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) LIMITED

(BID NO. 101/T/2019)

### SUPPLY OF UNIFORM SHOES FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF AASL FOR THE YEAR 2020

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited for the **Supply of Uniform Shoes for the Employees of AASL for the year 2020.**

Bids should be submitted on Documents obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on a **cash payment of Rupees Three Thousand and Five Hundred (Rs. 3,500.00) being a non-refundable Bidding Document Fee**, together with an official letter of request, issued by the Bidder.

Bidding Documents may be purchased **between 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on any working day from 22.09.2020 up to 19.10.2020** from the Office of Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. The Bidding Documents will be available for inspection free of charge at the above address.

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

Bids will be closed at **2.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 20th. October 2020** and will be opened immediately thereafter at the Supply Chain Management Division, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. Bidders or their duly authorized representatives may be present at the time of opening of Bids.

An on demand **Bid Guarantee** equivalent to **Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred (Rs. 183,700.00)** in the form of Bank Guarantee issued by a Bank approved by the Central Bank and operating in Sri Lanka and payable to Chairman, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited should be submitted with the Bid.

Any further information could be obtained from the Division of Supply Chain Management, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake on Telephone Nos. 011-2264103 / 011-2264102, email : head.scm@airport.lk or by visiting our web site : [www.airport.lk](http://www.airport.lk)

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

### INVITATION FOR BIDS



### AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) LIMITED

BID NO. : 117/T/2019

### REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PASSENGER ELEVATOR IN THE NAVIGATION SERVICES COMPLEX AT BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KATUNAYAKE

This is further to the Paper Advertisement published in the 'Sunday Observer' Newspaper on 23.08.2020 regarding the above Bid.

The closing date of the above Bid is extended up to **2.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 06th. October 2020 and the Documents are issuing up to 05th. October 2020.**

Others remain unchanged.

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



### CALLING 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' (EOI) FOR

### 'CRICKET CAPTURING AND PERFORMANCE ANALYSING SOFTWARE SOLUTION'

SRI LANKA CRICKET (SLC), an International Brand with Global Recognition wishes to invite renowned organizations in the field of Software Developers/Solution Providers to provide 'Cricket Capturing and Performance Analysing Software Solution' for Sri Lanka Cricket;

Interested firms are invited to submit their letters of Expression of Interest [EOI] (indicating the module which it wishes to submit the EOI) together with a brief introduction and summary of credentials of the organization via e-mail to SLC on [it@srilankacicket.lk](mailto:it@srilankacicket.lk) to reach on or before 1.00 p.m. on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020. If you require any further information in relation to this EOI, please contact Assistant Manager - IT Digital Services - SLC via 0770241072.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) detailing SLC's Requirements, benefits offered and guidelines in relation to the captioned Tender process will be notified to the parties who submit Letters of EOI.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this invitation for EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Chief Executive Officer  
Sri Lanka Cricket**

## Advertorial

# AIA introduces secure remote digital signatures

In yet another industry first initiative in Sri Lanka, AIA Insurance has introduced enterprise grade, secure remote digital signatures for customers. This means that customers can now sign documents in the comfort and privacy of their own homes, securely, with ease and convenience.

"This pioneering solution was launched by AIA with the customer's convenience in mind," said AIA's CEO Nikhil Advani; "having faced the recent covid pandemic, we realised that safety comes first. Most people are apprehensive to have physical meetings unless



absolutely necessary. So, we wanted to ensure a way that policies can continue to be written without physical meetings

between the customer and agent. That is why we introduced the e-signatures, which is easy, efficient and safe."

AIA's Chief Technology Officer Umeshi de Fonseka added, "Our remote digital signature process, which is world-class and cutting-edge, is fast, safe, and convenient for both the agent and the customer. There is no requirement for signing multiple times and the signed documents are received by AIA and customer instantaneously, making it an effectual and seamless process."

He said, "At AIA we are constantly looking at ways of using digitization to

make life easier for the customers. We understand how busy life gets and want our customers to know that we value their time. We also understand their concerns in these uncertain times and respect their reservations about physical meetings. That is why we are continuously innovating and leveraging on digital technologies to serve our customers better."

If you are thinking of signing up for an AIA policy to ensure health protection and financial security for yourself and your family, you can now do it from the comfort of your home.



## GrandSpace opens at Astoria-Colombo

GrandSpace will be extending its services to Astoria-Colombo, located at the heart of the city centre by providing the best of services and better accessibility to their wide variety of clients at a prominent location in the center of Colombo.

This will be the second venture of GrandSpace in providing extensively serviced office spaces; including virtual offices, meeting rooms and fully facilitated day offices to co-working spaces. The first project in Kohuwala

continues to accommodate numerous small enterprises and entrepreneurs mastering in varying fields of commerce with a range of affordable and flexible options.

The latest locale at Colombo 3 will make the new centre one of the most sought after locations in the city hub, offering upgraded facilities worthy of the dynamic business lifestyle one craves for. GrandSpace - Astoria accommodates 40 exclusive private office spaces.

## Keells supermarkets cater to the needs of customers in the new normal

Keells has always prioritised listening to customers and now in the new normal understands that safety, convenience and ability to save money during these trying times is paramount.

A multi-pronged approach has been implemented to ensure the right solutions are offered to customers and communities.

"We understood based on customer feedback that the lifestyles and priorities for our customers have fundamentally changed and it is important now more than ever that we understand this and make sure we are there for not only our customers but also our communities with the right kind of service and support" said Charitha Subasinghe, President - Retail Sector, John Keells Group. The revamped Keells website, now offers customers a seamless online shopping experience with a wider range, quick and cost effective delivery as well as the ability to place an order and collect it at store via the 'Click & Collect' feature ensuring they meet varied needs of customers.

Freshness backed by a Freshness Guarantee. Keells gets their produce within 24 hours straight from the farm.



With rigorous quality checks in place, ensuring that only the freshest produce reaches the customer.

Keells continues to offer 'Double your money back' if any item you purchase is not fresh. This applies to all fresh items offered at the supermarket such as fresh vegetables, fruits, seafood, meats, juices, pizzas and range of hot food. More savings due to affordable own label products and promotions. Understanding that the ability to save is important, Keells developed a concept called 'Everyday Low Prices' that provides selected everyday essentials at a

low price. Keells also has over 350 of their own products priced 10% or lower than regular brands providing customers access to lower-priced, good-quality products. Keells continues to offer great savings of 25% for Nexus members on selected essentials groceries, fresh and household items, rewarding raffle competitions and further savings through credit card offers.

Supporting our Communities - During these challenging times Keells's responsibilities extend further to the wider community. A program has been established and expanded to donate con-

sumable, fresh produce left over from the daily sales to a partnering charity organization to be distributed to deserving communities. Weekly, 350 persons indirectly benefit from this program.

Keells *Wyawasaayaka Saviya*, a major CSR initiative in which Keells is partnering with NEDA (National Enterprise Development Authority) to "uplift the standards of small scale suppliers". This project with 18 small scale suppliers at the moment, provides small scale suppliers with the relevant expertise and skills to ensure they adapt to the current business conditions which will ultimately enable them to gain access to markets in a sustainable manner.

Selected stores have also opened car park spaces for small scale entrepreneurs to sell their products and obtain an additional source of income at no extra cost. Being agile, flexible and adaptable has worked well for Keells in understanding consumer mindset and delivering on the needs to suit the new normal. Keells also understands that it is important that as a responsible corporate to extend a supporting hand to the wider community to emerge from this pandemic together as a nation.

## Union Assurance recognised by *Echelon*



The team leading the charge at Union Assurance

Union Assurance was recently recognised by leading business magazine *Echelon* for rising to the challenges of Covid-19 and for its transformative journey in digitising Life Insurance to get closer its customers.

The leadership team led by Chief Executive Jude Gomes who had taken the job only months before, were well pre-prepared for the challenges ahead.

The new normal brought with it a formidable opportunity for Union Assurance to live by its promise - Your Life, Our Strength, and offer

much needed support to its stakeholders to demonstrate that being a responsible insurer can be much more than a slogan.

Union Assurance has been at the forefront of technology advancement in the insurance industry in its 30 years of operation.

The Company is the first Life Insurer in Sri Lanka to have a 100% digital, paperless submission process to issue policies with fast turnaround, straight-through processing, digital claims submissions and servicing capabilities.

## Pan Asia Bank employees soar high with 'Fly Fun'

In keeping with its philosophy to provide an engaging workplace culture which offers an optimal work-life balance, Pan Asia Bank's team HR successfully concluded 'Fly Fun', an enjoyable activity for its employees.

Teams were called upon to make a choice of their kites under the "Truly Sri Lankan Traditions" theme.

The activity witnessed enthusiastic participation by employees who took part good-naturedly to design the

perfect kite that best fits the theme. The creatively designed kites were displayed at the Galle Face Green and all other outstation branches at their convenient open space locations.

Taking the spirit of togetherness a step further and to build a strong sense of teamwork, the kite flying event was held where various teams could display their kites and reap the fruits of their creativity and teamwork as the kites took flight towards

the sky at the Galle Face Green. The 'Fly Fun' event was enjoyed by all employees as it helped teams to collaborate and network outside office work, which helped create closer bonds.

At the same time, the selected theme, Truly Sri Lankan Traditions' aptly fits into Pan Asia Bank's identity as a "Truly Sri Lankan Bank" that upholds the proud Sri Lankan identity.



The staff taking part in the event at the Galle Face Green Colombo

## Vallibel Finance expands assurance of trust to Kohuwala and Piliyandala

Vallibel Finance unveiled its renowned brand of financial services from its dedicated new branch in Kohuwala, a region famous as Sri Lanka's largest vehicle hub. Its Piliyandala Branch also relocated, sparking brighter in a locality it has been deeply rooted.

The Managing Director of Vallibel Finance Jayantha Ranganuwa, opened the two branches to the public amidst a distinguished gathering of loyal customers and well wishers.

"We have a great relationship in Kohuwala and Piliyandala, bringing financial solutions tailor-made to a vast number of people. The two new branches will broaden our offerings, enhancing the quality and speed of service which Sri Lanka know us for, said Ranganuwa.

Ranganuwa said, "Our corporate mandate is to make available our services in the most approachable and reachable manner to our customers!" At every instance we strive to provide financial solutions



Piliyandala branch



Kohuwala branch

in the most creative and innovative ways that suit the requirement of the customer by understanding their specific need and thereby catering accurately with our well-planned products and services.

We are extremely proud to be able to introduce yet another locations in Kohuwala and Piliyandala to our ever expanding branch network and relocate our Piliyandala

Branch to a strategic location" he added.

Vallibel Finance continues to take firm roots across the country and deals primarily in Leasing, Fixed Deposits, Gold Loans, Group Personal Loans, Mortgage Loans, Education Loans, Auto Drafts and Microfinance products deployed via a cutting-edge technological framework.

## The Creative Isle launches CAN Weekend Market in collaboration with Colombo City Centre

Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 2020 - Creative Isle, in collaboration with Colombo City Centre, launched the weekly, three-day Ceylon Artisan Network (CAN) Market, at the Colombo City Centre - Atrium on August 28, 2020. The launch event welcomed Chief Guest - Sri Lankan Cricket Legend, Muttiah Muralitharan.

The CAN Market was created as a platform to support micro-entrepreneurship from across the island and will take place every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10.30 a.m. to 9p.m.

The weekend market will feature vendors from around Sri Lanka, showcasing their export quality products at wholesale rates, whilst allowing them the opportunity to form new trade partnerships with bulk buyers. Focusing on sustainable and community-driven businesses, the fair will consist of home and lifestyle products, fashion accessories, artisan food products, herbal teas and Ayurveda cosmetics, soaps and fragrances.

Muttiah Muralitharan said, "There are many talented entrepreneurs in our country, but they lack opportunity. Foundation of Goodness is all about empowering such individuals."



The CAN Market further supports and features recycle and up-cycle initiatives and products, and will be an opportunity for creative entrepreneurs to showcase their innovative products and services to the B2C and B2B markets.

Businessmen Dilith Jayaweera, addressed the gathering as a means to encourage and uplift the spirit of entrepreneurship, noting, "I am passionate about entrepreneurship and commend this initiative. Sri Lanka needs to



recognise true entrepreneurs and value innovators."

Speaking with Creative Isle, Founder - Keshini Ann Suraweera said, "The crux of this project was birthed during the imposed Covid-19 lockdown, when many creative entrepreneurs experienced a downward trend in growth, stunting their ability to continue with their business efficiently.

"Identifying the gap in the current business landscape, I wanted to provide local ven-



dors with a space where they could showcase their raw talent, which may otherwise have been undiscovered simply due to the lack of a platform to present themselves."

The CAN Market has received immense support from partners such as Colombo City Centre, the Foundation of Goodness, National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) and UNDP, to further uplift Sri Lanka and support its SMEs and Entrepreneurs, most affected by the recent Covid-19 pandemic.





# SPECTRUM

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2020



An array of bookshops along D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha

## A MAGICAL WORLD OF BOOKS

Step into the Gamini Hall bookshops wedged among the giant trees at D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha and quench your thirst for reading



A bookshop owner peruses a pictorial book

—Text & Pix by—  
Mahil Wijesinghe



September is considered a literary month in Sri Lanka. Authors are awarded, volumes of new books published and mega book exhibitions organised to celebrate the month. The ten-day long Colombo International Book Fair at the BMICH opened on September 18. However, this year, the book fair is held under strict health regulations due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the good old days, the Gamini Theatre Hall in Maradana was a popular spot among filmgoers in the Colombo city. But today, it's no more. Instead the area is popular among bookworms in the city - the Gamini Hall bookshops, comprising a cluster of second hand bookshops located at D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.

### Avid reader

As an avid reader I frequent these bookshops whenever I have the time. On the eve of the literary month, I visited these old second hand bookshops at D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha in Maradana with my constant companion, the Nikon camera to photograph the daily life of these booksellers. As I photographed, customers kept walking in and out of the shops and the shopkeepers always greeted them cheerfully and catered to their needs.

I have been visiting these bookshops since 1980 and have found rare books and magazines. These booksellers make their livelihood by selling old books and lending novels to the reading public. We must appreciate their service to the reading community which is fast diminishing from the present society.

Unlike the large crowd who flock to mega bookshops in the city, a different group of readers step into these bookshops, looking for the best English novels or rare historic books.

Instead of buying a new novel at a popular bookstore in the city, the same novel can be purchased at these bookshops at a very much lower price. The lending facilities are another feature of these bookshops.

You can get the novel you want by paying a few rupees and return the book after reading within a few days. One can borrow any best-seller novels at these bookstores.

In fact, these bookshop owners have quite a long history, beginning in the British era. The Britons who occu-

piated the island way back in the past left their books in Sri Lanka when they went back home.

These books were bought by Tamil vendors (Nadar) who sold them to the affluent living in *Walaawas* and temples around the country. In the course of selling these books, they bought various Sinhala, English and literary books and periodicals from them.

This activity was keenly observed by W.M.P. Premadasa who hailed from Matara. He decided to start buying and selling old books under one roof and began this business on the pavement opposite the Maradana Railway Station. It turned out to be quite a profitable business which catered to readers in all walks of life in their chosen fields.

Premadasa had collected rare and valuable books and periodicals from the affluent in Colombo 7 and the suburbs and started this novel business which was popularized in 1960. Some of his friends, having learned the second-hand book business from Premadasa, opened a few book stalls near Premadasa's bookshop. Thus it

became a popular venue among book lovers in the city.

Initially, there had been around 10 bookshops in the premises. Many book-lovers regardless of age, or class were attracted to this magical world of books, a place of serenity for the book-

worms. Besides, they had the opportunity to buy the books they loved at a nominal price.

In 1976 the then government of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike moved the bookstores to D R Wijewardene Mawatha due to the inauguration of

the Non-Aligned Movement Summit during that year.

From that day to the present day, these second-hand bookstores have remained in their current premises wedged among the giant trees at D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, helping book

lovers to quench their thirst for reading.

As there is a row of shops that cater to the same market, we thought the competition would be fierce. These shop owners, however, said they don't regard the other shops as a threat to them. In fact, if they didn't have a particular book that a customer needed, they would recommend one of the other shops to the buyer.

At these bookstores, reputed lawyers, doctors and engineers buy rare, valuable books on their fields which are not available in modern bookstores in the city.

At one of the bookshops, I came across a rare book named "The Rock and Wall Paintings of Sri Lanka", published in 1986. To buy such rare and fascinating books, you have to step into the second-hand bookshops at Gamini Hall which is the one and only place in the city.

### Convenient location

However, these bookshop owners at Gamini Hall are alarmed to hear the news that their cherished bookshops will be demolished due to the beautifying of the city around the Lotus Tower Project near D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha.

The current location is convenient for the bookstore owners and for their customers too, as they can park their vehicles by the side of the shops. This is something invaluable for these bookstore owners, because finding parking space in the city is a big hassle for drivers.

Many of these stores are inherited from past owners, and the present owners wish to continue with this business.

They have been in this field for two generations and have seen customers growing up and entering adulthood. Their passion for reading and interest in books is visible when they speak about the world of literature.

The charm of the place remains intact but bookstores are moving ahead with the times, at least in terms of having an online presence. Having an online presence is a necessity. I was told that one bookstore had online facilities and Facebook account for its customers.

The authorities, however, need to focus attention on these second-hand bookshops at D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, and give them more facilities and a tranquil space to those who help quench the thirst of the bookworms.

Over 60 years old, these booksellers give a rare service to the reading community and to the literati in the country.



A customer painstakingly looks for a book

INSTEAD OF BUYING A NEW NOVEL AT A POPULAR BOOKSTORE IN THE CITY, THE SAME NOVEL CAN BE PURCHASED AT THESE BOOKSHOPS AT A VERY MUCH LOWER PRICE. THE LENDING FACILITIES ARE ANOTHER FEATURE OF THESE BOOKSHOPS. YOU CAN GET THE NOVEL YOU WANT BY PAYING A FEW RUPEES AND RETURN THE BOOK AFTER READING WITHIN A FEW DAYS. ONE CAN BORROW ANY BEST-SELLER NOVELS AT THESE BOOKSTORES



## Features

# Sleepwalkers' twilight world

By  
R.S. Karunaratne



Psychologists claim that they know relatively little about sleepwalking, a disturbance that is usually harmless. It occurs during stage four of sleep and is more common in children than in adults. Sleepwalkers usually have a vague consciousness of the world around them. Sometimes, they may be able to walk with agility around obstructions in a crowded room. Unless a sleepwalker wanders into a dangerous environment, sleepwalking typically poses little risk. However, according to "Today's Health," published by the American Medical Association, there is new light on the mystery of this strange behaviour and what causes it.

A long time ago, I had to spend the night at a friend's place in a remote village. After a sumptuous dinner, we were about to retire to bed. I saw my friend's mother placing a wet doormat and basin full of water at the doorstep of the room occupied by her young daughter. On inquiry, she said her daughter was a sleepwalker. According to her, the wet doormat and the basin full of water will bring her back to consciousness when she steps on them. Although I was curious to see the sleepwalker, nothing happened during the night. The girl's parents later told me that they did not know what to do with her abnormal condition.

The phenomenon of walking in one's sleep has confounded the medical profession and psychologists. According to them, no other creature, except man, can walk and do various activities while being in a state of sleep. When sleepwalkers move in the real world, their consciousness remains in



the shadowy realm of sleep. Foreign newspapers have reported about sleepwalkers driving cars, buying tickets and boarding planes. In fact, some of them have crossed from one rooftop to another building easily. However, I have not seen any such incidents reported in local newspapers.

## Somnambulism

There are many myths surrounding somnambulism. According to one such myth, sleepwalkers do not hurt themselves. The myth has been disproved by 14-year-old Donald Elliot who got up from his bed, looked in the refrigerator and walked out of the back door in a state of deep sleep. The story did not end there. He found himself in a camp-

er-truck travelling 50 miles an hour on the San Diego Freeway. Although he was not seriously injured, Donald received some cuts and bruises.

Although somnambulism is not a serious problem in Sri Lanka, more than four million Americans have sought medical help for sleepwalking. On the other hand, there may be more sleepwalkers in many parts of the world without seeking professional help. Some children will outgrow the problem in their adulthood. Most adults I interviewed said somnambulism would never happen to them.

Dr John Sours, a psychiatrist at New York's Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center claims that a young man on a hunting trip while in sleep donned his hunting clothes, collected his shotgun

and walked several miles and sat for an hour. Luckily, his father came there and awakened him.

## Tall story

An episode reported by Dr Nathaniel Kleitman is shocking indeed. According to him, a college student got up from his bed, dressed himself and walked about a mile to reach a river. There he stripped himself, swam and got dressed and returned to his dormitory. All the activities had been performed while in a state of sleep. This appears like a tall story except for the fact that it was reported by an international expert on sleep. He has done many experiments at the University of Chicago. The student was questioned

on the following day, but he said he had no recollection of the incident.

Most doctors and psychiatrists interviewed via email, said sleepwalkers simply act out their dreams. As we know, a sleeping person's eyes invariably move rapidly beneath his closed eyelids during dreams. Recent brain-wave experiments show that almost all of us dream every night. According to the researchers, we dream during periods of light sleep. This is contrary to the generally accepted view that we dream during deep sleep.

I do not know whether any experiments on sleepwalking have been conducted in Sri Lanka. However, a series of laboratory and brain-wave tests done in the United States have helped researchers to reach certain conclusions. According to such experiments, sleepwalkers are not acting out dreams. Those who walked in their sleep were in a deep sleep and there were no rapid eye movements. That means they were not dreaming.

## Young children

Recent studies show that sleepwalking affects mainly young children. Sleepwalking is less frequent in older children. Researchers have found that the nervous system of a young child is immature. When the child grows up, his nervous system also develops. As a result, he will not be subject to sleepwalking.

In an experiment conducted in France, researchers found that sleepwalking usually occurs along with two other sleep disorders. They are "enuresis" (bed-wetting) and "pavor nocturnus" (sleep terror). In other words, a child may experience a sleep terror, or wet his bed, and then walk in his sleep. According to them, sleepwalking occurs in non-dreaming sleep.

Sleep researchers have reported some startling facts about sleepwalkers. According to one authority, some

women have been sleepwalking in the nude outside their homes. One husband reportedly found his wife in a tree. She was not wearing any clothes. Meanwhile, some sleepwalking men have tried to get into bed with women.

## Heredity

Science has still not answered all the questions related to sleepwalking. For instance, people have asked whether somnambulism is hereditary. An Italian doctor has reported that all the members of a certain family - numbering six - were subject to sleepwalking. According to him, one night, all of them got up, walked downstairs and went to a table in the servants' quarters. They sat there until something aroused one of them.

Although the last word has not been spoken about sleepwalking, researchers believe that there are certain triggers. For instance, a child will start sleepwalking if his parents always quarrel with each other. Even the death of a parent or even a pet can trigger the sleepwalking habit. In the case of adults, certain psychological pressures can act as triggers to sleepwalking. However, when the pressure subsides, the subject becomes normal.

What are you going to do if you see a sleepwalker? Doctors have advised that you should not try to wake him up unless he is potentially dangerous to himself or others. There is a possibility that a sleepwalker can turn violent. Therefore, it is best to leave the sleepwalker alone until his mission is accomplished.

The good news is that if your child walks in his sleep, do not panic and consider it as a symptom of epilepsy or brain damage. However, only if you worry about the child's condition, consult a physician. In most cases, the sleepwalker grows out of his habit quite naturally.

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## A legacy that defied communist attempts of erasure

## A review of 'The Romanovs: An Imperial Family'



By  
Dilshan Boange



A century has passed since the murder of the imperial family of Russia was carried out by the Soviet regime that seized power over imperial Russia following the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II. The Soviet Union is no more. But the grandeur of pre-Soviet, Tsarist Russia continues to occupy the imagination of people across the world and the imperial family of Russia has entered the annals of cinema in many a memorable work of moving images.

Among the cinematic works created around the Romanov family that was murdered by the Soviet regime in July 1918, is the historical drama film 'The Romanovs: An Imperial Family', which was released in 2000 having premiered at the 22nd Moscow Film Festival. This film is a must watch for history buffs and movie lovers who enjoy the historical drama genre. Directed by internationally acclaimed Russian film director Gleb Anatolyevich Panfilov, it is a Russian language movie with Russian actor Aleksandr Galibin as Tsar Nicholas II and British actress Lynda Bellingham as Tsarina Alexandra.

The directorial craft of the movie brings to life the perceptions and perspectives of Tsar Nicholas II and his family during the last stage of their lives and shows how the imperial family perceived and responded to news of the turmoil in the country that was creating a tide of antipathy towards the monarchy. The narrative shows the humanity of the Tsar and his family bringing to life their humanity which makes this an endearing film.

Contrary to what Soviet propaganda sought to perpetuate during the reign of communism in Russia, that the imperial family was cold and uncaring towards the masses, Panfilov's vision shows how the Romanovs were caring people with admirable humane qualities and talents which even their

captors could not help but secretly appreciate.

The movie is quite compelling with a cast of good actors and a plot structure that drives forward the drama of events and action principally through the somewhat insular characters of the Romanov family. Galibin delivers a superb performance as His Imperial Majesty Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. The character that is brought to life in Panfilov's directorial vision is one who is much a human with his principal weakness being perhaps that he was torn between how to focus and devote himself and his efforts on being a good father while also being a good monarch and to win the love and respect of all.

The Tsar and Tsarina are shown as two loving humans who are solid

in their spousal and parental love. The imperial children are portrayed as children who feel emotions of sadness, fear, anger and love just like any other, and how they are made hapless victims of a political agenda that overawes all forms of governance and power that formed the old order of imperial Russia.

The revolution is not shown in prominence through extensive scenes of armed conflicts but as more a series of events brought to the knowledge of the Tsar and his family at various stages from February 1917 to the fated day of massacre of the Romanovs on July 17, 1918. Their grasp of matters that near their unseen doom, as a gradual and coldly unnerving series of changes in their household brings to life the 'psy-

chological environment' the Romanov family inhabited in their last days. The Tsar and his family are meant to endure suffering that is much more psychological than physical and thus the slow torment and torture of the Romanovs at the hands of the communist red army captors are brought to life.

In what is called the 'House of Special Purpose' by the communists, a rural residence located in Yekaterinburg in Western Siberia, the imperial family is kept under guard, after the Tsar's abdication and monarchical rule ends and the family finds themselves being political prisoners. However, the 'House of Special Purpose' becomes the slaughter house where the massacre of the imperial family and their remaining staff takes place past mid-

night on July 17, 1918. The murder carried out by the communists brings the narrative of the Romanovs to an end. The scene which follows as the end of the film is documentary footage of the scene of canonisation of the Romanov family in Russian 2000.

The final scene is a strong message that one sees at the end of the movie when reading it in context of post-Soviet Russia. The statues of Lenin who founded the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) have been brought down with the end of the Soviet Union and his legacy now enjoys no glory among Russians. The Romanovs, however, have once again been reborn in their nation's collective heart and soul, to remain adored in the Russian people's memory.



## Entrepreneurship education and training

BY HASITHA ERANDI  
SOORIYAARACHCHI

The European Commission defined entrepreneurship as "turning ideas into actions". Different scholars and organisations defined entrepreneurship in different ways by proving that, there is no universally accepted definition for entrepreneurship.

An entrepreneur is a person who is involved in an entrepreneurial process. The most significant and valuable person to the world economy, is the entrepreneur. The entrepreneur plays a vi-

tal role in Sri Lanka. But the main issue is the unawareness of the people about entrepreneurship. Many people lack entrepreneurial characteristics, such as innovativeness, creativity, risk-taking and proactiveness. There are only a few entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka, but most of them are businessmen.

The education system plays a pivotal role here. We have a free education system. But we need to improve a practical education system instead of a theory-based traditional education system to link with international education platforms. Formal education starts from the age of four. From the age

of four to 18, students are engaged in a theoretical learning culture. Even though there are some practical subjects, students are scared to study them due to their inability to take a risk.

The education system offers entrepreneurship education from grade 10 through the subject, "Entrepreneurship Studies". But many students are not aware of the subject because the subject comes under the first group subjects and not under the common subjects.

According to statistics of the Department of Education in 2018, 296,192 students sat the (GCE) Ordinary Level examination for the first attempt. Among them, only

6,264 students sat for the entrepreneurship studies. Of these, 760 students failed the subject. The question is, how can we allocate marks to the entrepreneurship studies paper. How can we measure the innovativeness of a student using a theory based paper?

Only a few universities provide entrepreneurship courses to undergraduates. Undergraduates also try to become job seekers rather than job creators.

It is essential to provide entrepreneurship education from the birth. The spirit should come from childhood because entrepreneurship is not a subject but a mindset.

## Grace Cancer Run celebrates a decade with 2020 Virtual Run



Sri Lanka's Race Ambassador Sanura Gunawardana with his Indian Counterpart World-Record-holder Dr. Benny Prasad

According to the World Health Organization 9.6 million people died of cancer in 2018 making it the second leading cause of death globally. With the Covid-19 pandemic taking centre stage currently many have forgotten that an age old silent killer is taking as many lives.

The annual Grace Cancer Run which aims to create awareness regarding cancer commemorates 10 years in 2020. Organised annually by the Grace Cancer Foundation this year's Virtual Run will be held on October 10, 2020 in more than 100 nations.

Titled 'Race for Grace' this year, the run is held in three categories of 5km, 10km and 21.1km and registrations can be done online at [www.gracefoundation.org/race](http://www.gracefoundation.org/race)

Sri Lanka's Race Ambassador and the Founder of Nehemiah Consultants and Foodies Lanka Sanura Gunawardana said, "The Grace Cancer Run aims to create awareness on a battle that we have been fighting for many years. Cancer has already taken so many lives and despite the millions of dollars worth of research done globally we are yet to find a permanent cure or solution. It is also a disease that affects anyone and everyone without discrimination of any kind.

In Sri Lanka, we have thousands who suffer daily without access to treatment, funds and the right information. As a former athlete who competed in eight sports, I feel this is a great opportunity for Sri Lanka's athletic and non-athletic community to come together and support a cause that personally moves me. We hope that the Grace Run can not only create awareness but also

help to degenerate much needed funds for treating cancer stricken patients who need it the most".

Cancer is a leading cause of mortality in Sri Lanka. According to the Registrar General's Department, the annual cancer mortality rate increased from 27.9 per 100,000 people in 1985 to 43.6 per 100,000 in 2003. These numbers are staggering to say the least and have kept increasing as lifestyles evolve to a faster pace. A large number of cancer patients in Sri Lanka also go unrecorded as many do not seek treatment or have no access to it in the most rural communities.

The Grace Cancer Foundation was established in 2008 by Julie Pfeifer and Lisa Willman, two Grand Island, Nebraska breast cancer survivors who had a heartfelt need and desire to help local cancer patients and their families in their fight with this deadly disease. The organisation was originally named The Grace Foundation, with Grace standing for Grand Island Area Cancer Endowment. In 2018, for the organisation's tenth Anniversary, it was re-named Grace Cancer Foundation. Julie and Lisa's hope is to provide not only emotional support, but make funds available through Grace to assist with unique financial obligations and unmet needs for those fighting all types of cancer.

This year's Grace Run in Sri Lanka is also supported by Creative Casa who are on board supporting the cause with their creative genius.

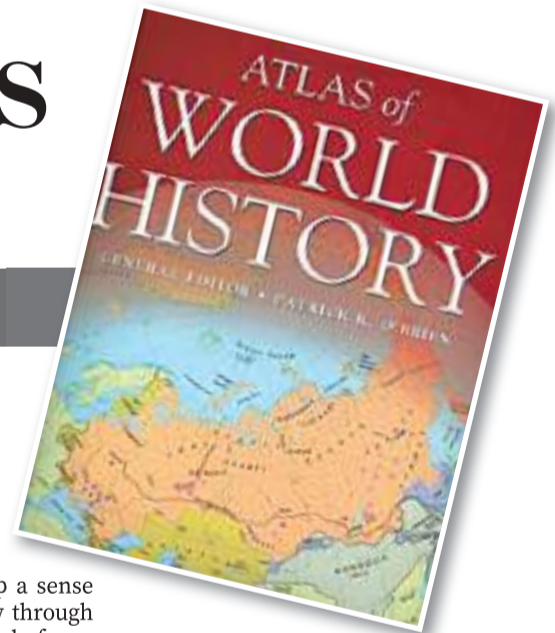
For more information on this year's Grace Cancer Run visit the official race website or follow Sanura on <https://www.instagram.com/gunawardanasanura/>

## Two valuable books on History for students

### Atlas of History from Grade 4 to 8

By Sarathchandra Jayawardene

Book Review



Rare things of any sort, be they books, entities, objects or other similar items are more precious and valuable than common and ordinary things and items. Thus, the *Atlas of History* authored and compiled by Sarathchandra Jayawardene for students from grades four to eight is a book of rarity with a contemporary importance attached to it.

History is the study of the mass wealth of past information on various subjects including the human species and its origin, its evolution and development in particular. Information on the life style of early man and the problems they faced and how they managed to solve them successfully are studied in schools by students under the subject of History. With the advent of homosapiens, their political, economic, social, ethical and cultural information has been subsumed into the scope of the learning/ teaching process of History.

This vast volume of knowledge and information spread in a wide time-frame has been adapted and adjusted in this book by its author to suit the general education and the level of the children. It is accompanied by beautiful and attractive pictorial illustrations to help children study historical information easily and without stress and this publication is the first of its kind.

This interesting and fascinating publication will be greatly conducive and helpful to foster and consolidate the knowledge and information found in syllabi and text books prescribed for respective grades and it will be a fillip and a source of inspiration for the students to commit them to memory easily.

From the solar system to the development of civilisation information has been illustrated by attractive and absorbing pictures and maps. Information on the origin of

man, his life style, his hunting of animals and the tools used for it, how the world's first civilisations sprang up associated with river valleys and how it developed through agrarian life styles and a host of other important information has been presented in this book through captivating artwork, pictorials and graphic medium supported by short notes. Therefore, this book makes interesting reading and learning for the students.

Next, the author makes an attempt to present information on Sri Lanka, its geographical location, the Indian influence on it, its original settlers and aborigines and interesting folk lore and parables associated with them and narratives of Rama-Ravana, Singhabahu and Sinhasevali and the arrival of Prince Vijaya to Sri Lanka in particular, all of which have been fully supplemented and appended by relevant pictures so that students are voluntarily compelled to read and enjoy them at a stretch looking at the pictures.

It is said that Aryans from India established settlements in river valleys in Sri Lanka and engaged in farming. As they had rainfall only at a particular point in time, the process of building tanks and reservoirs for storing and preserving water and using it with frugality for irrigation management has been aptly illustrated by pictures and maps. The subsequent stages of development that took place in the irrigation industry with vast tanks being built with the help of our own endemic traditional knowledge and technology has been depicted and manifested in an appealing manner through pictographs and pictograms.

Through this valuable information, students are able to garner the local traditional knowledge and technology used and the marvellous know-how and engineering feats that our ancestors had centuries

ago. They also can develop a sense of pride about our country through understanding the high level of proficiency and mastery of our knowledge of technology and science.

Next, comes the information on kings who ruled in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Yapahuwa, Kurunegala, Gampola, Kotte and Mahanuwara kingdoms and the roles played by them and the related concise history and relevant maps.

The book deals with the renaissance in Europe and the advent of scientific development and the changes that took place as a result of it and the invasion of Eastern countries by Europeans via sea routes in particular and Sri Lanka being subjected to foreign domination as a result of it. All of this has been briefly described in this *Compendium of History*.

The special feature of this book titled *Atlas of History* is that its content has been well organised and presented in such a way that the students can absorb and grasp them all easily and can also do self-study with it. This book has been published by Sarasavi Publications Ltd.

Learning history from museums

The author, Sarathchandra Jayawardene who has rendered an immense and invaluable service to the field of education has on an earlier occasion too published several informative and very educative books for the students and other readers. Among them was the recently

published *Museum Pragmatism for Teaching and Learning History* which is the one and only Sinhala text book written and meant for the students for the study of museum education. In addition to the knowledge gained by visiting museums, important and vital information on museum education has been subsumed into this book.

Since his service as a Chief Project Officer employed at the National Institute of Education at Maharagama, Sarathchandra Jayawardene has been an active and very dynamic officer who has participated with a very keen interest in the compilation of school text books in the Department of Educational Publications.

He has also served as an active member with great dedication on the Boards, Advisory Councils and Board of Editors for designing, preparation and planning of syllabi for the past published text books on Social Studies, History, Study of Maps and Exercises and Geography.

The use of this booklet of 108 pages printed in fine and glossy colourful papers with relevant pictures will undoubtedly make the study of history very popular and fascinating.

Ranjanie Senanayake,  
Rtd. Additional Commissioner,  
Department of Educational Publications,

(Translated by Neil Jayasinghe,  
Lecturer, University of Kelaniya.)



## The Mandalorian wins Emmy for Outstanding Special Visual Effects

The Mandalorian billed itself as a cinematic Star Wars experience on the small screen. Television Academy voters shared the sentiment.

The Mandalorian, Disney+'s popular tentpole series, has secured the Emmy for Outstanding Special Visual Effects.

The Star Wars spinoff became an immediate hit when it premiered in late 2019. Audiences and critics alike praised the show for its movie-like visuals that far exceeded the spectacle of most competing sci-fi series television projects. *The Mandalorian* ran the visual gamut from frantic dogfights in space to tense shoot outs in claustrophobic hallways and featured a wide array of colorful aliens and classic Star Wars technology, from blaster rifles to the famed Darksabre. The show is created by Jon Favreau, who executive produces alongside Dave Filoni, Kathleen Kennedy, and Colin Wilson.

While visual effects on *The Mandalorian* benefited from being able to use iconic Star Wars imagery and the show's reportedly expansive budget, it faced fierce competition in the Emmy category nonetheless. The Disney+ show beat out technically impressive titles such as Netflix's *Lost in Space* and *Stranger Things*, as well as HBO's *Watchmen* and *Westworld*, for the Emmy for Outstanding Visual Special Effects.

The *Star Wars* show's Emmy victory was announced several days after Disney unveiled the trailer for

**THE MANDALORIAN RAN THE VISUAL GAMUT FROM FRANTIC DOGFIGHTS IN SPACE TO TENSE SHOOTOUTS IN CLAUSTROPHOBIC HALLWAYS AND FEATURED A WIDE ARRAY OF COLORFUL ALIENS AND CLASSIC STAR WARS TECHNOLOGY, FROM BLASTER RIFLES TO THE FAMED DARKSABRE.**

the impending second season of *The Mandalorian*, which will premiere on Disney+ on October 30. Though the trailer didn't confirm any of the highly-anticipated cameos who are expected to be featured in the show — ex-Jedi Ahsoka Tano and legendary bounty hunter Boba Fett, who will reportedly be played by Rosario Dawson and Temuera Morrison, are expected to appear but were never confirmed by Disney — it did indicate that the plot will hinge on Mando's (Pedro Pascal) adventure to reunite Baby Yoda/The Child with his mysterious race and will feature plenty of explosive and visually impressive action.

Features

# Corona Diary, a bid to educate people to face pandemics

- Milinda Rajapaksha

BY RAVINDRA WIJewardhane

Corona Diary, a Sinhala book on Covid-19 pandemic, written by Milinda Rajapaksha was launched recently. It describes the events and issues in Sri Lanka during the first three months of the Covid-19 curfew and how the Government tackled the pandemic. The *Sunday Observer* spoke to Milinda Rajapaksha to discuss the book and issues regarding Covid-19. Milinda is the Media Spokesperson for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, and one of the youngest members of the Colombo Municipal Council. He is also a visiting lecturer at the University of Kelaniya and a consultant on Creative Strategy at Triad (Pvt) Ltd. His first book, *One Hundred Misplaced Letters*, is a representation of his lifelong passion for politics.

it comes from. When I go through my book again, I realise what kind of excellent political response we had from the Government during those three months. Coronavirus is political, response is political and the book is also political.

**Q: However, Opposition parliamentarians blamed the Government for late action with regard to Covid-19?**

**A:** I think Opposition parliamentarians must be thankful to Gotabaya Rajapaksa for giving them the right to life, because most of them would have been dead if Ranil Wickremesinghe or Sajith Premadasa had run the country during Covid-19. We know that one of the biggest tragedies in our history, such as the Easter Sunday Attacks occurred when these politicians were in power.

If they were in power, we would have passed the Covid-19 death rates of countries, such as Italy, Brazil or America.

Fortunately, Gotabaya Rajapaksa became the President, made right decisions and mobilised State Intelligence, Army and the medical fraternity to contain Covid-19. Anyway, the response to the pandemic was endorsed by a two-thirds majority of the country at the Gen-

eral Election.

**Q: Why did you choose to write a political book?**

**A:** This is actually a record. The coronavirus pandemic brought about opportunities and challenges to the arts fraternity. I saw short films and writings coming out during curfew. I have written a lot about online musical shows, WHO and different people coming together during the lock-down. We saw the world's best artists got together and performed from their homes. People watched them online. There were opportunities and challenges.

We saw a humanitarian crisis as in a war. Even though we didn't see that no one was killing each other, people suddenly died on roads in the West. When we see anxieties, hopeless situations, things people were forced to do and the way people were forced to think about their lives, we are convinced that this was a different, but a huge humanitarian crisis. It's worthwhile to write a book, such as this to educate the people to face this kind of crisis again.

**Q: One can say that the book should have been**

**written from the people's point of view, not from the Government's point of view?**

**A:** The book has been written from the people's point of view. The Government was only a responder. You have to bring the government's actions and responses into writing when you record the events of Covid-19.

**Q: How do you see the future of the new normal condition?**

**A:** A vaccination will be the only solution for the pandemic. I think our people are used to the new normality now. They listen to health authorities. We have come to this new normality because of the Defence and Health sectors' commitment.

The main thing is to overcome this crisis.



Excerpts

**Q: How did the book come about?**

**A:** This was an experiment started as soon as the island-wide curfew was imposed on March 16. When we were forced to stay at home, I realised that something different was going to happen which we were not familiar with. I started to put those things into words in a diary form for us to understand what is going on.

All news on the Covid-19 pandemic reached me immediately because of my political affiliations, and I also followed the international media to update on Covid-19. Initially, I thought curfew would continue only for two weeks, but it went on and on.

I was also continuing with my writing on Covid-19 issues. I had no intention to publish a book on the matter. My sole purpose was to understand how people think, how they deal with it and how it affects the people. However, when I saw the global scenario, our political landscape and people's response to it, I thought it is worthwhile to publish a book on Covid-19 events.

**Q: The book is in a diary form. How do you introduce it to the people?**

**A:** I have read a few diaries, from which I came to know that a diary has to be based on a socially significant time, or a significant person. My whole focus was on the situation which we have never experienced in recent history.

This is a diary on issues of a pandemic-isolated people. When I read the book, I can't believe whether we ever went through such three months in our life. We must be thankful to the Government for managing such a global pandemic.

When we look at the situation in most developed and powerful countries, this will be a record in history.

**Q: Was there any research on the book?**

**A:** No. Research is all on the paper, TV and the Internet. The book was written on what was happening in the country. However, I had to get accurate information on the issues of Covid-19. A good team supported me in this respect.

**Q: Have you studied the situation in other countries?**

**A:** Yes. Sixty percent of my narrative was on the international scenario. There was so much of misinformation in Sri Lanka and fake news began to circulate during curfew.

I had to include accurate information and figures taken from international sources. I used to call regularly to my colleagues abroad and even foreign journalists and received accurate data on Covid-19.

**Q: Did you face any challenge while writing the book?**

**A:** Writing is a relaxation for me. The book has over 400 pages and the entire book was written on Microsoft words in my iPhone.

**Q: One can say that the book was written from the perspective of the Government with regard to Covid-19 and therefore, it is a political commentary?**

**A:** Yes. This is a political book. If you read a book about World War 11, that would be political. When you look at the Covid-19 pandemic in America, it is political. Their presidential election campaign is a political response.

Covid-19 is a massive political work, regardless of which country



## Guha Satana launched



Kanchana Amilani's first novel *Guha Satana* (Cave Encounter) was launched recently at the Sayura Publisher's stall H266 at the Colombo International Book Fair. *The Cave Encounter* is a fast-paced black comedy in which a young man and a young woman suddenly get caught up in a battle between two sides.

## Applications for Chevening Scholarships, UK, now open

Applications for UK's prestigious Chevening Scholarships are now open, and Sri Lankans interested in studying in the UK are encouraged to apply. The application window will close on November 3, 2020. Applicants can submit their application online via [www.chevening.org/apply](http://www.chevening.org/apply).

There are more than 1,500 scholarships on offer globally for the 2021/2022 academic year, dem-

onstrating UK's ongoing commitment towards developing the leaders of tomorrow.

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to those who can demonstrate that they have the commitment and skills required to create positive change, and can show how a UK Master's degree will help them do that. The scholarship offers full financial support for future leaders to study for any eligible Master's de-

gree at any UK university while also gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences.

Seven scholars from Sri Lanka were chosen for Chevening this year, who will be commencing their studies in September.

The scholars are from diverse fields and have each contributed to development in their respective fields.



# MONTAGE

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

## THE STATE AND FATE OF THEATRE

**A feature series of Q&A interviews with Sri Lankan theatre practitioners on perceptions and perspectives of what lies ahead for Sri Lankan theatre as the world grapples with a pandemic that calls for 'social distancing'!**

In this twelfth and final instalment of The State and Fate of Theatre I bring to the readers of the *Sunday Observer* the views and perceptions of a very talented young theatre practitioner of the Sinhala stage who has over the years dedicated himself to the art of theatre as a playwright and director as well as a teacher of drama and theatre.

A BA graduate from the University of Kelaniya, from which university he also obtained an MA in Drama, his body of work reflects different genres capturing diverse themes such as olden historical themes as found in his Sinhala musical plays *Giri Kuta Kashyapa* and *Guththila Kavya* (which I reviewed in the issues of November 20, 2016 and March 4, 2018 of the *Sunday Observer*) as well as plots and themes set in modern contexts that deal with social issues with a mix of humour, romance and contemplativeness such as his play *Hinawela Minithuwak* (which I reviewed in the May 1, 2016 issue of the *Sunday Observer*). His latest stage play *Rathu Magul Kapuwa* was nominated in the Best Drama and Best Director categories in the State Drama Festival 2020, winning no less than seven awards including the Award for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress. And thus, with pleasure, I present to the readers of the *Sunday Observer*, in this concluding chapter of this feature series, the thoughts voiced by Akila Sapumal on the state and fate of theatre in Sri Lanka as the world grapples with the impacts of a global pandemic.

**Q. Did the lockdown halt any theatre activities you had planned and were in the course of putting into action? How much of a backlash has the current pandemic situation caused your plans as a theatre artist and practitioner?**

**A.** When the lockdown started in mid March it was completely unexpected, and I was in the middle of preparing to debut my latest creation for the Sinhala stage. My latest production is a version of Kalidasa's Sanskrit classic *Shakuntala*. My play is titled *Saakunthalaya*. It was ready to debut on March 21 at the Lionel Wendt this year. Also there were performances scheduled for March 15 and 16 of two Greek plays translated to Sinhala by Ariyawansa Ranaweera, which I have directed. Those shows also got cancelled. There was also a new comedy play titled *Udarata Kolla* which I was going to debut during those months. Both *Udarata Kolla* and *Saakunthalaya* had producers ready to take the shows forward. So as you can imagine it was a big setback for me as a theatre practitioner when you look at how the lockdown affected my plans during that time. But of course even though it was considerable hardship it is clear the lockdown was needed and that it was the right decision since the measures have been very effective to prevent the pandemic spreading in the country.

**Q. How has the post lockdown situation been for you to get your work in theatre back on track?**

**A.** We started rehearsals for *Udarata Kolla* in August and I am hopeful that we will be able to debut it in February next year. I am hopeful of debuting *Saakun-*



A scene from *Hinawela Minithuwak*

**IF ITN AND RUPAVAHINI COULD EACH DEDICATE TWO HOURS EACH EVERY WEEK TO PROMOTE STAGE PLAYS THAT WOULD BE A GREAT BENEFIT FOR THE THEATRE COMMUNITY. EFFORTS LIKE THE PREKASHA THEATRE FESTIVAL ARE VERY HELPFUL AND I SALUTE THOSE EFFORTS**

It is clear that what is needed to attract theatre goers is effective communication from the mass media.

I was happy to see when my play 'Hinawela Minithuwak', shown on Monday September 14 as part of the Preksha Festival went on the boards, we had about two hundred in the audience, and many of them were new viewers who were there to watch the play for the first time. That is something special to note. Yes, certainly it will take effort to get things back on track but I believe that true theatre fans will be ready to support our efforts by coming to watch our shows when we bring the works to life on the boards.

**Q. As a theatre practitioner what kind of support would you like to see come forth from the State to support theatre in the years ahead?**

**A.** As theatre practitioners we don't have budgets to advertise our shows on mainstream media in a big way. Therefore, the patronage of media institutions is needed to create an effective stream of communication to the public about what stage plays are being performed, where and when. People think that social media is a very effective platform to advertise but that is only partly true. When I share a post about an upcoming play it will get shared among my friends and their network but may not necessarily be seen by the larger target audience.

One of the main tools that can support us is the State television. We have two precious assets in that regard, the ITN and the Rupavahini. On Rupavahini we have *Ranga Bhoomi* as a show dedicated to promoting theatre but that is also of a format not in sync with present times and trends.

Its format and content presentation needs to improve in my opinion. If more attractive approaches to project drama and theatre in new formats were devised for *Ranga Bhoomi* I believe more television viewers would be encouraged to come to watch stage plays.

Most of the currently popular screen actors act in

*thalaya* also in early 2021.

At present when we look at how the *Preksha Theatre Festival*, sponsored by the State has been successful to revive public interest to watch stage plays, after public entertainment was halted during the lockdown, it

is clear that what is needed to attract theatre goers is effective communication from the mass media.

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Most of the currently popular screen actors act in

Sinhala plays and that is one factor that can be used to make TV shows on drama and theatre, and popularise them to the public.

If ITN and Rupavahini could each dedicate two hours each every week to promote stage plays that would be a great benefit for the theatre community. Efforts like the *Preksha Theatre Festival* are very helpful and I salute those efforts.

Similarly, if State media can give a more concentrated push, that is, the electronic and print media, to promote a theatre culture with regular theatre related news and articles and create awareness about the shows and performances it would help theatre to go forward in the next few years despite the challenges we are facing.

**Q. Looking at the next two to three years, what do you think are the chances for theatre to progress in Sri Lanka amidst a global pandemic that has impacted the world economy negatively?**

**A.** Seeing as how the steps taken by the government to bring the pandemic situation under control with the lockdown policy were successful, and how, by and large, the general public in Sri Lanka have been cooperative to adhere to the health department regulations, hopefully there will be no need for lockdowns in the future.

On that basis I personally think that there is hope for theatre in Sri Lanka to continue without suffering a breakdown. We as theatre practitioners cannot survive on theatre alone as the income is not sufficient to rely on that alone.

Most of us usually have some other job as well and drama and theatre in Sri Lanka has always been able to continue despite financial hardships. So if we can successfully keep things going without a need for another lockdown, I think the chances are positive for Sri Lankan theatre to sustain.

One of the biggest setbacks for us as theatre practitioners happened after the Easter Sunday attacks last year. Many people were afraid to go to a theatre wondering if that place might be a target for terrorist attacks. But despite those scares we as a country continued in our cultural life without allowing a total breakdown of the presence of the arts in public life. Sri Lankan theatre goers are an intelligent crowd.

That is what I believe. Those who have a love for theatre don't mind setting aside a little money to buy a ticket to watch a stage play once a month even though the economy may not be doing excellently. In that sense I think if we can ensure the regulations by the health authorities are followed correctly at all times, and an effort it made by artists and organisers to have performances, the theatregoing public will be with us.

If we as a country ensure that we can go forward without letting the pandemic take hold of us and cause a national health crisis, then I believe it will be possible for theatre to continue to be part of public entertainment in the years ahead.

### ART NEWS



### STOCK ROOM ART SALE

The Stock Room Art Sale will be held at the JDA Perera Gallery, today 10.00am.

The sale will include over 600 works by Abdul Halik Azeez, Chudamani Clowes, Fabienne Francotte, Firi Rahman, Gayan Prageeth, Hashan Cooray, Illangovan Darshiya, Kanesh Thabedran, Kingsley Gunatillake, Mika Tennekoon, Muvindu Binoy, Namal Kumara, Nuwan Nalaka, Pakkiyarajah Pushpakanthan, Prageeth Manohansa, Pramith Geekiyanage, Priyantha Weerasooriya, Ruwan Prasanna, Savesan Nallaiah, Thujiba Vijayalayan, Torin Chandrasekera, Vajira Gunawardena and Yuwantha Yasa.

### St. Joseph's College to mark 125th anniversary



St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10, which will be celebrating 125 years in March 2021, will document its history and heritage.

Neil Wijerathne, Attorney-at-Law, veteran writer and a distinguished old boy of the college has been called upon to author a book to capture the history of the college by the organising committee with the college authorities at the media briefing at the college last week.

St. Joseph's College was inaugurated in 1896 by French missionaries with the vision of educating Catholic boys with Catholic values in a Catholic atmosphere. In this endeavour, Neil Wijerathne has been commissioned to delve into the archives of this hallowed grove of academia. It is envisaged that this endeavour will throw a shining light into the corridors of the past and convey a sense of pride to the present collegians and future scholars.

Currently the college has over 4,500 students with a staff of over 400. Its distinguished former students include Cardinal Thomas Cooray, the first Cardinal from Sri Lanka, Father Marcelline Jayakody, former President Ranasinghe Premadasa, G.G. Ponnambalam, a politician, Mohan Peiris, former Chief Justice and Attorney General, Priyasath Dep, former Chief Justice, Oswald Gomis, Archbishop of Colombo, Prof Cyril Ponnampereuma, Professor Carlo Fonseka and cricketers such as Chaminda Vaas, Angelo Mathews, Thisara Perera and Dimuth Karunaratne.

Ravindra Wijewardhane



From Left: Prethiraj Silva, Shehan Fernando, Ansem Perera, Father Ruwan Deshapriya (Vice Rector), Father Ranjith Andradi (Rector), Neil Wijerathne, Hector Perera and Priyanga Perera

Photographed by Ajith Perera

### Modern Quests | Art & Sculpture exhibition

Painting and sculpture exhibition of German artist Akeem Kalugalla curated by Gallery FourLife from October 2-4



# Features

## The Indelible

Making a sincere attempt to bring an unimagined and unexplored treasure trove of modern Sinhala literature to the English reading community, *Montage* is bringing Mahinda Prasad Masimbula's award winning novel *Senkottan* translated by Malinda Seneviratne, veteran journalist, writer and poet. *Senkottan* (The Indelible), a remarkable creation of literature by Mahinda Prasad Masimbula was his debut effort in his literary career for which he won the State Literary Award in 2013 and short-listed in *Swarna Pushthaka* Literary Awards and many other Literary Award Festivals in the same year. The book has been published by Santhawa Publishers and *Senkottan* has blazed the trail in the self-publishing industry as one of the best-selling books in Sinhala literature.

### POSTSCRIPT

Twenty five thousand four hundred and thirty two days later...

It was around six o'clock in the morning when the splendid triangular shadow of Sri Pada, placed between the rising sun and his eighty year old eyes became visible in a corner of the sky. It was thus visible above the myriad buildings from the balcony of the plush residence on the sixth floor of the shopping complex Liberty Plaza where Victor Suratissa lived.

There was no doubt that this scene was of special significance to Victor Suratissa at this moment. He had found himself retracing his steps back to his childhood on account of numerous questions put to him by his granddaughter, young Federica, and the discussion they had the previous day. Federica was his son's only daughter. She was attending Oxford University in England and was writing a research paper on 'ancient caste systems in Asian countries.' Victor Suratissa had promised to obtain relevant information for his granddaughter.

With that he began to remember that society in which he had grown up as a child. He had a strange and unique history where he would go from village to village with his *aathaa* carrying bundles of cloth. It was like a series of images which emerged and receded, now blurred and now full of clarity. The incident related to Sri Pada, however, was clear.

He remembered how Sri Pada became visible, as blue as ever, during one of his journeys with his *aathaa*, Veerappuli Henaya, how they stopped and worshipped the sacred mountain, and how on another day some of the tens of thousands of butterflies on their way to worship Sri Pada, brushed against him.

He had promised to take Federica on a long journey today. It was to Rideevita, the village which was his home as a child. Today, that is, August 6, 2006, was a Sunday and, therefore, a day when Victor was relatively free.

Victor, having informed his employees through a phone call to get the car ready, began to have his breakfast. It was his custom to have his morning meal around 6.30. Having filled himself with two buttered slices of bread and ten stringhoppers, he enjoyed his customary glass of king coconut. After Jane, the cook, had left, he began to get ready.

He wore his light grey trousers and white long sleeved shirt which were his favourite and then wore his pale grey coat. He checked the time.

It was just after seven o'clock. They had planned to leave around 7.45. He went back to the balcony which opened to the East. He had been compelled to go back to a story that was seventy years old, a narrative that education and later business activities had pushed to the back of his mind. And yet, whenever something bothered him or he felt some kind of regret those unforgettable characters resurfaced in his mind. And then Victor Suratissa felt a need to see something he had cast his eyes on the previous day.

He went into his luxurious bedroom, opened his almirah and took out a box, and opened it. It was as it had always been. He picked it up and kissed it once. It was the one memento he had brought with him when he left home, the jacket his mother had worn. He caressed the cloth slowly, tenderly. He remembered but vaguely his mother, that beautiful woman.

He decided that he would look for the place his mother had died and was buried during this trip. With much veneration did he replace the jacket which he had shown Federica the previous day in the box and returned it to its usual place in the almirah.

He was one of the busiest businessmen in the island. Victor Suratissa, who in addition to his mining operations also owned a business that imported machinery, which he had handed over to his son Gihan Suratissa four years before, retaining control of only the luxury shopping centre named 'Highway Plaza.' Although eighty years of age, he managed the business meticulously. There were

more than eight-hundred employees under him, including those involved in mining operations. He realised how his life had changed from the time he had spent ten years in a life that was his own along with those he considered he belonged to and who belonged to him. Both were full and unique existences.

He couldn't remember very well that exceptional man he called *aathaa*, but there was in his memory a thin, innocent individual. Even in that air-conditioned high-rise housing complex in Colombo he felt the amazingly kind, honest and innocent humanity that flowed from that thin man as well as the fragrance of boiled clothes that wafted from his body. That noble man's final source of succor...the bo sapling... Had it died? Had the invading jungle obliterated it? He felt an urgent need to find answers to these questions.

\*\*\*\*\*  
It was close to eleven o'clock when they reached Rideevita, having passed Ratnapura, Pelmadulla and Kahawatte. There had been much road development.

Federica had lots of questions for her grandfather. She learned a lot from him during the journey. By this time Victor Surasena had related his story in its entirety. Federica found certain parts of the story humorous. Then there were times she listened intently, amazed. Victor saw that there were moments when her eyes filled with tears. She was most amused by the name given to her grandfather, Baba Henaya. She repeated that name again and again and laughed.

'I am so amazed by your story, Grandpa. People really worked for others without getting paid?'

'That is how it was at that time Federica. People just wanted to fulfill their basic needs and live without being bothered.'

'Why were those people so stupid?'

'It isn't stupidity. It was innocence.'

'I don't believe that!'

'But I do.'

There were inter-generational arguments between the two throughout the journey. However, Federica had obtained a treasure trove of information. Although she had gathered a lot of information during her research in India, she was enjoying in particular what she had learned here and the compelling story her grandfather had related.

Having made inquiries along the way, they finally reached a temple. Victor felt some strange familiarity in the breeze that wafted through the leaves of a majestic bo tree in the temple premises. That breeze and the adjacent tract of paddy land took him back to a long time ago, and yet, there was some jarring unfamiliarity in the rest of the environment, the well developed temple, the houses and the various shops. Nevertheless, it was the bo tree that captured his attention.

'That is the bo tree I told you about.'

Federica looked upon it with awe. There was an image house by the tree. There was a *bana shalaawa* of considerable size on the left for the bikkhus to deliver sermons and by it the *aavasa* where they resided.

A small *chaitya* was in the process of being built. A formidable wall had been built below the bo tree this side of the stream and the intervening area filled with earth. Even at that time there were some devotees who had brought alms and were sweeping the bo maluwa.

Victor Suratissa spent quite some time just gazing upon the bo tree. He knew the story that the breeze which swept across the paddy fields was struggling to relate in conjunction with the bo leaves.

Once again he remembered Veerappuli Henaya that thin and innocent man who was so full of humanity. Federica saw him remove his spectacles and wipe his eyes with a handkerchief he had taken from his pocket.

They met the chief incumbent of the temple and spoke with him. Having arranged low seats for them, the *loku haamuduruwo*

began to speak.

'I am not from these parts. I'm from Kimbolketiya. That would be Embilipitiya. It's been about fifteen years since I arrived. I am the third in this temple. After my *loku haamuduruwo* passed away, it fell upon me to attend to all matters. Now you wanted to know about this temple, didn't you? Well, when I took over, this place was quite poorly, but I was able to develop it and bring it to this level. Now we conduct religious ceremonies for Posen in a grand manner. We even have a *daham pasala*. The villagers are quite united with the temple. People come from faraway places to make offerings to the bo tree. We even had a perahera last Posen with two tuskers.'

'It's the Sudu Appo of the *Nagolle Walawwa* who functions as the *Diyavadana Nilame*. Sudu Appo's family is closely related to the temple. As for this *bodhiya*, in fact it's an ancestor appo of this Sudu Appo who had brought it as a sapling in an impressive perahera all the way from Anuradhapura.'

These words just floated away into the empty air and did not register in Victor Suratissa's ear. Since it was all in Sinhala Federica didn't understand any of it. Victor felt like asking something from the *hamuduruwo*, quite casually: *Haamuduruwane*, has anyone ever said anything about a man called Veerappuli Henaya who was associated with this temple?'

'Hmm...I've never heard anything of the sort.' Victor was considerably shaken. It was at this moment that he comprehended best the strange ways of the world. He did not venture to say anything. He believed that even if no one who lives on the earth knows the truth, the truth must reside and was alive in some corner of the universe. This is how it is. It did not matter that no one knew. This he thought to himself. A lie is most definitely a lie.

It was not the scent of incense, flowers or burning oil lamps that he felt, but the indelible fragrance of this truth, the fragrance of boiled clothes mixed with washing soda.

This he inhaled and filled his lungs with. It was not just truth, it was the perfume of that noble man who had toiled to give him life, the fragrance of a man who wanted to collect merit for him, who went after the high and mighty to genuflect before them just so he could learn letters. This *bodhiya* knew the story of that truth very well. And yet, the shameless sycophancy of people remained, now as it did then.

They did not require a conscience to live. Resident in falsity and illusion they convince themselves that this is the truth, they live this way and die this way.

'The truth you know, keep it with you, always...' he told himself, as he looked upon the *bodhiya*. A smile materialised itself on his countenance. It came to his mind how those who had many years ago oppressed him and his kind sweated to earn money as traders. The Laundromat in Highway Plaza, the shopping complex that he owned, was run by a businessman named Suranga Madduma Bandara.

He had named it 'Suranga Wash & Dry Professionals,' from which he earned seven to eight hundred thousand rupees a month and lived a highly luxurious life. Victor Suratissa remembered his *aathaa* once again. He never had the opportunity to live a life of happiness. And yet Suratissa believed that if on this earth there was an order that conferred merit, merit would indeed accrue to such a man, moment to moment.

Apart from entertaining such thoughts he had no desire to explain anything to the *haamuduruwo*. He thought to himself that one of the greatest victories he had obtained was to be able to note with a mild smile the wonder of them living a life devoid of truth. This weakness of theirs would one day be defeated. When this happens, no one on this earth would be as helpless as they.

He remembered that sad day when he went with his *aathaa* to plant the bo sapling which he had



## Evolution of a Fashion Week in a Post-Covid Environment

### CFW evolves to present a new normal of fashion

HSBC Colombo Fashion Week (CFW) became the first fashion week platform in the region to present fashion amid the Covid-19 environment. The summer 2020 season which was initially planned for March took place last week amid a new normal environment, featuring 27 designers across three days.

Due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak which led to restrictions placed on travel and gathering in large groups, this year's showcase was limited to a small audience approved by the Ministry of Health and local designers only. Strict health guidelines were followed, such as social distancing, with the audience also encouraged to wear masks at all times. The shows were also live streamed online as well for the local and international audience.

'In this new environment, every aspect of fashion has changed, from designing to consuming to retailing and to presenting. It's a new normal.'

At CFW, we had to be sensitive to all these aspects, lead the designers on this journey, have them create collections relevant to this environment and then present it in the most attractive manner, so that confidence is built in consuming fashion,' said Colombo Fashion Week Founder and Managing Director Ajai Vir Singh.

He said that this edition of CFW was unique in more than one way as it took place at a time where the influence of lockdown was immense. 'Not only were there physical lockdowns but emotional as well.'

The change to the new was challenging everyone's mindset. For us, it was almost like unlocking a unique format of presenting fashion which encouraged opening up of the mindsets and gave confidence for fashion consumers to go out in a responsible manner. I look forward to more such interesting opportunities,' he said.

CFW became the first platform in the region to host a fashion week in a post-Covid environment.

CFW explored presentation ideas beyond the runway by creating unique sets led by storytelling, using stimulating creative collaborations like music and personalities from the literary scene of Sri Lanka. This was done with the mindset that fashion consumers have appreciation of creativity beyond just fashion. Hence, storytelling involved other creative streams and runways became a fascinating combination of high fashion and theatre sets.

CFW's Day 2 showcase opened with designer Aslam Hussein's collection presented on the runway to the reading of an excerpt from celebrated Sri Lankan author Ashok Ferrey's latest book *The Unmar-*



riageable Man, read by Ashok Ferrey himself.

FH by Fouzul Hameed and Dimuthu Sahabandu both took to the ramp with lively performances from Natadance Theatre, and renowned opera singer Kishani Jayasinghe performed for the unveiling of Vogue Jewellers' latest collection of exquisite fine jewellery.

Performances on Day 3 included a rendition of Adele's iconic hit *Skyfall* by aspiring actress and musician, Q (aka. Francesca Mudannayake), and designer Amilani Perera's collaborative collection with the United Nations Population Fund in Sri Lanka in an effort to use fashion to break the silence around gender-based violence was beautifully matched with a moving dance act featuring Sandarangi Perera of Vibe Dance Academy. Beatboxer and rapper Julius Mitchell was paired with Charini Suriyaga whose elegant collection closed the CFW 2020 showcase.

One of the strongest performances of this edition of CFW were from the 13 young emerging designers who adapted their collections most efficiently to the new environment.

These high potential young designers are soon set to form the basis of the fashion design industry of Sri Lanka.

CFW 2020 took the lead in promoting Sri Lankan talent on a larger scale this year, and relied solely on local talent and resources across the full gamut of design and production requirements for the showcase, from designers to models to show production.

'Colombo Fashion Week has always operated with the goal of encouraging and highlighting local talent. We have used foreign talent in the past to support us with growing the relevant segments via knowledge sharing and collaborations and this year, I am happy to say we have reached the stage where our local talent has been able to fill all gaps,' said Colombo Fashion Week CEO and Director Fazeena Rajabdeen.

## Dream Music Fest with Dialog



Dream Music Fest with Dialog, the first seated music festival to be held post-lockdown, was held on Sunday, August 23 at the outdoor-seating area of the iconic Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre to support the entertainment industry, which was hard-hit by social distancing regulations set to control the outbreaks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The star-studded performance line-up include Sunil Perera, Bathiya and Santhush, Randhir Witana, Umara Sinhawansa, Kevin de Almeida, Kasun Kalhara, Athma Liyanage, Samitha Mudunkotawa, Sanka Dineth, Sanuka Wickremasinghe, Lahiru Perera, Ridma Weerawardana and Danith Sri, while Mahesh Denipitiya and friends, Naada, Misty and Infinity and percussion ensembles Elephant Foot, Beat Drummers and Naadro will set the beat and rhythm of the night.



The event organisers, Event Management Association Sri Lanka, had taken all steps to implement social distancing and hygiene factors to ensure the safety of the public.

The full performance of Dream Music Fest with Dialog will be telecast today at 1 pm on Derana TV.

THE END.

By  
Carol Aloysius



Neurologists the world over will focus their attention on a mysterious illness that still defies proper explanation – namely, Alzheimer's Disease (AD). Considered one of the commonest neurological diseases with devastating physical and mental impacts on the patient, early diagnosis and medications can however control and improve their quality of life, says an eminent Neurologist. Consultant Neurologist Sri Jayewardene General Hospital and Postgraduate Training Centre, Dr Harsha Gunasekara discusses A.D impacts on people affected by it and the burden on caregivers working round the clock.

#### Excerpts:

**Q: World Alzheimer's Day will be observed tomorrow, September 21. Although common in Sri Lanka, most people don't still fully understand about this condition. What is Alzheimer's disease?**

**A:** Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is a progressive and irreversible disease that impairs memory and other important brain functions.

At first, persons with AD may experience mild confusion and difficulty in remembering, but eventually they may undergo complete memory loss and dramatic personality changes. AD is the commonest of all types of dementia.

**Q: Is AD the same as Dementia?**

**A:** Dementia is a group of symptoms characterised by a decline in intellectual functioning, severe enough to interfere with a person's normal daily activities and social relationships. There are different types of dementia and AD is the most common type of dementia in older people.

**Q: What are the organs affected due to Dementia and AD?**

**A:** As in all types of dementia, Alzheimer's primarily affects the brain and secondly the neural control of some other organs such as the bladder or bowel. AD is a neurodegenerative disease, which means there is progressive and irreversible damage and death of brain cells (neurons) that are involved in memory and thinking that happens over a course of time. The total brain size shrinks with Alzheimer's - the brain will gradually have fewer cells and connections (synapses).

**Q: What are the trigger factors that cause it?**

**A:** Scientists do not yet fully understand what exactly triggers the pathological process in AD. However, the complex series of pathological events that take place in the brain has been well established by research. Five percent of patients with AD have familial Alzheimer's disease, which is an early onset of the disease that appears to be inherited. In familial Alzheimer's disease, several members of the same generation in a family are often affected. Ninety-five percent of patients have sporadic AD and their family members are not at increased risk of developing AD.

**Q: Is alcohol and smoking contributory causes for AD?**

**A:** Alcohol abuse can cause other types of dementia but studies have not established a direct link. However, smoking has shown to increase the risk of developing AD at a later age.

**Q: Pre-existing Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as diabetes, hypertension psychiatric ailments, depression- do they also contribute to AD?**

**A:** NCDs such as diabetes and hypertension are key risk factors for the development of vascular dementia, which is the second most common type of dementia.

There is growing evidence that these NCDs increase the risk of AD as well and in some patients both AD and vascular dementia can co-exist.

**Q: Psychiatric diseases?**

**A:** Psychiatric diseases like depression can cause dementia-like states and symptoms of depression, behavioural, mood and personality changes are well recognised in AD.

**Q: Of the risk factors you stated, which is the most common and significant?**

**A:** All the risk factors mentioned are equally important as they are closely linked and cannot be singled out as more important or less important. In addition, lifestyle factors which contribute to these NCDs such as unhealthy dietary patterns, lack of physical exercise, obesity, stress and lack of relaxation activities all play a role in the risk of AD.

These risk factors collectively affect a person's 'brain health'. Controlling these can prevent not only AD, but also other serious NCDs such as cancer, heart diseases and stroke.

**Q: Early symptoms to look for?**

**A:** Memory loss is one of the first or more recognisable signs of dementia. Other early signs include; asking the same questions repeatedly, forgetting common words when speaking, mixing up words – e.g. saying "bed" instead of "table."

Some patients will show features such as, taking longer to complete familiar tasks, as following a recipe, misplacing items in inappropriate places, e.g. keeping a wallet in a kitchen drawer, getting lost while walking or driving in a familiar area and changes in mood or behaviour for no apparent reason.

Some early symptoms of AD are difficult in remembering things, particularly new information, such as an appointment you have made.

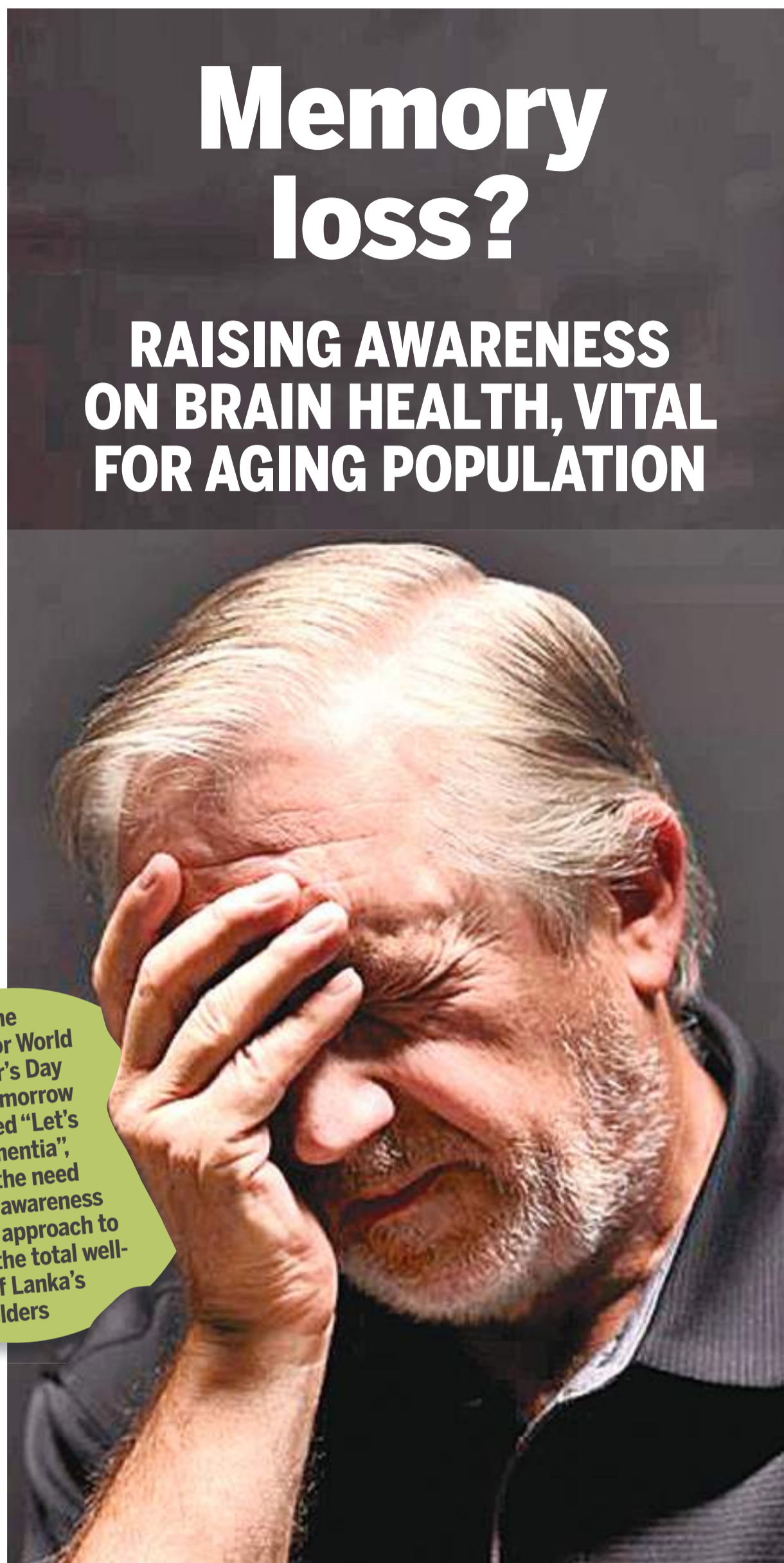
While people who are aging normally may forget things such as birthdays, they will typically remember them later; that is 'you remember that you forgot'.

However, with Alzheimer's disease, that doesn't happen. You forget something and then you don't get that information back; it doesn't seem familiar to you even if someone reminds you. A number of conditions – not only Alzheimer's disease – can cause memory loss in older adults. Getting prompt diagnosis and appropriate care is important.

Normal age-related memory loss doesn't prevent you from living a full, productive life. There's a difference, however, between normal changes in memory and memory loss associated with Alzheimer's disease.

**Q: What age group is most at risk of developing AD? Why?**

**A:** Increasing age is the greatest known risk factor (non-modifiable unlike the ones mentioned above) for Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's is not a



The theme for World Alzheimer's Day which falls tomorrow (Sept. 21), titled "Let's talk about dementia", underscores the need to raise more awareness on a holistic approach to ensuring the total well-being of Lanka's elders

part of normal aging, but your risk increases greatly after you reach age 65.

The rate of dementia doubles every decade after age 60. People with rare genetic changes linked to early-onset of Alzheimer's begin experiencing symptoms as early as their 30s.

**Q: Gender wise, are men or women more prone to getting AD? Why?**

**A:** Women seem to be more likely than men to develop AD. This in part could be because they live longer.

In addition, the rate of neurodegeneration seems faster in women and the risk of carrying certain genes which increase the risk of AD are

more common in women.

**Q: How is AD diagnosed? What is the usual procedure followed? Scans?**

**A:** There is no single test or scan to establish the diagnosis. Brain scans may show supportive features but these may be non-specific for AD. Diagnosis of AD is established by evaluation of symptoms and signs, running tests to assess memory impairment and other thinking skills, judge functional abilities, and identify behavioural changes. Tests will also be performed to look for other common causes of dementia, particularly, the reversible ones.

**Q: Treatment- how do you treat AD?**

**A:** Based on current medical knowledge, there is no cure for AD. However, some medications may help delay the progression of symptoms associated with AD.

Also, some medicines may help control behavioural symptoms, such as sleeplessness, agitation, wandering, anxiety, and depression.

Depression and anxiety may commonly co-exist and will need referral for counselling/ interventions such as cognitive behaviour therapy, relaxation therapy and multi-sensory stimulation.

Treating these behavioural symptoms often makes people with Alzheimer's more comfortable and their care easier.

However, these medications only help delaying the progression of symptoms associated with AD and have to be started early in the course of the disease based on recommendation of specialist doctors treating the disease.

**Q: Are these treatments available in state hospitals?**

**A:** Most of the medications recommended for treatment are available in Sri Lanka.

**Q: As Sri Lanka has a fast aging population, can we expect to see more cases of AD in the future?**

**A:** Yes, definitely due to the aging population we expect to see more patients with AD in the future. Improved awareness of the disease among the public through awareness programs and health education has also contributed to increased turnover of patients seeking medical attention for memory loss.

**Q: How long does it take for the disease to progress to its more advanced stages?**

**A:** Symptoms progress at different rates and in different patterns. The appearance and progression of symptoms vary from one person to another. On an average, from the onset of symptoms, people with AD can live from eight years (the average) up to 20 years.

**Q: If the person is healthy and follows healthy lifestyles is there a way to delay its progression?**

**A:** Yes, as mentioned before, adopting a lifestyle promoting brain health will reduce the risk of AD. Control of risk factors will also help in slowing down its progression.

**Q: Gaps - what do you consider as the most pressing gaps that need to be filled in the detection, diagnosing and treatment of AD patients in the country?**

**A:** Patients with AD should be managed by a multidisciplinary team including Neurologists, Psychiatrists, Neuropsychologists, Specialist Nurses, Occupational Therapists, social workers and care givers.

From a diagnostic and monitoring point of view, lack of Neuropsychologists in the country is a major problem in managing patients with AD. The patients' family members or relatives are the main care givers in Sri Lanka.

This is an advantage from the patient's point of view but can cause a major burden on family members.

**Q: Residential care in hospitals or nursing homes? How practical are they?**

**A:** Residential care is indicated in advanced stages of the disease with features such as severe impairment of activities of daily living, difficulty in swallowing, frequent infections, incontinence, continued weight loss despite artificial feeding or other concurrent illness. In Sri Lanka, these services are limited even in the private sector and available in nursing homes rather than in hospitals. Providing such services are beyond the scope of professional organisations.

**Q: Your message to readers on how to minimise risks of Dementia and AD, and the outcome like Stroke ?**

**A:** Dementia and Stroke account for over two-thirds of patients with neurological disability which could be collectively prevented by adopting a lifestyle that promotes brain health.

A healthy diet with more vegetables and fruit and less salt, sugar and saturated fats, regular physical activity, avoidance of smoking and excessive alcohol intake, control of stress and treatment of high blood pressure and diabetes are the key factors for a healthy lifestyle. Even with the presence of mild symptoms of memory impairment, medical attention should be obtained early so that treatment could be initiated without delay after appropriate investigations.

## How to boost your immune system

**How can you improve your immune system?**

On the whole, your immune system does a remarkable job of defending you against disease-causing microorganisms. But sometimes it fails: A germ invades successfully and makes you sick. Is it possible to intervene in this process and boost your immune system? What if you improve your diet? Take certain vitamins or herbal preparations? Make other lifestyle changes in the hope of producing a near-perfect immune response? What can you do to boost your immune system?

The idea of boosting your immunity is enticing, but the ability to do so has proved elusive for several reasons. The immune system is precisely a system, not a single entity. To function well, it requires balance and harmony. There is still much that researchers don't know about the intricacies and interconnectedness of the immune response. At present, there are no scientifically proven direct links between lifestyle

and enhanced immune function. But that doesn't mean the effects of lifestyle on the immune system aren't intriguing and shouldn't be studied. Researchers are exploring the effects of diet, exercise, age, psychological stress, and other factors on the immune re-

sponse, both in animals and in humans. Healthy ways to strengthen your immune system

Your first line of defence is to choose a healthy lifestyle. Following general good-health guidelines is the best step you can take toward naturally

keeping your immune system strong and healthy. Every part of your body, including your immune system, functions better when protected from environmental assaults and bolstered by healthy-living such as:

- Don't smoke.
  - Eat a diet high in fruits and vegetables
  - Exercise regularly
  - Maintain a healthy weight
  - Take alcohol in moderation
  - Get adequate sleep
  - Take steps to avoid infection, such as washing hands frequently and cooking meats thoroughly
  - Try to minimise stress
- Increase immunity the healthy way

Many products on store shelves claim to boost or support immunity. But the concept of boosting immunity actually makes little sense scientifically. In fact, boosting the number of cells in your body – immune cells or others – is not necessarily a good thing. For

example, athletes who engage in 'blood doping' – pumping blood into their systems to boost their number of blood cells and enhance their performance – run the risk of stroke.

Attempting to boost the cells of your immune system is especially complicated because there are different kinds of cells in the immune system that respond to different microbes in many ways.

Which cells should you boost, and to what number? So far, scientists do not know the answer. What is known is that the body is continually generating immune cells. Certainly, it produces many more lymphocytes than it can possibly use.

The extra cells remove themselves through a natural process of cell death called apoptosis – some before they see any action, some after the battle is won. No one knows how many cells or what the best mix of cells the immune system needs to function at its optimum level. Immune system and age

As we age, our immune response capability becomes reduced, which in turn contributes to more infections. As life expectancy in developed countries has increased, so too has the incidence of age-related conditions.

While some people age healthily, the conclusion of many studies is that, compared with the young, the elderly are more likely to contract infectious diseases and, more likely to die from them. Respiratory infections, influenza, the Covid-19 virus and particularly pneumonia are a leading cause of death in people over 65 worldwide. No one knows for sure why this happens, but some scientists observe that this increased risk correlates with a decrease in T cells, possibly from the thymus atrophying with age and producing fewer T cells to fight off infection.

Whether this decrease in thymus function explains the drop in T cells or whether other changes play a role is not fully understood.



# Feature

## FAMILY TIME Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
				22					23			
24	25	26		27		28		29	30	31	32	
33					34		35		36			
37			38	39		40		41		42		
				43		44		45		46		
47	48	49					50		51	52	53	
54					55	56			57			
58					59				60			
61					62				63			

## KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY				CHALLENGING			
6X	7+		1	96X	3	1-	4-
	8X				11+		6X
	2÷	1-		1	20X	2÷	48X
				2÷		4-	60X
4		4+		15X		4	
				6X		5-	5

TODAY'S ANSWERS

3	1	2	4
2	3	4	1
4	2	1	3
1	4	3	2

5	9	1	2	3
6	1	2	3	5
4	4	9	1	2
2	6	5	4	1
3	2	1	5	4
1	5	2	1	4

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**RULES**

1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2 The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

WORKSPACE:

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

E	L	M	C	L	A	P	S	L	O	W		
C	O	O	A	E	R	O	P	O	R	E		
R	I	D	B	A	T	S	A	B	E	T		
U	N	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	I	E	S	
O	L	I	O	S	N	I	T	F	E	E		
F	I	E	L	D	O	F	V	I	S	I	O	N
F	E	D	Y	A	L	E	F	L	E	N	D	
S	A	U	D	I	A	R	A	B	I	A	N	
S	E	T	S	E	X	A	M	E	R	A		
P	L	O	P	S	L	I	P	S	E	A		
A	L	P	S	T	E	N	S	T	A	N		

## SUDOKU 223

Have fun with this highly addictive logic-based number-placement puzzle, the objective of which is to fill the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

				8	5			9
5			6	3			7	8
1								
					9	8		
8			2	7				3
	7	4						
7	9		1	6				6
6		3	5					

### Riddle:

Diamond clubs?

Last week answer: 37-A) Atlas

Last week's solution

8	7	2	6	5	1	9	3	4
4	1	3	2	8	9	7	6	5
9	5	6	3	4	7	8	2	1
7	6	8	4	3	5	1	9	2
1	9	5	7	6	2	4	8	3
3	2	4	1	9	8	6	5	7
5	4	9	8	7	3	2	1	6
2	8	7	5	1	6	3	4	9
6	3	1	9	2	4	5	7	8

ACROSS

- (K) Globes or spheres
- (K) Secret agent
- Strong, woody fiber
- Time past, to poets of old
- U.S. employer of 5-Across
- (K) Female choir member
- (K) Like 2,248 but NOT 2,249
- (K) Mr. T. of the dinosaur world?
- Some reddish deer
- Ancient parting place? (2 words)
- (K) Small places with lots of beaches
- Medium skill?
- (K) Not he, the other
- (K) Do a bit of math
- (K) Support for Tiger Woods
- Talked up
- (K) Type of milk
- Lose resilience in the middle
- Type of investment vehicle

DOWN

- Open court hearing, in law
- (K) Wander far and wide
- (K) Like third-generation pedigree dogs
- (K) Have a hunch
- (K) Scratches, as on kneecaps
- (K) After-dinner treat
- Algebraic reference line
- Common cereal plant
- Succulent, spiny-leaved, medicinal plant
- "Don't change it," to an editor
- Muddy up, as water
- Small speck
- (K) Result of lying out in the sun
- Title for a woman of refinement
- Restorative treatment centers
- (K) Where to get in line
- (K) School-closing event

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle? Little boo-boos?

## DOONESBURY

by G.B. Trudeau

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# OBSERVER EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020



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IHS; AFFORDABILITY, INCLUSIVITY... **PAGE 44**



SAEGIS CELEBRATES ANOTHER GLORIOUS... **PAGE 49**



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## NIBM Digital Campus: Virtual university in Sri Lanka

The pertinent question: whether free or freedom of education, is to be answered by policymakers of Sri Lanka is important to be considered in driving its higher education system to produce 21st century skills.

Free education has made a huge impact in the Sri Lankan society. However, the freedom to choose from a wide range of educational paths is limited. Universities do possess a reasonable number of paths; however, many of them are outdated and such skills have no demand in the industry. Hence, freedom of education is becoming more important than the free education as the country is moving into the next stage of the developing nations. It is a fact that free education is a requirement for a segment of the society where resources for education and financial facilities are inadequate.

Today, many universities and Higher educational Institutes (HEIs) are incapable to offer choices regarding what students demand. This has resulted in outbound student mobility (22,000 students annually) and a huge annual foreign exchange loss nearing to Rs 55 billion. Many Sri Lankan youth reportedly view migration or interna-

tional schooling as an opportunity to enhance their employment prospects, and Sri Lanka's tertiary-level student population is quite mobile - in part because higher education in Sri Lanka has insufficient capacity to address student demands, especially at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

However, the current pandemic has challenged the higher educational system to build the capability within the country. It is at this backdrop that NIBM is building its digital capability to offer a variety for student's choices of higher education through both of-line and online platforms.

### Digital lifestyle in Sri Lanka

A rapid growth is observed in the digitalisation process in Sri Lanka and the penetration of mobile and internet is on the rise at an exponential rate. In 2020, there are 10.10 million internet users and the number of internet users in Sri Lanka has increased by 399,000 (+4.1%) between 2019 and 2020. Mobile connections stood at 31.80 million in January 2020 in Sri Lanka and it is equivalent to 149% of the total population. Social media penetration was around 30% in January 2020 in Sri Lan-



**Dr. D M A Kulasooriya**  
Director General, National Institute of Business Management

ka and it shows an annual growth rate of 8.3%. Hence, the issue of digital gap is steadily moving away from the society.

The digital divide: this critical national issue can be addressed through ICT integration with the educational services. The Government and many agencies are implementing several projects to establish ICT infrastructure to provide the foundation for ICT integration for educational services. ICT literacy of both teachers and learners is a crucial requirement in the infrastructure development. Dur-



ing the pandemic, many teachers and students initiated teaching & learning online as they were deprived of offline teaching and learning. It is a positive gesture in the educational industry to carry forward the strategy of ICT integration within the educational system. Further, the rapid growth of digital capability in Sri Lanka has opened opportunities in the higher educational

industry to set up virtual universities, so that students from all corners could access the higher educational facilities which were earlier limited to a few universities in Colombo and main cities.

### The mandate of a university

The mandate of Universities or Higher Educational Institutes is to discover the personality of every student and to build a strong character with a

sense of responsibility for their community. This implies developing skills of reflection, interpretation of different information and other complex meta competences. Science, business and social organisations alike describe a strong need for a set of skills and competences, often referred to as 21st century skills (e.g. Pink 2006, Wagner 2010, Gardner 2007) or key competences. With the complexity of everyday life, increasing globalization, fast changing technological advances, product cycles getting shorter and economic competition tightening, innovative capacities comprised in the 21st century skills have become crucial for individuals to survive in an ever-changing society (Dikmans 2011).

### Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL)

It is a fact that a teacher's or a lecturer's quality has a direct positive impact on a student's achievement. Teachers are increasingly expected to employ integrated teaching practices in their classrooms or digital platforms to help students learn better.

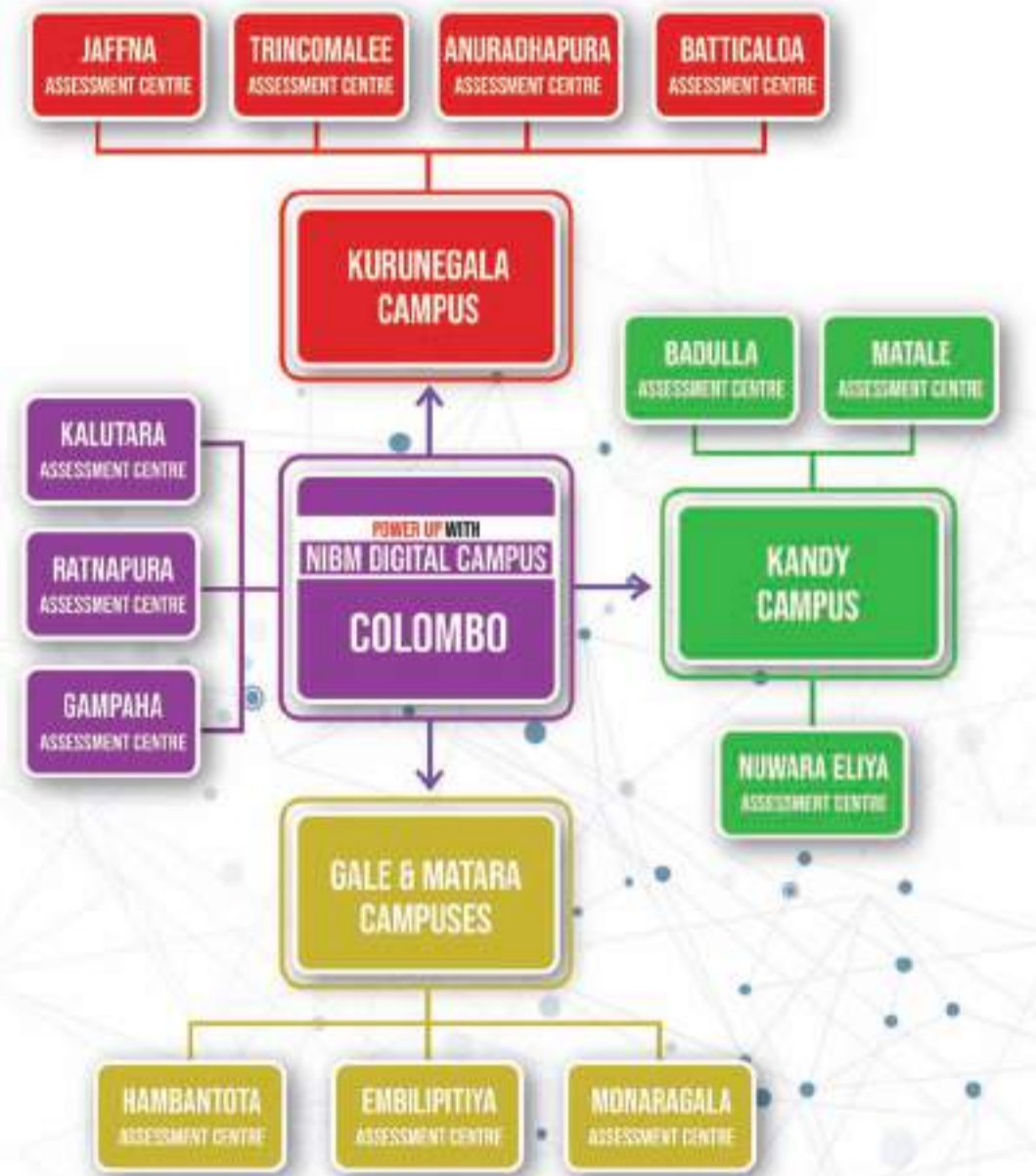
(Continued on page 48)



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# Advertorial

## APIIT Law School; A place like no other

By  
Vasana  
Abeynayake



APIIT Law School, in collaboration with Staffordshire University UK, is one of the few Private Higher Education Institutes in Sri Lanka that offers an internal UK LLB (Hons) Law Degree.

The APIIT Law School provides a legal education of elevated standard, in an encouraging and interactive learning atmosphere, which is geared to produce graduates who can contribute to the development of the legal profession.

The Head of APIIT Law School, Dr. Rose Wijeyesekera; L.L.B. (Hons.), MPhil, PHD, in an interview, shared her experience as a lecturer for 26 years.

She is a Consultant in Women's Rights and Children's Rights Law and a Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of Law at the University of Colombo.

### Excerpts

**Q: What are the unique features of APIIT as an eminent Law School?**

**A:** There are many. One is; the teaching and learning at APIIT not only focuses on delivering the theoretical knowledge of law but also focuses on giving the students a good dose of the practical aspects of law.

APIIT ensures that the undergraduates get exposed to the practical aspects in the discipline of law.

What APIIT Law School offers is the Staffordshire three-year LLB(Honours) Law Degree which offers the same content and the curricular as offered at the Staffordshire University along with the exact methods of assessments. Some assessments are formative while some are summative.

The curricular has core-theoretical subjects, such as criminal law, administrative law, property law and application, etc. Apart from these co-subjects, we have optional modules, such as Human rights law, intellectual property law, environmental law, labour law, etc. APIIT Law School offers the widest range of optional modules which no other institute can match. We offer the widest array of modules for students to choose from.

Our students get hands on experience through the 'Work Experience' module, where they work with practising lawyers working with law firms. The Work Experience module requires the student to maintain a diary of what is happening academically with his exposure and the log of entries to the diary are being verified and certified by the senior counsel.

Additionally, mooting is a taught module at APIIT Law School. The student who opts mooting as a subject, gets the real-world exposure to mooting and debating. We are planning to introduce Mediation and

**MOOTING IS A TAUGHT MODULE AT APIIT LAW SCHOOL. THE STUDENT, WHO OPTS MOOTING AS A SUBJECT, GETS THE REAL-WORLD EXPOSURE TO MOOTING AND DEBATING. WE ARE PLANNING TO INTRODUCE MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION ALSO AS A MODULE.**

Arbitration also as a module. The relevance of alternative dispute resolution methods cannot be overemphasised as the legal systems around the world are geared towards inquisitorial systems as against adversarial systems. We are preparing our students to face that reality in the near future.

Parliament visits and court visits are regular features in the academic calendar. We ensure that every APIIT Law undergraduate visits court sessions at least once in their three-year studying period as law students.

**Q: What are the unique courses APIIT offers?**

**A:** APIIT offers LLB (Hons) Law degree (undergraduate course) as well as LLM degree (post-graduate course).

Even though the main focus of the Staffordshire LLB (Hons) Law degree is on British Law, we always make sure that Sri Lankan law together with key Sri Lankan case law are discussed during lectures or tu-

torial classes.

Sri Lankan Law modules, such as Environmental Law, Intellectual Property Law, Sri Lankan Company Law and Sri Lankan Labour Law, are also offered at APIIT Law School. These are modules which are not offered at many other private law teaching institutions which offer foreign degrees. Mooting and debating is not offered as modules anywhere else; neither in the private sector nor in the state sector.

We conduct regular seminars, panel discussions, seminars and webinars. We invite experts from the bar and bench as well as from the corporate sector and the state sector to deliver lectures and conduct discussions. We were planning to have a research symposium at APIIT Law School. We could not hold the research symposium this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we managed to replace it with a series of webinars in collaboration with the international and comparative law society, where experts in various fields speak on topics of importance. The first webinar was conducted by Rohan Edirisinghe, who is a renowned expert in the constitutional law. These webinars are moderated by our undergraduates. The most recent webinar was conducted on September 12 by Dr. Radhika Koomaraswamy. The discussions are also moderated by our students. These opportunities ensure APIIT students exposure and experience in getting to know these icons and legal luminaries.

The teaching-learning program is unique as teaching is not restricted to lectures. We have lectures and tutorial groups where the lecture group is divided into small groups of 30 where students get to discuss practical aspects of what they learn



Dr. Rose Wijeyesekera

during the lecture. Small group discussions/workshops provide the students with the opportunity to interact closely with the lecturer.

Ensuring our students an interactive student-centric learning atmosphere, rather than the conventional teacher-centric method, we adopt novel teaching methods, such as drama, debates and informal discussions.

**Q: Why should one select APIIT as the place to study law?**

**A:** APIIT ensures the student a comprehensive legal education; not only theoretical knowledge but also the practical exposure. It's not only the knowledge that APIIT focuses on; it's a combination of knowledge, skills development and the attitudinal enhancement that is embedded in the curricular as well as in a variety of extra-curricular activities that are part of the learning process.

The APIIT law graduate will stand apart from the rest because

of the complete, inclusive education which the institution offers. We are enriched with a versatile panel of lecturers. Optional modules are taught by highly qualified experts in law.

A high level of discipline is maintained at APIIT. We promote our undergraduates to engage in extra-curricular activities and fun activities but we are very strict on their behaviour as we are conscious of the fact that we train youngsters who will eventually enter into a noble profession.

**Q: What are the challenges that you have faced as a leading institute?**

**A:** The society has misconceptions about private education in general and private law education in particular. Maintaining high standards in teaching and assessments is a real challenge. Only a few private institutions have succeeded in maintaining high standards in legal education.

In facing this challenge, a lot depends on the institutional policy and the capacity: the administration-the decision makers in the institution-should make right decisions to cater to the demands of the profession.

The faculty and non-academic staff should work hard to maintain the standards set by such demands. The parents also have an important role to play in selecting the right institution for their child to pursue higher education. They should look into the inner functioning of an institution - rather than just going by popular names- before they select the correct institution for their child.

Hence, rather than just criticising, or building up conceptions and myths about private education, the educators must ensure quality and high standard of what we deliver. All of us, academic administrators, national policy makers and parents are responsible for the education of the children, whether offered by state-run or private institutions. It's the nations' youth whom we are nurturing. They are not only the future, but the present as well. It's our utmost responsibility to ensure that they gain a good knowledge, enriched with the required skills and nurtured with positive attitudes.

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While MSc Degree offered at IHRA is a two-year programme with a Thesis, Masters programme is offered as a programme by course work running into 16 months. MSc degree offered by IHRA has been designed to meet all requirements of SLQF Level 10 and Masters Degree meets all requirements of SLQF Level 09. All Bachelor and Master Degrees offered by IHRA is awarded by the University at its annual convocation.

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  - (d) Higher/Executive Diploma with three (03) years working experience in managerial or similar capacity OR
  - (e) Completion of qualification at NVQ level 7 with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a scale of 0.0 - 4.0 with two (02) years work experience, as determined by the Syndicate and the Senate of the University may be considered for admission OR
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# Skills more important than personality today

## Given that you are attached to many organizations in senior positions how do you have time to teach on MBA programmes over the last 10-15 years?

It's all about staying relevant as the world is going through drastic changes. For instance the latest research reveal that consumers are going back to traditional methods of living post the lockdown. If a person does not have a 'Learning Mind' you cannot survive in today's business world. The best way to do this is by teaching on good MBA programmes which forces people to read, study and learn from others.

Hence many senior business leaders make time to commit to sharing knowledge. Even when I was the Chairman of key state organizations such as EDB, Sri Lanka Tourism or when I was attached to the United Nations (UNOPS), I somehow dedicated 3 hours weekly for teaching. It's also our contribution to the youngsters and society.

**“It is great to have the 37th ranked university in UK in our country”**

## Are you teaching on any Programmes right now?

Yes, at the Colombo University Masters in Tourism and the Staffordshire University MBA at APIIT Sri Lanka which is short listed for the coveted University of the year award in the UK. I am also a visiting faculty member on a MBA Programme in Singapore and the US which are both ranked within the top 5 in their respective countries.

## How do you rank the Staffordshire MBA?

As you may be aware the Sri Lankan economy is fighting to beat a recessionary situation. India will end the year at -10.9% and Maldives is estimated to be at -13.3%. In this background, the subjects that are taught on the Staffordshire University MBA such as 'Risk Management' and 'Performing in Organizations' are very apt and relevant subjects. It's also great that APIIT is on the 31st intake for the MBA Programme in Sri Lanka. It means sustainability.

## Any advise to youngsters of today?

Latest research done by Kantar, Sri Lanka reveal that almost 40% of the 'A' SEC group will lose their jobs or have a pay cut. However, the good news is that I see many youngsters are studying to re-equip themselves to the new skill set required post pandemic. I would strongly urge you to go through the training of a good MBA. But do your research.

Select a MBA in Sri Lanka which is the same Programme run in the home country like in UK. Ask how many batches have passed out in Sri Lanka. This will tell you on the stability of the administration. Get to know the faculty and how long they have been teaching on the programme. You will ultimately get a feel from their experience curve.

## What are the key trends you see in Sri Lanka?

As per the LMRB/Kantar study; 13% have attempted online education, 12% have attempted live broadcast through mobile media, 9% have got into data connection, 8% have tried online shopping, 7% have paid their bills using smart phones or have practiced religious activities online. There is a clear shift in behaviour from Pre Covid stage. If we do not change, we will perish over time. In the subject called SMM on the Staffordshire MBA we teach these trends.

Another key trend we see in Sri Lanka is that there are 600,000 new people watching local TV channels. This is an

important development we saw during the COVID-19 lockdown. This may be the cable/satellite TV and who watched foreign channels. Hence, brands like Singer are targeting these new segments and are registering growth at plus thirty percent.

## Any key skills a youngster must have today?

A key skill set of a 'new performer' is being 'fearless' and who is not scared to try new things. He/she is not designation and status driven but wants to get things done. One who is not shy to be a salesman, shelf stacker or be a deliverer of goods. There is a 'warrior' in his/her DNA. Good MBA's give space to reflect on such new trends and by the end of the programme, your behavior has gone through change.

**“Staffordshire University MBA at APIIT Sri Lanka which is short listed for the coveted University of the year award in the UK”**

**- Dr Rohantha Athukorala**  
Address to Staffordshire  
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# Advertorial

## IIHS; Affordability, Inclusivity and Quality

BY VASANA ABEYNAYAKE

The International Institute for Health Sciences (IIHS) was established 20 years ago as a nursing school. The International Institute for Health Sciences prides itself on being Sri Lanka's premier International University Learning Centre dedicated to creating Smart People for a Smart World with their diverse and innovative delivery methods and international collaborations. The IIHS commenced its intake on September 1 for the students who are after Advanced Level. They offer three main programs.

1. Bachelor's degree in Nursing
2. Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy
3. Bachelor's Degree in Biomedical science

All three programs are articulated programs that the students have to complete three years of the advanced diploma in the chosen field in Sri Lanka and for the final year, they can go to Australia, UK or to Finland to complete their degree. It has other options such as Canada, USA; with IIHS. Those programs are pathway programs for three years. The students have to study and for the final year, they can fly to Australia, UK or to Finland to complete their degree. This is the main focus in this intake in September.

If students want to complete their studies in Sri Lanka for all the three programs, they can accomplish that in four years. They can complete it in 3 years advanced Diploma in whatever their subject is. The students at IIHS can prolong up to their PhD even in Sri Lanka if they wish to do so. In IIHS it's a pleasure to announce that they are giving affordable cost in completing the degree. If you do the degree in abroad the cost is quite high; but it will cost the students simply one tenth of the total program cost if the degree is done in Sri Lanka. The total course fee will be around Rs 6,000,000. But if you obtain the same degree in Sri Lanka it will cost you around Rs 600,000.

There is something significant in the system of IIHS when the students are concerned. Usually what happens in our industry is; we exclude students after their A/Ls due to various reasons. According to their scheme, marks, failures and fewer standards of their results, the students usually get excluded. They have limitations and fewer opportunities. For IIHS value, they have a concept of inclusivity where they would like to include all the students irrelevant of the fact that they



are either after A/Ls or on pending results. Even if they fail the A/Ls or just after the completion of O/Ls, the IIHS can accommodate them in its sphere. The stream of their study too does not get considered because they have the foundation and pre-foundation courses. Hence, the institute could always fix them on these courses according to their qualifications and requirement. Then, it will be easier for them to complete the full course. That will come under Inclusivity.

Likewise, the first concept of the IIHS would be Affordability, then Inclusivity and next is the Quality. In



2018 IIHS GLOBAL MULTIVERSITY

IIHS YEAR OF THE NURSE & MIDWIFE 2020

quality vice, they deliver the internationally recognised program in Sri Lanka like in the same standard quality. They value by having the various different types of quality audits. Some of them are for the institute facility and some are there for the academic purpose.

They have quality audits for course delivery, lecture panels, tools and the technique which they have been using. The IIHS has quality audits from all their partner universities. It has achieved the ISO Accreditation (9001). This is happening annually along with all the other audits. As the IIHS is in

a Health Care Training education, especially in health industry, there are some regulatory councils to validate the program. Likewise even for that affordable IIHS offers quality education for the students.

When it comes to Accessibility; the IIHS has the award winning learner management system from 2015 to 2018 from the Commonwealth Center for Digital Health for the use of technology in education.

It has won that award at a stretch for four years. It has been using our learner management system for more than 7 years. With that, the institute is providing online education for its students so that they can study whatever the place they are. Especially in this Covid-19 situation, the IIHS has managed to complete all their educational programs without any issue due to their learner management system. The IIHS is proud to say that they are on track in their time table and there is no delay even in a graduation or any other necessity at the IIHS.

It is always the student based education at the IIHS. Students learn through the interactive activities and they follow up the collaborative learning method through group discussions, presentations and other activities. Also at the IIHS, when entering a student, their education style is measured through tests as there are students with different standards. Some students would like to read and remember whereas others may like to write and memorise. Hence, the IIHS identifies the capacity of students through its tests and group them according to their calibre.

The IIHS provides wider choice to their students with unlimited opportunities as to how they should select their areas in accordance with the family background, capacity of their parents and the selection criterion. Therefore, the IIHS is always in the process of Affordability, Inclusivity and Transformation to its customers in their incessant service.

## HALL OF FAME AWARDS

### District 82 Toastmasters honours its club and member achievements



District 82 of Toastmasters International held its annual awards night on September 5 at the Raffles Residences, Sri Jayawardenapura, Kotte, in the presence of the Regional Advisor - Region 13 of Toastmasters International, past and present District officers and club leaders.

The gala event was an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of the clubs, members and leaders within the Toastmasters movement in Sri Lanka.

In spite of a limited guest list, representatives of clubs from across the island were hosted in the spirit of celebration. Overcoming the challenges of the year, 76 clubs achieved the highest honour offered by Toastmasters International to become Presidents Distinguished, 11 achieved Select Distinguished and 20 earned the Distinguished Club titles. These are achievements that are a testament to the commitment to self-improvement shown by the members of the movement.

On this night, a host of District awards were given to Toastmasters members, clubs and leaders. The prestigious Golden Gavel Award was earned to 22 clubs in recognition of their club quality and member engagement.

Dialog, Millennium IT ESP, Awakening, Siyane, and Anuradapura Toastmasters Clubs were awarded the Eight-80 membership award in recognition of the retention and growth of its member base, reflecting the quality and high-standards within the clubs.

A key highlight of the night was the recognition of the members who achieved the highest member recognition offered by Toastmasters Inter-

national. This year, it was noteworthy that 51 members from 41 clubs achieved the prestigious Distinguished Toastmasters Award.

"Toastmasters is a passion for many of us in the movement," says Distinguished Toastmaster Noorul Munawwara, the newly appointed District Director. "While we commit ourselves to grow as individuals, these awards are a reminder that hard work and the right attitude will never go unappreciated. Tonight, we see that the future of Toastmasters in Sri Lanka has never looked more promising."

The evening came to a close with the recognition of exceptional performers during the year. TM Lawrence Madapatha, DTM from Wayamba Toastmasters Club received the District Director's Special Award and TM Aravindhan Rajeswaran from Vadamarachchi Toastmasters Club received the Toastmaster of the Year award for 2018-2019. TM Jeevana Pradeep of AATSL Toastmasters Club was recognised as the Area Director of the Year and TM Mahesh Abeyasekera of The Millennium Toastmasters Club received the Division Director of the Year award. The Toastmaster of the Year 2019-2020 award, the highest honour offered by the District, was awarded to TM Thirusa Banumunarachchi of AATSL Toastmasters Club in recognition of his dedication, commitment and performance during the year.

"We are entering a new chapter in the story of District 82. I have the fullest faith that these leaders will continue to keep the name of District 82 shining bright on the global stage," says TM Sarma Mahalingam, DTM, the Immediate Past District Director.



## A Higher Diploma from Cardiff Metropolitan University UK at ICBT Campus



(From left) Anura Gamage - Marketing Director, ICBT Campus, Jagath Alwis - Chairman, ICBT Campus, Dr. Sampath Kannangara - Executive Dean/CEO, ICBT Campus and Sampath Perera - General Manager, ICBT Campus

ICBT Campus, the leader in private sector Higher Education, has introduced another first by offering Higher Diplomas (HD) directly from a world-class UK University.

Cardiff Metropolitan University in the UK is collaborating with ICBT Campus to offer their own Higher Diplomas (HD) to Sri Lankan students. These HDs at British level 5 are academically controlled and quality assured by Cardiff Met University as internal UK qualifications.

Cardiff Met has been ranked 72nd in the Guardian University League Table 2021.

As this is a direct UK university qualification, students studying for Cardiff Metropolitan HDs at the ICBT Campus will have guaranteed pathways for further study in Sri Lanka and overseas. ICBT Campus has pioneered many highly sought-after and prestigious educational programs in Sri Lanka. This direct UK University HD once again provides a unique opportunity to enroll in a UK university program.

The offer letter and university ID will be provided by Cardiff Met along with a host of on-line access to all university material. As another



Jagath Alwis - Chairman, ICBT Campus, addressing the gathering

er first, students after the Cardiff Met HD at ICBT can attend the graduation ceremony in the UK, which no other HD or HND provider can offer in Sri Lanka.

Cardiff Met HDs at ICBT Campus are offered in the areas of Business Management, Software Engineering, Networking, Psychology and Biomedical Science. Cardiff Met has dedicated faculties and staff for all related HDs and students can look forward to quality content under their respective HDs at ICBT. Call 4777888 or visit [www.icbt.lk](http://www.icbt.lk) for more information.

## Seaweed incorporated yoghurt, an invention by a horizon campus student

Anne Deluxy, a student of Horizon Campus studying for her BSc. Degree in Biotechnology garnered attention in the Asian Region when she presented her invention of a new yogurt product enriched with seaweeds.

The invention: Although seaweeds are abundantly found in the coastal areas of Sri Lanka and are rich in nutrients like protein, fibre and essential fatty acids; there is only limited evidence of using them as an ingredient in commercial food products, especially in popular food items like yogurt. Anne incorporated one of these seaweed species into yogurt and found that the nutritional levels of yogurt can be enhanced when compared to the yogurt products commercially available in Sri Lankan market, especially with the considerable amounts of fibre and Omega-3 essential fatty acids contained within the product. This enriched yogurt product invented by Anne can be presented as a "functional food" and a commercially viable product that has a market potential.

The Achievements: Anne having presented her research findings at "Asia-Pacific Conference on Multidisciplinary Research under the area of "Physical and Life Science", was awarded the second place for the Best Oral Presentation.

Anne who now works as a food analyst as an intern in a leading tea manufacturing company in Sri Lanka, has applied for the patent for her invention and is continuing her work on her invention on optimising the consistency and taste of the product with the expectation that a commercial partner will become available to bring it to market.



Anne Deluxy

Outlining her experience in producing her invention Anne said, "The experience I gained through embarking on this project has proved to be invaluable. It helped me learn about food regulations, food safety, what is applicable and the process of research applied in food invention. I know these learnings will be crucial that will help in the betterment of my career as a food analyst."

The Dean of the Faculty of Science at Horizon Campus said, "This recognition continues a strong tradition of success that Horizon Campus science graduates have experienced in both national and international forums over the past several years. We are proud of Anne's accomplishment. We will continue our quest in providing the best level of knowledge and opportunity for our students so that they will have the ability to become leading investors and researchers in the field of science and help to fill the talent gap in this sphere in the country."

Interested parties in the field can obtain further information by visiting [www.horioncampus.edu.lk](http://www.horioncampus.edu.lk) or by calling 0713 159 159, 0716 613 613, 0114 365 555 or visit Horizon Campus at Malabe.

## CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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Application and instructions can be downloaded from the website of the Centre ([www.pdn.ac.lk/cdce](http://www.pdn.ac.lk/cdce)). Duly filled applications should be sent by registered post to the Deputy Registrar, Centre for Distance and Continuing Education, No. 43, Old Galaha Road, Peradeniya on or before 19.10.2020. Incomplete and late applications will not be entertained.

For further details please call: 081-2392218.

Acting Registrar,  
University of Peradeniya,  
Peradeniya.

20th September, 2020.



# University business schools must embrace opportunities from pandemic - academics

MDX VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR NIC BEECH CO-AUTHORS PAPER IN THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS SCHOOLS

In a paper published in the British Journal of Management, Professors Nic Beech – President of the British Academy of Management and Vice Chancellor of Middlesex University London – and Frederik Anseel – President of the European Association of Work and Organisational Psychology and Associate Dean at UNSW Sydney Business School – call for management researchers to embrace the opportunities the pandemic has presented, not only to combat potential threats to their existence, but to add value to organisations, businesses and society.

In their Manifesto to Higher Education and Management and Business Education, Beech and Anseel outline the considerable threats facing the sector. The short-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant moving teaching online. For business academics, this has been a significant issue because of the large numbers of students who study business compared to other disciplines. In the UK, business schools teach 15% of all students, 19% of postgraduates and 31% on non-EU international students. The fact that business is the most popular subject for international students combined with the inability of students and staff to travel creates a 'perfect storm' of reduction in income, increased complexity and volume of new work and increased cost. This is impacting on university budgets. In the UK, it has been estimated losses to the sector will be £2.5bn and there have been predictions of 30,000 job losses.

However, the authors highlight the opportunities that exist and argue:

"We also see the emergence of new approaches to management education and research, which might contain the seeds for a fu-



Prof Nic Beech

ture vision for our communities" and they call on institutions "to break their disciplinary shackles and seek to develop collaborations within social sciences and across other disciplines."

The opportunities outlined by the authors include the move to online education that could stimulate an increase in blended and more accessible forms of education to support life-long learning. Digital learning environments have been predicted to disrupt management education for decades but most business schools have been slow in changing, they say. The authors add that the crisis has forced a shift from physical to digital in a matter of weeks and teaching styles have had to change. The pandemic has provided an 'electric jolt' to research, with many academics taking a problem-oriented approach seek-

ing to address the challenges associated with Covid-19.

Researchers need to move towards conducting research with business and society instead of about business and society, argue Beech and Anseel.

In these times of Covid-19, there is an increase in calls for research into Covid-related management and business research, with a focus on topics like leadership in times of crisis, working from home, technology and work, virtual teams, resilience of individuals and organisations, job loss and insecurity, unemployment and wellbeing and firm strategies for economic recovery.

The authors conclude by saying that colleagues with in-depth expertise in these areas are vital to life after the pandemic and that the opportunities exist and needed to be embraced.

## MASTER OF LAWS IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NOW OFFERED AT HORIZON CAMPUS

Horizon Campus, a leading Non-state higher education institution has now ventured into the Post-graduate Legal market with the introduction of the LL.M in International Human Rights in partnership with Birmingham City University, UK. Horizon, as a recognized Ministry of Higher Education degree awarding institution, has been a Recognised Centre for the University of London International Programmes, delivering the Bachelor of Laws (LL. B) over the past 8 years. It is with this experience and credentials that it has ventured into partnering with BCU to conduct lectures on the Master of Laws programme, commencing September this year.

The programme is one year in duration with 6 core subjects plus a dissertation being undertaken by the student, during this period. The beauty of the programme is the fact that any degree holder from any discipline could enter the programme, provided you have obtained the equivalent of a Second Class Lower from a reputed University. This provides a leeway for professionals to venture into the learning and specializing in another field irrespective of their undergraduate field of study. Attorneys at Law, who do not possess a First degree are also encouraged to apply, where their applications will be taken up by the University on a case by case basis to approve eligibility for the programme.

The Masters programme will expose you to the fundamental aspects of International Human Rights, inclusive of Woman & Children's Rights, Refugees and displaced persons, international Criminal Law etc... and provide you with the opportunity to critically examine the impact of International human rights and the protection of these rights within national constitutions and local legal settings. This programme will also encourage you to critically evaluate the conflict between local and international standards in terms of Human rights and protection of human rights in the World Order.

In order to facilitate the academic quality of the programme, Horizon Campus has also contracted the services of leading Human Rights lawyers and academics to lecture on the programme, which it believes will give the best possible support for students to reap the benefits of reading for a Masters in Law.

Birmingham City University (BCU) was initially established as the Birmingham College of Art with roots dating back to 1843 and was designated as a polytechnic in 1971 and gained university status in 1992. The university has three main campuses serving four faculties, and offers courses in art and design, business, the built environment, computing, education, engineering, English, healthcare, law, the performing arts, social sciences, and technology. A £125 million extension to its campus in the city centre of Birmingham, part of the Eastside development of a new technology and learning quarter, is opening in two stages, with the first phase having opened in 2013. It is the second largest of five universities in the city, the other four being Aston University, University of Birmingham, University College Birmingham, and Newman University. Roughly half of the university's full-time students are from the West Midlands, and a large percentage of these are from ethnic minorities. The university runs access and foundation programmes through an international network of associated universities and further education colleges, and has the highest intake of foreign students in the Birmingham area. One may ask why choose BCU? The University boasts a well-recognized tutorial staff with recognition around the world for their excellent industry connections and research impact. Leading educationist such as Prof. David Wilson, an eminent criminologist, who law students would immediately recognize, sits as a faculty staff of the School of Law. Likewise other leading academics in the chosen fields are recruited by the University to deliver on the respective programmes of study. Furthermore, The University also boasts of leading Professional accreditations across the courses of study. Accreditations act as endorsements, making you more desirable to employers; they can also give you exemptions in your further study.

Classes are scheduled to commence on the **10<sup>th</sup> October 2020**. For further details, please contact Jayomi on **0713 531531** or **0114 365 555**.

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# Advertorial

## AAT Sri Lanka ready to serve Ampara with new branch

The AAT Sri Lanka Ampara branch was opened at No. 19, D.S. Senanayake Street, Ampara recently. The new branch will offer students in Eastern Province a full range of products and services by the association, such as student guides, study texts and registration applications.

The opening ceremony of the branch was graced by Wimalaseena Maddumarachchi, Zonal Director of Education, Ampara as the Chief Guest. A. Vainawee, Director - Planning of Zonal Education Department, S.A. Hasanthi, Former Zonal Director of Education, Wasantha Jayasena, CEO of Chamber of Commerce, Thilak Senevirathna, Director of Chamber of Commerce, Najeem, Director of Education, Samanthurai were the guests of honour. Russel Fonseka, President of AAT Sri Lanka and Tishanga Kumarasinghe, Chief Executive Officer, AAT Sri Lanka and the members of AAT governing council and some principals of the area schools also participated.

There were representatives



from all accredited education centers in Eastern province as it is a great opportunity to them to deal with all requirements related AAT Sri Lanka. The first sale did to the students of AAT Sri Lanka in Ampara and Batticaloa and there were many students, teachers and staff members. The Ampara branch will be easy to approach to the students in Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee and Monaragala districts.

With the addition of another new branch in the area to the network of AAT Sri Lanka branches, it renewed its bond and relationship with the students and members, opening its doors to those who seek professional

educational opportunities. This endeavour would inspire those



who are leaving schools to reach their goals and targets with ease.

With the association's expertise and knowledge in professional education for over 32 years, AAT Sri Lanka will continue to offer a range of services beneficial to existing and potential students and members. Also, AAT Sri Lanka is ready to hold the first examination after the Covid-19 pandemic and the new intake of AAT course will commence from mid October.

## What are global market trends in higher education?

Global factors can affect the future of higher education, impacting the way institutions operate. Economic shifts, labour market changes, changes in the ways people choose to learn, and a rise in non-traditional students are just some of the market trends influencing the future of higher education.

Add in the challenges posed by restrictive budgets, and suddenly, the number of mergers and acquisitions are on the rise. The skills gap is also a factor as it affects the ability for future graduates to meet the knowledge and skill levels employers require. Here is a look at the most likely global market trends that will affect higher education.

### What's Important?

According to the Deloitte Higher Education leadership team, the higher education industry should consider the following four areas:

#### 1. Cloud Readiness

Cross-functional collaboration in higher education will require investment in software subscriptions and implementation services. This redesign of work processes will help generate cultural changes.

That will require a change in the role of Chief Information Officers, who will have to establish strong partnerships in order to drive change throughout the institution. Leadership needs to:

- Help the organisation understand the desired business outcomes and what is required to achieve those goals.
- Acquire broad institutional buy-in by creating a cohesive team of functional leaders to define expected delivery so that everyone understands the goals.
- Communicate to leaders the needs for change across many areas, which must include technology, business practices, people, and data and information to help illustrate the opportunities and limitations presented by technology.

#### 2. Strategic Risk Management

Rapid change will introduce new risks as well as changes to existing risks that can lead to crises. Institutions must be prepared to view these crises as normal so that leaders are better equipped to deal with risk-related challenges.

Risk management can no longer be managed in silos, but instead, it should be handled across many departments. This "enterprise" approach will allow schools to be proactive and react appropriately when crises occur.

Risk management systems should create resilience to the changing threats by identifying causes and holding workshops for customised risk programs.

#### 3. Identity and Access Management

Cyber risk management is required to manage access across many devices. Identity and access management (IAM) capabilities have to be enhanced to support the new demands of technology.

IAM managed services are an option that will work well for higher education institutions on many levels. It is especially budget-friendly, helping reduce costs associated with cyber risk management.

#### 4. Mergers and Acquisitions



With growing financial challenges, institutions shouldn't wait until they're in a financial crisis to act. Instead, institutions should consider partnerships, mergers, or consolidations while they are still operational. These options will allow institutions to make it through times of financial uncertainty and obtain solutions that are in the best interest of the students, community, and faculty.

Preparedness for mergers and acquisitions includes:

- Creating a strong case to obtain stakeholder buy-in
- Reflecting the institutional culture, mission, values, and vision for the future and the importance of each in the event of a potential merger
- Researching opportunities to find suitable matches to meet your goals to obtain long-term sustainability
- Outlining who would make an ideal partner to align with your goals and culture in hand with a case that supports engaging them as a potential partner

#### Study portals

Study portals is an online education platform and research organisation. They have about 3,000 global education partnerships, which helped provide insight into the trends most likely to impact higher education institutions around the world.

Using linear projection modeling, the report looked at 15 high-income nations to identify the most prominent trends, including:

#### 1. AI Disruption

According to McKinsey Global Institute researchers, 73% of paid work can be automated with technology that exists today. With this in mind, the Study portals report noted President of Chatham University, David Finegold, felt that the purpose of education will have to be rethought if leaders want to prepare students for the workforce of the future. Institutions must also teach students resilience and an entrepreneurial spirit so that they can reinvent themselves as the job market changes.

#### 2. Emerging Markets

According to the UNESCO Institute of Statistics data, in 2012, lower-middle-income countries outdid high-income countries in tertiary enrollment. Upper-middle-income countries were the leaders, but developing nations are quickly excelling in higher education worldwide, with 75% of global STEM graduates estimated to be concentrated in Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa by 2030. That is compared to just 8% in the United States and 4% in Europe.

#### 3. Skills Gap

According to a survey by PayScale, about 50% of managers thought recent college graduates had the skills required for the workforce. Ken Gill, CEO of NCUK, the University Consortium, said it would take a creative approach to provide students with the skills that will be valued in the long term, which could include

increasing global collaboration.

#### 4. Urbanisation

World demographic trends indicate people are moving to urban centres, calling for the alignment of education and jobs regionally. Steven Kyffin, pro-vice-chancellor at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle in England, says that the rise of urbanisation calls for campuses of the future to become "creative hubs" so that universities can partner with each other and not have to be experts in all areas.

#### 5. Student Mobility and Immigration Restrictions

Across the 15 high-income nations, the study showed a potential growth of enrollment for about 412,000 international students between 2015 and 2030. Close to three-quarters of internationally mobile students chose more developed nations, according to Millennium Development Indicators.

The United States has more international undergraduate students than Chile, Poland, Spain and Japan, yet it is behind when compared to the United Kingdom, Australia and Denmark. United States schools will have to find ways to attract international students.

#### 6. Growth in demand, not supply

By 2030, there will be an estimated increase of almost 120 million students enrolled in higher education, according to the UNESCO Institute of Statistics. There will also be 2.3 million who are internationally mobile, which translates to over a 50% increase for international student enrollment.

#### 7. Non-traditional students

From 2015 to 2030, 4.3 million more students over 24 years of age enrolled in the 15 high-income countries. This growth will demand changes in curriculum and program development.

#### 8. Dwindling budgets

Since 2008, American states are spending about \$9 billion less on higher education, with 33 states accumulating less revenue than projected in 2017. These numbers have led to budget cuts with the president of Metropolitan State University in Denver, Stephen Jordan, predicting funds will dry up by around 2025.



## OpenArc Students excel at BIT examinations

### UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

At the recently

concluded BIT (Bachelor of Information Technology) external Degree Convocation held by the University of Colombo School of computing, Ruvinna Ranasinghe and Janith Ranasinghe were awarded second class upper division degrees.

Janith produced the best island-wide project, for which he won a Gold medal. This Gold Medal was presented to the student with the best project performance. Janith followed the BIT degree on full time basis and received in depth knowledge in software development, in addition to the curriculum work of the BIT degree program.

Ruvinna worked as a Software Engineer at the parent company, OpenArc Systems Management (Pvt) Ltd. Before commencing the BIT program, Ruvinna followed the Industrial Diploma in Software Development (IDS) program of the OpenArc Campus, through which he gained software development knowledge and experience by completing the diploma project.

The superiority in guiding students by OpenArc Campus was demonstrated, last year too. In the convocation held by the University of Colombo School of computing, on November 10, 2018, Prasith Lakshan Fernando was awarded the highly esteemed Vidya Jothi Prof. V. K. Samaranyake Gold Medal. This Gold Medal is presented to the student with the best academic performance. Prasith studied in the full-time program offered by OpenArc Campus and went on to achieve a 1st class degree in Bachelor of Information Technology conducted by the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC). As a top-performing student in his batch, he has achieved excellent results consistently.

Since the inception of the three-year Bachelor of Information Technology external degree program by the UCSC in 2000, OpenArc Campus has been a pioneer in guiding students for the BIT degree program. From that time onwards, OpenArc Campus has produced many 1st Class and 2nd Class degree holders, and has guided them towards achieving their full potential as IT professionals. OpenArc offers full-time (five weekdays) as well as part-time (Friday, Saturday or Sunday) programs.

Registrations for the 2021 intake for the BIT degree program are now open.

For further information, e-mail [info@openarc.edu.lk](mailto:info@openarc.edu.lk), call us on 0112825306/7, 07004 500777 or visit us at 87, Nawala Road, Nugegoda (opposite Wetland/Weli Park)



**Ruvinna Ranasinghe,**  
Second class,  
upper division



**Janith Ranasinghe**  
Second class,  
upper division &  
Gold medal for the  
best project

# Psychology the Key to Unlock the Human Mind

Metropolitan College, Sri Lanka, being a first-class higher educational organisation, has served the society with exceptional and quality education. Established in 1999 the Chairman of Metropolitan College Dr. Siraz Meerasahib and the Metropolitan College team continue to work hand in hand to provide a wide range of opportunities in different fields of higher education in a multicultural environment to both local and international students. We at Metropolitan College strongly believe that making a change in the society intellectually and economically is only possible by providing a high quality education, which in turn will contribute to the economic growth of the country. Metropolitan College strives to drive itself with the mission and vision of providing high standard education whilst contributing to the growth of the country.

Metropolitan College focuses on giving the best quality education while equipping students with morality, ethics, politeness, good inter & intra personal relationship skills. The College opens its doors for multifarious options of study such as Psychology, Teaching, Business Management, Travel and Tourism, Quantity Surveying, Languages and International Relations. We at Metropolitan College commit ourselves towards fulfilling the qualification needs of their students by partnering with Girne American University, OTHM (UK), NOCN (UK), ICDL and IDP.

### Girne American University (GAU)

Enriched with a student population of over 20,000 from 135 different countries the Girne American University is the most reputed American style university in Europe and focuses on core values such as access, speed, relevance, value and continuity.

GAU started spreading its wings internationally in the year 1995 and has now anchored itself in the USA, the UK, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Cyprus and Moldova. Metropolitan College partnered with GAU and is the only representing body of GAU in Sri Lanka and offers programmes ranging from Undergraduate degrees to Masters and PhD programmes.

GAU has its own internal Quality Assurance Unit where the quality of program is evaluated and regulated periodically. Having multiple external accrediting bodies GAU stands tall by joining hands with the University of Arizona which is one of the top 100 universities in the World.

As a member of the International Association of Universities (IUA) and UK NARIC GAU is locally recognised the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka. Furthermore; GAU proudly stands as a member of:

- Universal Education Group
- The American Education Consortium
- The European Federation for Management Development (EFMD)
- Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)
- Leader Hospitality schools in Europe (Eurhodip)
- European Council for Business Education (ECBE)
- European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE)
- International Vocational Education and Training (IVETA) of UNESCO

### What we offer in psychology?

'Psychology' is regarded as the scientific study of the mind and its function. With the mind working in mysterious ways with the advancement of technology multiple branches of psychology has developed in order to study and understand the human mind. Metropolitan College offers Psychology programmes recognised by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) of Sri Lanka, starting from Certificate in Forensic Psychology and Diploma and Higher Diploma programs in Forensic and Criminal Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Child Psychology and General Psychology.

In order to provide a greater progressive path for students in the field of psychology, Metropolitan College works together with Girne American University to deliver Undergraduate, Postgraduate and PhD programmes for students all over the world.



Students who aspire to excel their studies in the field of Psychology are provided with the opportunity to pursue their studies in programmes ranging from Certificate programmes to PhD programmes.

### Why Metropolitan College is the right choice for you?

The modern world in which we live today, demands a good quality education as a basic requirement. Metropolitan College strongly believes a student's professional success to be their achievement and are privileged to offer quality education.

A student entering into Metropolitan College with a completed O/L or A/L or Diploma or Higher diploma qualifications and a passion towards serving humanity through psychology can progress their educational qualification step by step and reach the vertex of their career by entering into the PhD programme. Metropolitan College offers flexibility to students with a thirst for knowledge from all over the world, by providing full time and part time options of study.

By Joining the Psychology programmes offered at Metropolitan College, students are able to set foot in Counselling, Marketing, Industrial & Organisational fields, Forensic and Criminology fields, Education, Life Coaching, Career Counselling, Lecturing and Research as their



career. Psychology is an ever-evolving field with numerous researches finding different vantage points and information. Psychology expands every day in its research and practical aspects with the contribution of knowledge by genius minds all over the world. Metropolitan College is a perfect entity to provide such an opening and chance to unbox talents in students. Metropolitan College is proudly providing students all over the world a chance to impart knowledge and aid in creating a better world for our future generations.



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## Advertorial

# Royal Institute Int'l School marks 50th year of academic excellence

Royal Institute International School (RI), a pioneer of international schools in Sri Lanka, marked its 50th year of providing quality education to the children of our nation on September 1.

As a responsible provider of primary and secondary education, RI has right throughout been dedicated in crafting well rounded citizens. The quality of education has been the core of the five-decade long journey. Quality education provided together with a wide array of extra-curricular activities has developed strong personalities within students to serve communities worldwide. This has in fact been the vision of the founder of RI Mr. G.T. Bandara, five decades ago. The humble beginnings of the school in 1971 has been at the Havelock Town premises which is the main branch. Currently,



RI has a network of four other branch-schools in Nugegoda, Maya Avenue, Maharaagama and Gampaha. The student population of the RI branch network is over 5,000 at present.

Students of RI have performed extraordinarily well in academic, sports and cultural fields, having received numerous awards and accolades both locally and internationally. The student-friendly school environment, state-of-the-art sporting facilities together with the superior guidance provided by highly qualified and experienced teachers have made students enjoy their academic journey.

This enthusiasm that has been created within students have in fact led them to perform better and



Royal Institute International School founder G.T. Bandara and Defence Ministry Secretary, Major General Kamal Gunaratne at the ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the school

achieve higher. Career Guidance Units (CGU) have been instilled in all branch-schools to guide students with their tertiary educational needs and career aspirations. These units are much dedicated in understanding well the needs and abilities of students to guide them along fruitful avenues.

Royal Institute of Colombo (RIC) which is the higher education arm

of RI supports the school CGU's in this regard. RIC too emphasises on academic quality which has been the recipe of success for over 40 years in the field of higher education. Being affiliated to the prestigious University of London and the Deakin University Australia, RIC has created top professionals whose knowledge and experiences are being shared con-

stantly among students of both RIC and RI. Being exposed to such a professional setting from a tender age is what makes students of RI stand out from the rest.

The launching ceremony of the 50th anniversary year of RI took place at the Havelock Town branch on the 1st of September, which was also the birthday of the founder. Following the traditions of the school as well our country, religious rights were observed prior to the celebrations, in order to receive blessings upon past and present students and teachers, staff members, the management, well-wishers and everyone who graced the occasion and has been involved with the school along the journey.

Following the religious rights, the 50th anniversary logo was launched and the anniversary year declared open by G.T. Bandara. Students from all branch-schools made the event more colourful with a cultural show. The Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Major General Kamal Gunaratne was also among the special invitees at the event.



## Working while studying

If you're looking to self-fund your Masters and avoid postgraduate debt, full-time work and part-time study is a viable option - but you'll need to be well disciplined and have a good support network

Working while studying can be financially and professionally beneficial, but balancing earning and learning is difficult. Getting the best from postgraduate study requires resilience, good time management, genuine enthusiasm for your course and dedication to see it through to its conclusion. To succeed, you must implement routines and plan each day in advance.

Most importantly, you must have open and honest conversations with your employer and potential course leader before applying for a Masters degree, as this will make the arrangement run more smoothly. Discuss study timetables and working hours, and be clear that you'll need to amend each accordingly.

### Why choose part-time postgraduate study?

The option to study part time is invaluable to postgraduates who need to balance their studies with work or family commitments.

Others choose to study for a part-time Masters to lessen the financial burden somewhat. Part-time courses are usually cheaper year-on-year than full-time programs and part-time study makes self-funding more realistic, as you have the option to continue working, either on a full or part-time basis.

For those already in employments, one of the main attractions of a part-time course is that you get to keep your salary while studying. If your aim is to self-fund, your wages could help to pay your fees upfront (avoiding the need to take out a loan) or contribute to living



costs.

Working while studying also opens up the possibility of employer sponsorship, whereby your employer pays your tuition fees and course expenses so long as the qualification is relevant to your job and benefits the company in some way.

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### What are the advantages?

There are many benefits to part-time study - the first has to be its flexibility. Lectures and seminars in many part-time courses are hosted at weekends, or even recorded for students to access online in their own time. This makes it an attractive proposition for many - though prior research into your chosen program is paramount, as some universities have strict regulations regarding part-time study. To see what's available, search part-time postgraduate courses.

Part-time postgraduate courses are also popular as they can improve your career prospects, without you having to take a break from work. Additionally, you'll meet and make connections with other working professionals studying the same course.

Working while studying and deciding to self-fund also has its advantages. For example, working enables further development of essential employability skills that'll look great on your CV - especially if your job is related to your study area. It develops skills, such as organisation and time management, since you'll be prioritising multiple workloads. You'll also have a greater number of opportunities to network within your chosen field, and recruiters will admire your commitment to progression and lack of employment gaps.

### What are the disadvantages?

Self-funding in this manner doesn't suit everyone. Part-time study is intense, stressful and requires great discipline. With few lectures to attend, you're prone to concentrating on work and leaving your assignments until the last minute. Distracting work commitments may even result in occasional deadline extensions or module deferrals. Ultimately, your job could take precedence in terms of quality and time - which is not ideal as you should typically dedicate at least 20 hours a week to part-time study.

Balancing work, study and family life without it having a negative impact

on your academic output is extremely difficult. Both employers and academics may not appreciate the conflicting demands on your time. Employers in particular may need careful handling to ensure that your academic work isn't neglected.

While annual part-time tuition fees are lower, course lengths may actually mean that you pay more. Programs can also provide less value. You might not have time to access resources that could enhance the university experience and, more importantly, your future career.

These include societies, academic staff, guest lectures, networking events, the library and the careers service. Getting to know course mates in the same way as you would if studying full time may also be a challenge.

Time pressures can leave you feeling isolated during tough times. Close support from friends, family, peers, tutors, colleagues and employers is therefore vital.

### Part-time work

Even if you choose to study full time, you can still help fund your studies by taking on a part-time job. Many students opt for this method, fitting work around their studies and working longer hours during the holiday periods.

Off campus you could take on bar, restaurant, retail or promotions work. Within your university, you could work in an administration or customer service role in the campus library, shop, bar, careers service or students' union. Some university positions even come with free accommodation. Wages from part-time work can contribute to study or living costs, but alone probably won't be enough to cover your expenses, so research alternative sources of postgraduate funding.

## St. Sebastian's OBA AGM and Family Get-together



The 89th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Old Boys' Association of St. Sebastian's College, will be held on September 26 at 5.30p.m. at the College Main Hall. A Holy Mass will be celebrated for the Memorial and temporal welfare of the Members and for the repose of souls of the deceased members at 4.30p.m. at the College Chapel. All the members and their families are requested to attend the Mass and it will be followed by refreshments and the AGM. The SEBS Night, the Family Get-together will be held on the same day at Ramadia Ramnal Holiday Resort, Moratuwa at 7.30p.m. featuring Believer & DJ Mick Ey. Grab your tickets now. Contact Omar Amarasekera (0766918485) or Suneth Fernando (0773633533) for more details.

## Virtual university... (From page 41)

The need is exacerbated by the recent Covid-19 pandemic, forcefully migrating physical learning environment to a virtual space. Furthermore, teachers act as planners, designers, climate builders, facilitators and guides and are central to interpreting and implementing any curriculum. Hence, investing in teacher training and development is imperative.

NIBM formal Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL) initiative began in 2018 with the collaborative efforts of all the faculties of NIBM. This led to the creation of NIBM Digital Campus which articulates the intent of technology-powered learning at NIBM, including the critical role of the faculty as the architects of teaching. Advantages of digital teaching and learning

includes;

- Learner -centered and self-centered
- Time and space flexibility
- Cost-effective for learners
- Potentially available to global audience
- Unlimited access to knowledge
- Archive capability for knowledge, its reuse and share
- Covers many students by a very limited lecturer panel
- Potential use of variety of educational tools and techniques
- More learning capability in virtual learning

It has been evident that there are some disadvantages as well. Some of them are; more time for teachers' preparation, anxiety and confusion

due to lack of relationships, no access to control exams and practical and lower contact hours. A major obstacle is the digital divide and no equal online access to all the students. However, DTL is becoming more popular among the new generation and almost all the individuals belonging to the new generation prefer online learning at least to a certain extent with a reasonable contact level. Hence, blended learning is the most preferred option for higher education at all levels.

### NIBM Digital Campus

NIBM Digital Campus is the latest global initiative of NIBM in addition to its network of six campuses located

throughout the country. The main facility is in Colombo-07 with a total on campus capacity of more than 10,000 students including regional campuses.

Vision: Setting global standards in Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL)  
Mission: Creating NIBM community and online body of knowledge through innovative online and blended learning

Located at your fingertips, the NDC offers an extensive range of professional qualifications through a virtual setting that allows you to study, learn, and connect when it suits you, anywhere, anytime. With a plenty of flexibility and student support, our digital campus serves up a rich learning journey that has your career in

mind. The features that are embedded in the process of NDC teaching and learning are;

- Quality provider of Online Education

Learn from more than 300 academically and professionally qualified faculty (Internal and external)

- Study-Life Balance

Choose from two ways (total online or Blended) to study online and have the freedom to mix and match to suit your changing needs.

- Support to reach your goals
- As 40% of our cohort study, or at least two subjects are offered online, you can be sure that you will have plenty of dedicated student support and services on hand.
- Features

24/7 learning access, online library, rich learning environments, and IT support, student collaboration networks, cost-effective

We know that everyone's situation is different, so why should everyone study in the same way? At NDC, you can choose to gain many qualifications, and we offer two ways to study as online and offline, while giving the students freedom to mix and match to suit the changing needs. Furthermore, as life gets busy, you'll have the flexibility to accelerate or slow down your study to make your university life easier and more enjoyable. Of course, even if you choose to study online, you can still come to campus to take advantage of all the great facilities NIBM has to offer.



# Study at ACBT and transfer to Australia

**Study at ACBT**  
Australian College of Business Technology (ACBT) with its long-standing academic partner, Edith Cowan University (ECU), awards undergraduate degrees in a range of disciplines, such as Commerce, Computing, Engineering and Health Studies. In addition to providing an all-inclusive ideal learning environment, students also have a number of pathways to choose in order to complete ECU Foundation or Diploma courses as well as ECU degrees at ACBT Sri Lanka.

ECU has been rewarded with five star ratings for teaching quality, graduate satisfaction and generic skills six years in a row in the Good Universities Guide. All ECU courses are developed in consultation with industry.

ACBT teaching staff, who have been selected by ECU, also have extensive industry experience and networking. As a result, ACBT students can expect to gain the relevant knowledge, skills and confidence required to meet the challenges of today's workplace.

ACBT students have unlimited access to state of the art computer labs equipped with Microsoft Office applications, fast and uninterrupted internet, multimedia applications and specialist software to facilitate their individual courses/modules.

ACBT Library provides ample support, services and information for students with an up-to-date collection of select text books and printed material related to the modules of study.

There is also the opportunity to obtain various online scholarly material via digital databases. ACBT Campuses are conveniently located so that students can purchase their text books, reference books, course materials and stationery from prominent book-

stores and stationers within close proximity to the campuses.

ACBT also has a range of special interest and recreation clubs and activities on campus, facilitated by the ACBT Student Council. Sports clubs include Cricket, Rugby, Basketball, Football, etc. while the numerous societies organize various recreation activities such as get-togethers, charity projects, CSR projects, career development programs etc. Other facilities on campus include a cafeteria and sitting areas to relax as well.

Entry into ECU programs at ACBT requires applicants to meet initial academic and English language proficiency criteria. Interested students can visit ACBT to have their qualification assessed for eligibility or e-mail them to counselors who would guide them in the process.

Get ready to transfer to Australia

Students also have the option of transferring to ECU or any other university in Australia to continue their Masters Degree upon completion of the 2 year ECU Bachelor's degree at ACBT.

ACBT has made available a range of programs and facilities for students to complete their degrees locally or in Australia. Students studying at ACBT for Edith Cowan University (ECU) programs are at a greater competitive advantage because their programs are industry-relevant and quality assured by an internationally ranked university while the study environment is similar to what they would experience in foreign universities. Therefore, ACBT students do not only survive in the world of work, - they thrive in it.

**For more information about ACBT programs or studying in Australia, dial ACBT Hotline 0773 000900 or visit ACBT Campus at 442, Galle Road, Colombo 3, or email to: info@acbt.lk**

# Saegis celebrates another glorious year with SQA

Despite the chaos that shook our education sector from the Covid-19 pandemic, Saegis Campus continues to establish itself as a forerunner in Sri Lanka, offering competitive SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority) Advanced Diploma programs while enrolling the largest intake for SQA this year.

Saegis Campus pioneered in introducing the SQA Advanced Diploma programs to the Sri Lankan higher education system. SQA is a globally recognised higher education qualification that prepares, aspiring students with skills expected by employers.

We proudly claims a proven track record in international excellence by being the winner of the "Best International Centre" award at the SQA Star Awards held in 2018 at Glasgow, Scotland defeating China and Nepal.

Saegis Campus is currently the leading higher education institute delivering SQA Advanced Diploma programs in Business and Computer Science. These programs are aimed at school leavers, industry professionals, and ambitious individuals who thrive themselves to be the best and exceptional amongst a highly competitive workforce.



**Aushyani Samarasinghe**  
MBA(UK), BSc. in BA (SJP), ACMA, CGMA, Dean International Affairs- Saegis Campus

The secret behind our success being the forerunner in offering SQA programs, is our experience in delivering SQA programs with a qualified lecturer panel. We are determined in maintaining international standards with stringent quality assurance mechanisms to ensure an unparal-

leled global education experience for students.

The two year Advanced Diploma programs provide an ultimate benefit for the students with an advanced entry to the final year of the Honours Degree program in Business Management or Computing offered by the prestigious Canterbury Christ Church University, UK.

It is also a flexible and cost-effective route to a degree, as the students can either complete their degree at Saegis Campus or in an international destination. The students have a vast array of choices with an advanced entry to a degree program around the world, mainly in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Singapore, South Korea and the USA.

As the most trusted higher education provider, Saegis Campus believes in providing a global education experience for everyone. We offer a stress-free education for our students by facilitating bank loans, easy payment schemes, and 0% interest payment plans for credit cards from leading banks in Sri Lanka.

Start your journey with Saegis Campus, and let us build your future together!



The new intake will commence on the November 2020. Register Today!  
**For more information: Call 011 7430000 or visit Saegis campus at No 135, S De S Jayasinghe Mw, Nugegoda. Website - www.saegis.ac.lk.**

# Dialogue on new educational TV Channel

A meeting to discuss the technical background on the proposed new TV channel to be started by the Education Ministry was held at the Ministry under the patronage of Director and Engineer of MTV Dr. Tharaka Mohotti on September 16.

The meeting focused on contents, including telecasting cost, TV technology and capacity and challenges.

Education Ministry Information Technology Director Neil Gunada-



Participants at the meeting on the proposed new TV channel

sa, Assistant Director of Education, e-Learning and Nenas TV Program

Unit W.A.S.W. Wijesuriya and Media Secretary of the Ministry of Educa-

tion Buddhika Wickremadara participated in the discussion.



## DISCOVER WHERE ECU'S BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE) CAN TAKE YOU.

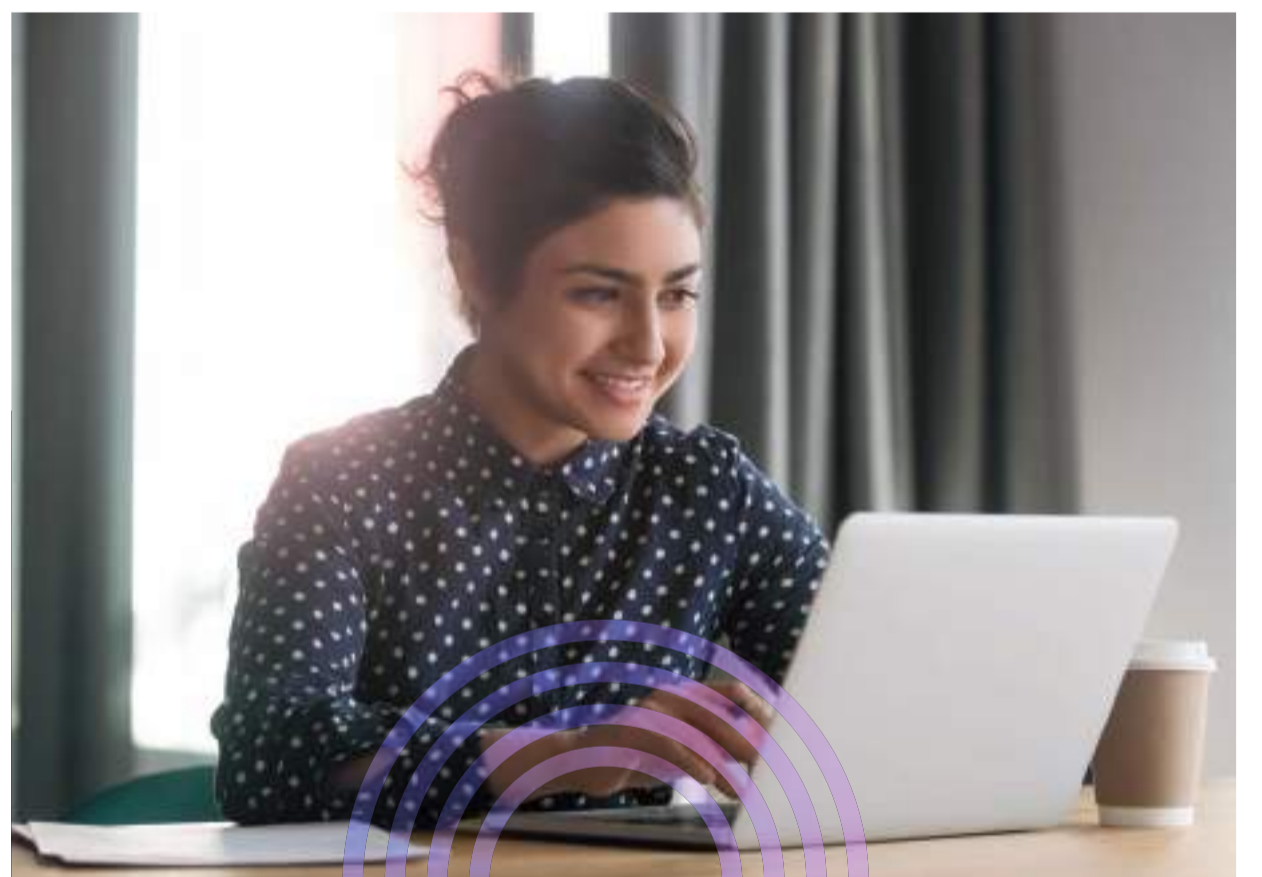
Obtain an Australian Biomedical Science Degree with ECU in Sri Lanka.

Edith Cowan University's Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) program provides students with an opportunity to obtain an Australian Bachelor degree in Sri Lanka. The program provides the knowledge, skills and attributes required to prepare graduates for the fields of biomedical science and medical research.



**APPLY NOW**

**HOTLINE: 011-2555123**  
**EMAIL: INFO@ECU.EDU.LK**  
**ECU.EDU.LK — ECU SRI LANKA CAMPUS**



## BE CAREER READY WITH ECU'S BACHELOR OF COMMERCE

Obtain an Australian Commerce Degree with ECU in Sri Lanka.

Edith Cowan University's Bachelor of Commerce program provides you with an opportunity to obtain an Australian Bachelor degree in Sri Lanka. Through the course of the degree you will refine your professional skills in the areas of leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, communication and problem solving, helping you to succeed in a variety of complex, competitive and dynamic global business environments.



**APPLY NOW**

**HOTLINE: 011-2555123**  
**EMAIL: INFO@ECU.EDU.LK**  
**ECU.EDU.LK — ECU SRI LANKA CAMPUS**



# Advertorial

## Dream in Hotel Operations Management with Win-Stone

### Q: What is Win-Stone?

We are a leading hotel training school in the tourism industry. We started our operation in 2004 with 45 students and a humble staff. We take around 300 intakes annually. We offer training for those who are interested in pursuing a career in the field of culinary and for interested investors who wish to invest in the hotel industry in Sri Lanka. As tourism industry is blooming all around the world, there is a rewarding future for potential investors in the hotel industry. Our aim is to satisfy our students, parents, shipping recruits, business and society by largely fulfilling their needs and expectations.

### Q: What are the courses you offer from your hotel school?

We provide Advanced Diploma Courses, Shipping Courses, Australian Qualifications and National Vocational Qualifications.

The Advanced Diploma is the most popular course among the students. It covers the main four departments; Front Office, House Keeping, Kitchen and Restaurant. The course duration is for 6 months and designed to give students entry into a university bachelor's degree.

The Advanced Diploma Course aims to provide students with an understanding of the managerial, decision-making and leadership aspects of the hospitality industry. The essential HR skills as how to handle clients, how to solve the work place problems, how to reach for a man-



agerial post and much more guided by this course. Additionally, if you plan to start your own business in the hotel industry, you can consider this course as a milestone of your life.

Another popular course among the students is the TAFE SA (Australian Technical and Further Education, South Australia). This is a hybrid course as the lectures are conducted by professionals in Sri Lanka and Australia. You get the opportunity to practice what you have learnt in theory and pursue your dream in the industry.

Moreover, we provide international courses in Australia, Canada, and New

Zealand along with one year work visa. And, we have shipping courses which are in partnership with international cruises as, AIDA, P&O Cruises, Princess Cruises and Costa Cruises.

As most of the students pursue their higher studies abroad, we provide the IELTS for the students. So, they get the chance to fulfill every skill they need under one roof.

As it is our duty to create experts in the hotel industry, we guarantee your future with our school. We are willing to have you in our school to make your future brighter and safer.

### Q: How Win-Stone differs from other hotel schools?

The specialty we have is the quality education we provide for the students. The students have the opportunity to learn with an experienced staff. Having a leading role in the hotel industry, we have

professional contacts from all around the world which will be a huge benefit for our students.

We are proud to say that the experts in the hotel industry Chef Gemunu Goonewardene as the Chairman of Win-Stone Group, Chef Iyanthi Goonewardene as the Managing Director, Chef Renuka Rathnayaka as the Pastry and Bakery Lecturer, Chef Arusha Jayasinghe and Chef Dammika Maddeliyagama work with us to give the quality education for the students.

### Q: How about the job opportunities in the hotel industry?

Recovering from the Corona outbreak, the tourism and hotel industries in Sri Lanka are blooming again. As tourism is one of the largest industry in the world, we guarantee you future with our school. Moreover, it's obvious that hotels have been opening all around the country recently. So, we consider it is our duty to create professionals in the field who can face any challenge and move on with changing the world.

### Q: How do you measure the students' performances?

We conduct continuous assessments through enhancing creativity, leadership activities, making the students face mock situations and through training. It is essential to apply what you learnt in the classroom in real-life situations.

### Q: How about the admission of the students?

We have four intakes per year. Being aware of the hassle life style, we give the students the facility to pay the course fee in monthly installments. You can take a student loan to pay the fee or you can use HNB or People's Bank for the transactions.

**Get more information on**  
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## It's time to recapture

By  
Vasana  
Abeynayake



The Advanced Level examination is around the corner after a considerable lapse of time at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As the lesson of locked-down, we realised that the cost of living is never expensive but it is the cost of life style that is expensive. It was a bit hard to adjust to the set up once we were house-ridden with restrictions.

The first stages of the misery are strolling away and the life is beginning to get adjusted with the normalcy of day-to-day chores. The ways of attending into academic space may have got double-spaced due to online learning plus the hectic style of grasping study materials.

It is a matter of repossessing your performance and its improvement, giving up the lethargic, monotonous style of life to face the oncoming exam. It is a matter of living in the normalcy once again; going to college, attending meetings, study circles, face-to-face sessions, and giving up the seclusion you tread on so far. There are many ways to improve your performance, but the first one is motivation. The first thing you should start with is the awareness of your inner inspiration. You should articulate your main goal and the way academic performance can help you in its accomplishment.

Other strategies to improve

academic performance of students include the elimination of the traps of time. Pay attention to the time you are wasting. You will be surprised when you find out how much time is wasted! You should not refuse to communicate with friends or play sports. You can curtail the time to watch TV shows, play games and stuff.

The negative impact of social media on students' academic performance was proven scientifically. However strange it may sound, academic performance depends not only on your knowledge but also on the way you show it. Attend seminars or lectures. Be active. Ask questions and join in discussions. You can connect the emotional aspect to improve memorisation.

It will help you prove yourself as an active, interested, inquisitive and an erudite student. You must always create a convenient study space. Do not combine a zone where you sleep, relax, or play with a studying zone. It is difficult to get your brain to concentrate in a place where it's usually allowed to rest. Choose a small table, remove everything that can distract you and add good lighting. Performing the academic tasks will be not only easier but also faster. What really important is to find the best learning style. It is quite subjective and different to each and every person.

This is the point in which you can freely choose the best option for yourself. Using your experience, you should determine the most effective way of learning; find time when you are effective. This is individual; however, you can consider such options for an example. For some people, the peak of productivity may be early in the morning, for others late in the evening, when they are hungry or after a good dinner; after a short rest or physical activity; one better perceives visual information but other through listening, reading or training. Study the factors that reduce or increase your productivity to create your own effective learning style.

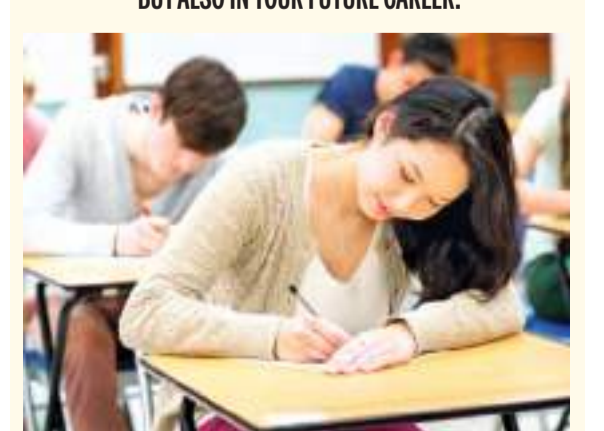
One of the most needed skills is the improvement of memory. In order to train your memory, you can try to learn some new skills. Each new skill activates our brain, reveals its potential and increases the memory capacity. However, exclude multitasking and proceed to a new task only after you have completed the previous one.

Multitasking reduces concentration and prevents memorisation. You should also add sports, good sleep and healthy food to your list. These three components provide sufficient saturation of the brain with oxygen, trace elements and rest between work sessions. One of the most effective steps taken to improve weak areas is to do revision and practise repetitiously. Do not be afraid to look at your mistakes. Read unsuccessful academic reports again and again, find mistakes, edit them, and try your best even when it seems that everything is good.

You can work on mistakes with your teacher. This stage is extremely important for obtaining new knowledge and skills and you should always have a positive attitude towards learning. At this moment when you know how to raise your grades, convince yourself that success is assured to you. Mistakes and first unsuccessful steps are a natural part of your learning process, which should not stop you. Understand that studying is not the opponent with which you must fight for a high grade; this is your companion, which helps you succeed not only in academic performance but also in your future career. Discover something interesting in each path.

**MISTAKES AND FIRST UNSUCCESSFUL STEPS ARE A NATURAL PART OF YOUR LEARNING PROCESS, WHICH SHOULD NOT STOP YOU. UNDERSTAND THAT STUDYING IS NOT THE OPPONENT WITH WHICH YOU MUST FIGHT FOR A HIGH GRADE; THIS IS YOUR COMPANION, WHICH HELPS YOU TO SUCCEED NOT ONLY IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE BUT ALSO IN YOUR FUTURE CAREER.**

**MISTAKES AND FIRST UNSUCCESSFUL STEPS ARE A NATURAL PART OF YOUR LEARNING PROCESS, WHICH SHOULD NOT STOP YOU. UNDERSTAND THAT STUDYING IS NOT THE OPPONENT WITH WHICH YOU MUST FIGHT FOR A HIGH GRADE; THIS IS YOUR COMPANION, WHICH HELPS YOU TO SUCCEED NOT ONLY IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE BUT ALSO IN YOUR FUTURE CAREER.**



## Gap between education and job opportunities should be removed - GL

The gap between education through schools and universities and job opportunities should be removed, Education Minister Prof G.L. Peiris said.



Prof G.L. Peiris

The Minister was addressing a ceremony at Anula Vidyalaya, Nugegoda, to open a four storey building put up at a cost of Rs. 48 million.

The Minister said that the country's education system should be designed to create intellectuals who are rich in analytical skills and who can use what they have learnt practically instead of those who pass examinations by learning by heart.

Minister Peiris said, "it is not possible to assess the strength and value of school by buildings. We have to think beyond that. Teachers should teach children with satisfaction. There should be teachers in schools, who teach children with love instead of doing it as a job."

He appreciated the service rendered by Anula Vidyalaya for the past eight decades by moulding learned and intellectual human resources.

He said that leading schools, such as Anula Vidyalaya, can extend support to the program implemented by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to uplift rural schools.

Education State Minister Susil Premajayanth, Women and Child Development, Pre-School and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and School Services State Minister Piyal Nishantha and parliamentarian Madhura Vithanage also participated.

## School heads told to follow health regulations



The Education Ministry has given instructions to heads of schools to follow health regulations given by the Health Ministry, at schools.

Information has been received on certain schools where parents, teachers and children pay less attention to Covid-19 regulations.

Dr Jayarwan Bandara, Director of Medical Research Centre, Colombo, speaking at the Ministry of Education recently said that the risk of a second wave of Covid-19 has not completely avoided.

Dr Bandara said, "If there is a second wave of Covid-19, we have to be ready to face it as a country, and we should act with a clear understanding of the number of beds available in the Intensive Care Units, the number of Covid tests that could be carried out per day, capacity of the medical staff and hospitals, drugs available for the control of the virus," he said.



STATE MINISTRY OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT,  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH & INNOVATIONS

## NATIONAL APPRENTICE AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AUTHORITY



### Registration of qualified and competent professionals for External Resource Personnel Pool for the Final Evaluation Board of undergraduates and diploma students who have completed Industrial Training

The students of universities and other higher educational institutes are given an Industrial Training, by National Apprenticeship and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA) in accordance with the Powers of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Act No. 20 of 1990.

The assessments which are done at the end of the Industrial Training of the students of above educational institutes, are carried out by our Authority and Assessment Panels of those education institutes. As per the requirement of those evaluation committees it is planned to set up an External Assessment Panel member pool consisting of the professionals with following qualification, representing our authority.

Applications are invited from competent professionals who are interested to join as an evaluator for following subject areas / subjects mentioned in the chart below:

Subject Areas / Subjects which can be applied to:	Qualifications for Registration
01 Civil Engineering	UGC approved Engineering Degree related to the registered subject areas with 03 years experience in the relevant field. or Level 06 of NDT / HNDE / NDES / NVQ or a Diploma Certificate obtained from a government approved university or any other institute with 05 years experience in the relevant field.
02 Quantity Surveying	
03 Electrical Engineering	
04 Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering	
05 Mechanical Engineering	
06 Chemical & Process Engineering	
07 Marine Engineering	
08 Material Science Engineering	
09 Aeronautical Engineering	
10 Biomedical Engineering	
11 Agriculture	UGC approved degree related to registered subject areas with 03 years of experience in the relevant field or Level 06 of NDT / HNDE / NDES / NVQ or a Diploma Certificate obtained from a government approved university or any other institute with 05 years experience in the relevant field or More than 10 years experience in higher management grade of a recognized government or private institute related to subject areas / subjects
12 Textile & Clothing Technology	
13 Information & Communication Technology	
14 Management / Accountancy	
15 Polymer Technology	
16 Transport & Logistics Management	
17 Hotel and Tourism	
18 Cosmetology	
19 Mass Media	
20 Social Science	

These assessments will be conducted islandwide covering all provinces, and a daily allowance will be paid to the participants.

### Obtaining Applications & Applying Process

Applications can be downloaded from National Apprenticeship and Industrial Training Authority website: [www.naita.gov.lk](http://www.naita.gov.lk) Duly completed applications and certified copies of certificates confirming educational and professional qualifications, shall be sent under registered cover addressed to "Assistant Director (Special Industry Training), National Apprenticeship and Industrial Training Authority, No. 971, Sri Jayawardhanapura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya" before 07.10.2020. The top left corner of the envelope should be marked as "Registration for External Resource Personnel Pool".

If the applications are sent via email, the scanned copies of certificates confirming educational and professional qualifications, can be forwarded to: [naitaindustrialtraining@gmail.com](mailto:naitaindustrialtraining@gmail.com)

Contact Numbers for further details - Lalith Niroshana - 0714553736  
S.P.T. Anuradha - 0710542999  
0112888782 Ext. 601, 602

Chairman,  
National Apprenticeship and Industrial Training Authority,  
971, Sri Jayawardhanapura Mawatha,  
Welikada, Rajagiriya.

# The best flexible MBA from KIU

The business landscape is growing and becoming increasingly complex. Digital developments are transforming the workplace, by automating certain aspects of work to improving employee productivity.

To keep pace with the changing workplace demands, getting an MBA, ie. Master of Business Administration degree, has never been more apt. The postgraduate business administration programs are not only growing in availability but widening in its array of specialisations to help students carve a niche to prepare for the future.

Companies from industries have been largely impacted by the spread of Covid-19, especially transportation, hospitality, and professional services have been most impacted first. The official word from business schools is that it is too early to say what impact the spread of Covid-19 will have on both part time and full-time job offers. However, Business professionals are predicting that this maybe the good time for investing MBA or any educational work to Get back to the right positions after the epidemic period is over.

World indicators and surveys revealed that still there are bright spots in MBA market. Technology companies including Google, Microsoft, Facebook and Netflix continue to hire robustly, schools report. Amazon, for instance, has hired a record 1,000 MBA students worldwide so far this year, up 20 percent from 2019. There are companies that are now busier than ever and continue hiring. This includes banks, which are more resilient than other sectors. The digitization of recruitment and



working practices is changing the types of skills graduates who need to succeed in the job market. The career supporting business schools have to be changed, therefore, KIU newly design MBA in Strategy can make a big difference in the MBA market in Sri Lanka.

The Master in Business Administration in Strategy in KIU can help graduates and professionals to become agile business leaders. This includes equipping students with the skills and knowledge to identify and understand the drivers affecting business value creation, in addition to helping them stay relevant throughout their careers. Many graduates claim that their MBA has helped them achieve a promotion, expand their area of expertise, equip them to start their own business, widen their professional contacts, learn more skills and

gain knowledge about the business world, to name a few.

KIU MBA program is highly flexible to cater to working adults. Students can opt to earn their degree fully online, in-person, or via their hybrid model which blends online course material and face-to-face sessions, ensuring you find the right mix to keep your MBA on track.

The KIU designs their specialised tracks with feedback from industry partners so that the curriculum responds to market needs. This ensures students gain a competitive edge in the marketplace, regardless whether they are moving up or making a career change. Learning here is never passive. Students will benefit from project-based experience to enhance their learning. For instance, the faculty brings students and industry together to

find solutions to problems that companies face in managing or growing their business. You can also expect to learn from your global network of peers during the program, fostering diverse points of view in discussions and projects.

KIU MBA program is broad-based, emphasising teamwork and hands-on learning. This is in addition to providing education for managerial positions in business, industry and government. The program also helps professionals update their skills for career advancement in their respective organisations. It is designed for working professionals who wish to expand their current knowledge and accelerate their career potential without having to take time off their jobs. Classes are held during the evenings or weekends. MBA students can choose either Sunday whole day classes or 3 working day evening classes up to their preferences and lecturers are online and face to face mode with hybrid formats to accommodate working professionals.

The MBA program in KIU is directed by a well-qualified Panel of Professors and senior lecturers with PhDs in their field and most of them are visiting faculty members in well reputed government universities. The panel comprises of in-house lecturers, visiting faculty members in locally and internationally as well as industry personalities possessing a track record of teaching. The panel of lecturers consists of over 20 outstanding academic staff, with wide teaching and research experience. Having been exposed to international surroundings, their methods of teaching are of exemplary standard.

## Rs. 100,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

2+2

University Transfer Program **OPTION 1**

Study

2 years in Sri Lanka, 2 years in



Over 500 majors to chose from including

Medicine, Psychology, Engineering, Business, Mechatronics  
Software Engineering, Molecular Biology & Many More ....

International Bachelor's Degrees (4 years) **OPTION 2**

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# Advertorial

## SLIIT joins NITC-2020 as Gold Sponsor



Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) has joined hands with Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) as the Gold Sponsor for National IT Conference-2020 (NITC-2020), scheduled to be held on October 14-15 at Shangri-La Hotel. NITC-2020, under the theme "Towards a Sustainable Digital Sri Lanka" is organised by CSSL for the 38th consecutive year. In the picture are (From Left) Damith Hettihewa (Vice President, CSSL), Uditha Gamage-Director-Development and Engineering Service-SLIIT, Prabhath S. Wickramaratne-President-CSSL, Heshan Karunaratne (Conference Chair/Assistant Secretary, CSSL).

# Take ownership of your future self

BY BENJAMIN HARDY

In his TED Talk "The Psychology of Your Future Self," Harvard psychologist Dr. Daniel Gilbert explains a bias that almost all of us have: We tend to think that the person we are today is the person we will always be.

Most people, when asked if they are the same person they were 10 years ago, will say no — but we have a much harder time seeing potential for change in the future. Gilbert and others refer to this as the "end of history illusion." Despite awareness that our past self is clearly different than our present self, we tend to think that who we are right now is the "real" and "finished" version of ourselves, and our future self will be basically the same as who we are today. Gilbert puts it simply: "Human beings are works in progress that mistakenly think they're finished."

Your personality, skills, likes, and dislikes change over time — whether you're intentional about that change or not. A recently published study that spanned more than 60 years found that the personalities of nearly all participants were completely different than they had been 60 years prior.

Change is inevitable, but it's not out of your control. Below, we provide three strategies to help you become your desired future self.

### Distinguish your former, current, and future selves

As a rule, people tend to place extreme emphasis on their present selves. We tend to cling to our current identities and speak in incredibly definitive terms about who we are now, i.e., "I'm an introvert," "I'm not good with people," etc. These labels leave little wiggle room for change and growth, creating what Harvard psychologist Dr. Ellen Langer calls "mindlessness."

When you assume a label about yourself, you stop seeing alternatives. As Langer explains, "If something is presented as an accepted truth, alternative ways of thinking do not even come up for consideration ... [for example] when people are depressed they tend to believe they are depressed all the time. Mindful attention to variability shows this is not the case."

The truth is, you're not the same person you were in the past. You don't do things the same way you once did. You no longer want what you once wanted. Instead of labeling yourself and focusing on who you are today, recognize how much you've grown and changed from your former self.

As entrepreneurial coach Dan Sullivan explains, you should "measure the gain, not the gap." You can train yourself to see even short-term growth by measuring progress on a weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis. Just ask yourself: What wins have I had in the past 90 days? Once you start to distinguish between your current and former selves, it becomes possible to view your future self as a different person as well.

### Imagine your desired future self

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagina-



tion embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand."

—Albert Einstein

It's much easier to default to the present than to imagine a different future. But if you don't take the time to imagine who you want to be, then you'll reactively become whatever life drives you towards. Research has shown that shaping your future self requires "deliberate practice," or the ability to develop yourself towards a specific goal. You can't effectively grow without a direction to that growth; you need a clear goal to shape the process.

For example, when I decided I wanted to become a professional writer, the idea alone wasn't enough. I had to turn my idea into a measurable outcome — getting a six-figure book deal with one of the Big Five publishers in New York — and then I could reverse-engineer a process for reaching that goal. Having a clear goal enabled me to ask useful questions to the right people.

In addition, research shows that both motivation and hope stem from the combination of a clear, desired outcome, the belief that you can succeed, and a path to get there. The burgeoning field of positive psychology has flipped many old assumptions, finding that humans are not driven solely by their pasts, but rather are actually drawn forward by their own views of the future — a concept psychologists refer to as "prospection."

Put simply, your behavior in the present is largely shaped by your view of your own future. If your future is clear, exciting, and something you believe you can create, then your behavior in the present will reflect that.

So, who is your future self? Only you have that answer to that question. As Dr. Gilbert explains, the first step is imagining your future self. Your future self is not someone you discover, but someone you decide to be.

One way to begin that imaginative process is through journaling. Start by asking yourself: What are one to three things I could do today to make progress toward my future self? Any action you take will likely be outside your comfort zone, since your current comfort zone is determined by your current personality. But if you push through that initial discomfort, you'll become more psychologically flexible, and over time, grow into the person you want to be.

Step 3: Change your identity narrative

Identity is far more powerful than personality. Identity drives behaviors, which over time, become personality. Your personality — the sum of your consistent attitudes and behaviors — is merely a byproduct of identity.

Your identity narrative is the story you tell about yourself: past, present, and future. If your identity is rooted in your past and present alone, that fixed mindset can make personality feel permanent. But if you focus on envisioning your future self, instead of fixating on your current self, it becomes possible to change your identity narrative.

This isn't just something you should think about internally. Tell those around you who you want to be! It's not about "faking it until you make it," but rather honestly and humbly acknowledging that your future self is in fact a different person than who you are today. You're not your future self yet, but that's where you're going. Of course, this takes courage. It's much easier to just say, "This is who I am." Publicly saying "This is who I want to be" is risky, since you're not guaranteed to succeed. But it's also the only way to be intentional about who you become.

Telling people who you want to be is incredibly powerful because it will compel you to make your behavior consistent with your new story. If your identity narrative is rooted in the past, your past will determine your behavior. But if you intentionally decide who your future self will be — and find the courage to share that vision with others — it becomes possible to actively transform into that desired future self.

Dr. Carol Dweck has spoken about the importance of being defined not by the present, but by who you want to be. We are all in a constant state of becoming. So, let your desired future self be the thing predicting your current behavior — not your past.

Your behavior signals back to you the type of person you think you are, solidifying your identity and eventually becoming your personality. It is your behavior that creates your personality, not the other way around.

Start acting like your future self, rather than your former self. Embrace uncertainty and change. Embrace learning and failure. Never be defined by "now." Engage in deliberate practice so that over time, you'll grow into your own ever-evolving story. Take action, and invest in building your future identity.

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The closing date of applications for the above examination has been extended till 4.00 PM on Thursday 24th September 2020. All other information in the advertisement placed in Newspapers on 16th August 2020 remains unchanged.

Applications forms shall be downloaded from [www.slia.lk](http://www.slia.lk) (Path: Publications-Downloads -Application forms). For clarifications if any, the Manager/Asst. Manager-Board of Architectural Education (BAE) can be contacted over Telephone Nos. +94 112689900 / 112689888 / 112689777

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## How to pick your university abroad

Making choices for a Bachelor's or Master's degree has always been rather complicated, especially when there are too many options to consider. In fact, the biggest obstacle standing between you and your ideal study program abroad is, realistically, having to pick it from the others.

The sheer explosion of opportunities is overwhelming, but you need to start somewhere soon. Here are the most important criteria to consider when choosing your future university to study abroad:

#### Select your desired discipline

So, you have a clue about what you want to study and need to find the place where they will give you the training you want. You might find places that offer some interesting interdisciplinary Bachelor's or Master's programs, or specialisations you may not have thought about.

But, seeing how you will need a job after graduation, you may want to check out some of the most popular disciplines, available in some of the most popular countries, like:  
Study Finance in France;  
Economics in Germany;  
Public Health in the UK;  
Marketing in Spain;  
Health Sciences in the US.

#### Decide where you'd like to study

Chances are that you've already thought about a specific

place where you would like to move and study. Even if you don't know from where to start, you might want to do some research, checking countries and cities that have the most or all the desired traits, whether it's the type of study program, the facilities, the transport, living cost, or weather.

Nevertheless, if one of your main criteria is geography, you should try and narrow it down using other pertinent factors, such as career opportunities, financial options or application requirements. If you haven't thought about researching the location, it may be best to effectively reduce the search to a handful of possibilities. You can always start with:  
Student cities in Asia;  
Student cities in North America;  
Student cities in the UK.

#### Use the best search engines for international degrees

Given that there are a few huge factors to consider (and many small ones) when deciding what university to enrol in, you should carefully search the ideal option for what you are looking for.

The best way to manage this lengthy and sometimes frustrating process is to use a well-informed professional platform for higher education, ideal for quick web navigation between study options, categories and filters.

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**Manager - Engineering (Wattala)**

The selected candidate will be responsible for maintaining a fleet of heavy equipment including empty and laden container handlers, cranes, prime movers, trailers and managing the overall operation and administration of the workshop repair facility. Primary responsibilities of this role will also include planning and execution of preventive maintenance breakdowns and ensuring that the equipment is in sound and safe working condition.

The ideal candidate should possess a BSc. in Mechanical Engineering with 5 years' of work experience or an Engineering Diploma from a recognized institute with 10 years' of work experience. Previous hands-on experience in the maintenance of heavy machinery and equipment is essential while experience in the maintenance of container handling equipment would be a distinct advantage. Sound working knowledge of hydraulic systems, high-speed diesel engines, and workshop technology is essential for this role. Applicants should be familiar with the preparation of budgets, control of expenditure and MS Office applications.

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Email your curriculum vitae to [careers@aitkenspence.lk](mailto:careers@aitkenspence.lk) together with the names of three non-related referees and a passport size colour photograph of yourself. Indicate the position applied for and your name on the subject line of the email when sending your CV. Applications should reach us within 10 days of this advertisement. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

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For more details Please visit our website: [www.colombo-plan.org](http://www.colombo-plan.org)

Applications (CV and Cover letter) should be sent via email on or before 27 September 2020 to [vacancies@colombo-plan.org](mailto:vacancies@colombo-plan.org) The job title should clearly be mentioned as: **Personal Assistant to the Secretary-General**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.



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**Application deadline 30th September, 2020**



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The ideal candidate should possess a bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification in Human Resource Management from a reputed institute. A Post Graduate qualification in HR and an Industrial Relations Diploma from a reputed institute will be considered advantageous. A minimum of 7 years' experience in a similar capacity is essential to perform this role. Excellent leadership, managerial, strategic thinking, negotiation, interpersonal and communication skills and sound knowledge of labour laws are required.

**Main duties and responsibilities include:**

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- Isaac Newton -

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**National Innovation Centre (NIC)**

**Data Science and AI**

- NoSQL Database for Data Science
- Data visualization and Interactive Dashboards using python and Tableau
- Bash Command Line Programming
- Predictive Analytics and Information Retrieval (IR)
- Computational Finance using python
- Big Data Analytics
- Deep Learning
- Customer and Operations Analytics using python

**Fashion Design**

- Fashion Production (Pattern Making and Garment Technology)
- Fashion Design Visualization
- Fashion Runway Management
- Fashion Branding & E-Commerce
- Fashion Styling & Coordination
- Fashion Portfolio Development

**Interior Design**

- Design Communication
- Architectural Graphics
- Research Methodology in Architecture
- Building Technology
- LEED- Leadership In Energy & Environmental Design

**Foreign Languages**

- Chinese Language
- German Language -Level 2
- Japanese Language

**School of Humanity**

- Human Behaviour
- Psychology of Health and Dysfunction
- Psychology of Society and Organizations
- Drug use and Addiction

Please send in your application mentioning your specialized field on the subject of your e-mail / on the header of the envelop within 10 days addressed to;

**The Director General,  
National Institute of Business Management,  
120/5, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07  
or E-mail - hrm@nibm.lk**





# UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

## SRI LANKA

### VACANCIES

Applications will be invited by this University for the following posts from those who possess required qualifications.

#### 01. AUDIT ASSISTANT GRADE II

##### Qualifications :

- Should have passed the G.C.E (O/L) Examination in six (06) subjects at one sitting with credit passes in

- Sinhala Language/ Tamil Language
- English Language/ English Literature
- Mathematics

AND

- Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the common General Paper) at one sitting . (Passing in 3 subjects under the old syllabus at one sitting would be sufficient for this purpose)

AND

- Post specific qualifications :

- Preliminary Level/ Licentiate I/ Foundation Level / CAB I / Executive level of Institute of Chartered Accountants in Sri Lanka or equivalent.

or

- Foundation Level of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

or

- Higher National Diploma in Accountancy (HNDA) of Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE)

or

- Membership of Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) of Association of Accounting Technicians of Sri Lanka.

AND

- Minimum of two (02) year experience in Auditing in State or recognized private Organization.

Preference will be given to those who possess an acceptable qualification in Computer Applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.

**Age :** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age at the closing date of applications.

**Salary scale :** Rs. 37,275 -18x495 - 46,185 (Monthly) - U-MN 2 (II)

**Method of Recruitment :** Selection by interview

#### 02. POST OF TECHNICAL OFFICER (ICT) GRADE III

##### Qualifications :

- Should have passed in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E(A/L) examination in one sitting in science subjects in the Science Stream; Subject combination/s to be decided by the Faculty concerned upon the recommendation of the Department.

AND

- Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q. Level 5 issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or recognized Institution in the field of Information Communication and Multimedia Technology/ Information and Communication Technology/ Information Technology or Equivalent

- Preference will be given to those who have work experience in ICT.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 31625-7X300-10X355-37275 p.m. - U-MT1( III)

**Age :** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age at the closing date of applications.

**Method of Recruitment :** Selection by written and/or practical test and an interview

#### 03. POST OF TECHNICAL OFFICER (CIVIL) GRADE III

##### Qualifications :

- Should have passed in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E(A/L) examination in one sitting in Physical Science Stream

AND

- Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q. Level 5 issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or recognized Institution in the field of Civil Engineering or Equivalent.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 31625-7X300-10X355-37275 p.m. - U-MT1(III)

**Age :** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age at the closing date of applications.

**Method of Recruitment :** Selection by written and/or practical test and an interview

#### 04. POST OF TECHNICAL OFFICER (MECHANICAL) GRADE III

##### Qualifications :

- Should have passed in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E (A/L) examination in one sitting in Physical Science Stream

AND

- Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q. Level 5 issued by a Technical/Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or recognized Institution in the field of Civil Engineering or Equivalent.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 31625 -7X300-10X355-37275 p.m. - U-MT 1 (III)

**Age :** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age at the closing date of applications.

**Method of Recruitment :** Selection by written and/or practical test and an interview

#### 05. POST OF SUPERVISOR (CIVIL) GRADE III

##### Qualifications :

- National Certificate in Technology or equivalent qualifications with 3 years' experience may be obtained while following the NCT course.

or

- G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in 6 subjects at not more than two sittings with at least 5 years' experience as Supervisor in the relevant field in a Government, Local Government or State Corporation or a recognized Engineering Establishment.

**Age :** Not more than 45 years

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 31625 -7 x 300; 10 x 355 - 37275 p.m - U-MT 1 (III)

**Method of Recruitment :** Selection by trade test & interview.

#### 06. POST OF WORKS SUPERINTENDENT (CIVIL) GRADE II

##### Qualifications :

- National Diploma in Technology or equivalent qualifications and have at least four (04) years' experience in the relevant field after obtaining such qualifications.

**Note :** Period of in-plant training will not be counted for the four years' experience.

- National Certificate in Technology or equivalent qualifications and have at least ten (10) years' experience in the relevant field after obtaining such qualifications.

**Age :** Not more than 45 years

**Salary scale :** Rs. 37275 - 18 x 495 - 46185 p.m - U-MN 2 (II)

**Method of Recruitment :** Selection by trade test & interview

#### 07. MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT / (SHROFF) GRADE III

##### Qualifications :

- Should have passed the G.C.E (O/L) Examination in six (06) subjects at one sitting with credit passes in

- Sinhala Language / Tamil Language
- English Language / English Literature
- Mathematics

AND

- Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the common General Paper) at one sitting.

Preference will be given to those who possess the following:

- An acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six(06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute .

And

- Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.

- Out of the three passes expected at the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Examination under the general educational qualifications mentioned in the Schemes of Recruitment , one shall be for Accountancy.

**Note :** A Security Deposit to be furnished as determined by the UGC / Higher Educational Institution.

**Age :** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age at the closing date of applications.

#### 08. MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT / (STORE-KEEPING) GRADE III

##### Qualifications :

- Should have passed the G.C.E (O/L) Examination in six (06) subjects at one sitting with credit passes in

- Sinhala Language / Tamil Language
- English Language / English Literature
- Mathematics

AND

- Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the common General Paper) at one sitting.

Preference will be given to those who possess the following:

- An acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six(06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.

And

- Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.

One year experience in Store-keeping and/or a pass in the subject of Commerce at the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination or in the subject of Accountancy at the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Examination.

**Note :** A Security Deposit to be furnished as determined by the UGC/ Higher Educational Institution.

**Age :** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age at the closing date of applications.

##### Other benefits applicable to all posts :

Universities Pension Scheme -

Contribution by the employer an amount equivalent to 8% of the salary to the Universities Pension Scheme

Universities Provident Fund -

Contribution by the employer an amount equivalent to 7% of the salary to the Universities Provident Fund

Contribution by the employee an amount equivalent to 10% of the salary to the Universities Provident Fund

Employees Trust Fund -

Contribution by the employer an amount equivalent to 3% of the salary to the Employees Trust Fund

Cost of Living Allowance -

Rs. 7,800/- per month (as per present regulations)

Other Allowances approved by the Government.

Applications can be obtained by sending a self addressed, 9"x4" stamped envelope to "Senior Assistant Registrar/Non-Academic Establishments, University of Colombo, 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03" or can be downloaded from the website : [www.cmb.ac.lk](http://www.cmb.ac.lk)

Duly filled applications should be sent to "Senior Assistant Registrar/ Non-Academic Establishments, University of Colombo, 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03" by **registered post on or before 08th of October 2020** . The Post applied for should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Applications without photocopies of relevant certificates will be rejected.

Applicants from Government Departments, Corporations or other Statutory Boards should channel their applications through the Heads of such Institutions. The applications not channelled as such will be rejected.

**Registrar**  
**University of Colombo**  
**Colombo 03**

17.09.2020



## Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

### Department of Cultural Affairs

#### Recruitment to the Post of Dancer in the State Dance Ensemble on contract basis

01. Applications are invited from the Sri Lankan citizens who possess the under-mentioned qualifications for making recruitment on contract basis to the vacancies in the State Dance Ensemble of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

02. Duly filled applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the Director, Department of Cultural Affairs, 8th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla on or before 09.10.2020. Applications received after the closing date will be rejected.

03. Applications should be in the form set out below in A4 size sheets.

04. In sending applications for this post the top left hand corner of the envelope enclosing the application should be clearly marked "Dancer" (Contract Basis).

05. Information on educational and other qualifications should be correctly furnished in filling applications.

##### 06. Terms of Engagement and Conditions :

- Appointment will be made on contract basis for a period of 03 years.
- Salary :- A monthly allowance of Rs. 33,600/= will be paid.

##### 07. Educational and other Qualifications

###### I. Educational Qualifications :

Should have passed six subjects (06) including the subject of Dancing at the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination with at least two credit passes in not more than two sittings.

and  
Should have followed and passed the Diploma Course in Dancing conducted by the National Youth Services Council

or

Should have followed and passed a Diploma Course in Dancing recognized by the Government.

or

Should have passed the National Dancing Prarambaka (Jathika Netum Prarambaka) Examination

###### II Professional Qualifications :

Not applicable (Professional Qualifications will be considered as an added qualification at the interview to test the eligibility)

###### III Experience:

03 years experience as a dancer in an Arts School (Kalayathanaya) approved by the Government or an equivalent institution

or

Should be a traditional dancer (Should be certified in writing)

###### IV Physical Qualifications :

I. Every candidate should physically and mentally fit to perform the duties in the post and to serve in any part of the island.

II. Height of the candidate should be not less than 5 feet and 2 inches

###### V. Other Qualifications :

- Every candidate should possess a good moral character and should be physically fit.
- Every candidate should have fulfilled all the requisite qualifications in every manner as at the date stipulated in the advertisement for the recruitment to the post.
- Proficiency in dancing/playing instruments will be considered.

08. **Age Limit :** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 25 years at the date of closing applications.

##### 09. Method of Recruitment :

- Recruitments will be made on the results of an interview to test the eligibility and a Professional Test.
- Twice the number of vacancies existing will be called upon for the Professional Test, in order of merit based on the total marks obtained at the interview to test the eligibility. Recruitments will be made in order of merit of the total marks obtained both from the interview to test the eligibility and the Professional Test.

##### Interview to test the eligibility

Key headings of giving marks	Maximum Marks	Minimum marks for selection
1. Additional Educational Qualifications	20	Not Applicable
2. Experience in the relevant field (Should be certified through certificates)	35	
3. Professional Qualifications	25	
i. Should have participated in the events at national level under the guidance of veterans in the field.		
ii. Should have participated in performance shows abroad with the veterans or by Cultural Centers.		
4. Language Proficiency	15	
5. Skills shown at the interview	05	
Total	100	

##### Professional Test

Key headings of giving marks	Maximum Marks	Pass Mark
1. Competency in Skills	30	15
2. Knowledge on lines, figures and rhythm	20	10
3. Appearance (Height/Shape)	20	10
4. Special Skills	20	10
5. Theoretical Knowledge	10	05
Total	100	50

**Director**  
**Department of Cultural Affairs**  
**08th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla.**  
20th September 2020

#### Specimen Application Form

For Office Use

#### Application for the Post of Dancer (Contract Basis) in the Department of Cultural Affairs

- Name with initials .....
- Name denoted by initials .....
- Date of Birth .....
- Age (as at 09.10.2020) .....
- Height : Feet ..... Inches .....
- National Identity Card No .....
- Sex .....
- Address .....
- Telephone No .....
- Educational Qualifications :  
i. G.C.E. (Ordinary Level)

Year..... Index No .....

Subject	Grade	Subject	Grade
1.		6.	
2.		7.	
3.		8.	
4.		9.	
5.		10.	

- Diploma Course in Dancing conducted by the National Youth Services Council / Diploma Course in Dancing recognized by the Government / Jathika Netum Prarambaka Examination

Effective Date	Examination Passed	University/Institute

11. Professional Qualifications : .....

12. Experience : .....

I hereby confirm that the particulars furnished by me in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that if it is revealed that any information contained in the application is found to be incorrect I will be liable to disqualification if the inaccuracy is revealed before the selection and to dismissal if it is so revealed after the appointment.

Date : ..... Signature of the candidate



**VACANCIES** We required following personnel in our water supply project at Colombo.

**- STOREKEEPER MALE**  
**- ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT MALE**  
 2 YEARS RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE  
 Please send your resume  
**canconspjcts@gmail.com**

**CAN Constructions**

**QUALITY CONTROLLER FOR SEA FOOD INDUSTRY**

We are looking for an efficient and dynamic individual with the following requirements:  
 - Preferably Male Age Between 30-55 Years  
 - Should Possess relevant Qualifications and Minimum of 5 Years, Experience in the field of Food Processing or Similar Industry.  
 - Excellent Communication & Interpersonal Skills.  
 Please Submit your completed CV along with Contact details of two non-related referees to the below mentioned e-mail address:  
**info@gim.lk 076 754 8962**

**JOB VACANCIES**

**Hotel Manager, Stuwards, Chef, Cooking Helpers**

**AN ATTRACTING SALARY NEGOCIABLE**

Walk-in interview on 23-09-2020 from 10.00 a.m onwards. Please bring original Certificates.

**070-3667100 / 011-2236832 / 011-2236900**

**Guruge Property Sales (Pvt) Ltd.**

No.884, Weligampitiya, Ja-Ela. Email:cctv@gurugegroup.com

**WANTED**

**REGIONAL DISTRIBUTORS**  
 "If you already have a distribution channel, you have a golden opportunity" Regional distributors for face masks (3PLY / KN95) made up to international standards are wanted on urgent basis for a well established organization in Sri Lanka.  
**Distributors wanted from every district island wide.**  
 The applicants should possess following qualifications to be eligible.  
 - Minimum bank guarantee of Rs.500,000/-  
 - Prior experience in the sales field  
 - Last 6 months bank statements  
 - Applicants should currently have a distribution channel  
 Contact: 0773 521 314 for more information

SUYAMAS INTERNATIONAL PVT(LTD)  
 Head Office: 13/17C, 3rd Lane, Chandra Wethasinghe Mawatha, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94 112 872 540 | F:+94 112 806 540 E-mail: sales2@suyamas.lk

**Piyantha Importers (Pvt) Ltd**

We have been importing and distributing hardware products Islandwide and are a well established company in Kadawatha . We are looking at experianced accountants to the Managing Director.

**POST OF ACCOUNTANT**

We are looking for a young and dynamic accountants who is competent with current accounting and auditing applications.

Reporting to the Managing Director, the prime Responsibilities of the Accountant would be the timely submission of financial and management information report & planing and implementation of effective internal control system.

**Candidate Profile**

- Possess full Qualification of CA/ACCA/ICASL/CIMA Or passed finalist.
- Over 06 years working experience.
- Excellent communication, Organizing and leadership skills.
- Working knowledge with Banks and Auditors.
- **Knowledge and working experience on ERP or Accountancy Package.**
- Age Below 45 • Male candidate preferred
- Salary Negotiable

Please E-mail your Bio-data to the following E-mail address.

**roshan.boruppa@gmail.com**

PLEASE CONTACT US :- **076 3162142 / 0718 724680**

**Career Opportunities with VISION CARE**



**Audiologist (Male/ Female)**

**Audiology technician (Male/ Female)**

**Requirements:**

- Should be below 30 years of age
- Good communication skills
- Experience in similar capacity would be a definite advantage
- He/ she should be a confident, team player with a fair ability to communicate in English.

We are looking for Colombo & suburb areas.

E-mail your CV to [hearingsolutions@visioncare.lk](mailto:hearingsolutions@visioncare.lk)

**0777 76 76 10**

**VISION CARE OPTICAL SERVICES (PVT) LTD.**  
 Audiology Division  
 No. 06, Ward Place, Colombo 7.

**Proud Heritage. Committed Responsibility. A track record of Distinction.**

The Distilleries Company of Sri Lanka PLC draws from over a century of excellence, driven by passion and a committed to perfection. Since emerging as a publicly traded company, DCSL has become synonymous with delighting customers and rewarding stakeholders, while contributing substantially to economic progress.

Today, DCSL is dedicated to working with only the best and brightest, which has led to impressive results in the marketplace. As we continue to grow, we're on the lookout for exceptional individuals who can mirror our passion and match our determination. So that together we may accomplish even greater feats.

The Company invites applications for the position of Senior Chemist, from dynamic and outstanding individuals with a proven track record and exceptional leadership skills, capable of overseeing the functions of the laboratories and manufacturing process, extensive knowledge of conducting research with a view to enhancing the processes and the quality standards of our brands and contributing to the continuous success of our organisation.

**SENIOR CHEMIST**

The ideal candidate would be below the age of 45 years with a MSc in Chemistry, and a minimum of 10 years' post qualification experience with 5 years in a similar capacity in the beverage industry.

**Primary responsibilities of the job holder are as follows:**

- Oversee all laboratories & the manufacturing processes of all Production Plants while ensuring adherence to stipulated company standards and government regulations in the execution of all related activities.
- Perform research and development initiatives to fulfill the dynamic expectations of consumers, and sustenance of the brands, enabling the organisation to keep abreast of challenges from competitors and the introduction of new products.
- Periodically review the existing standards and processes of all laboratory activities and relevant sub-units, consequently expediting improvements for the identified operational gaps.
- Ascertain the consistency of conformance in all raw material, technical aspects and quality standards stipulated for the product portfolios.
- Supervise the activities of employees connected to the laboratories, warehouses and production units, facilitating value additions to each process and resulting in the overall enhancement of quality in products.
- Identify the competency gaps of subordinates and consequently initiate constructive action to develop the required learnings to enhance their skills, product and technical knowledge.

The candidates who meet the above criteria are kindly requested to submit their CV indicating names, contact details and the occupation of two non-related referees, holding responsible positions in a reputed establishment or in their respective field.

Applications must reach the address given herein within two weeks of this advertisement, indicating the position applied for on the top, left-hand corner of the envelope or subject field of the e-mail.

The vacancy will be filled purely on merit and any form of canvassing will result in disqualification. All applications received will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

Head of Human Resources,  
**Distilleries Company of Sri Lanka PLC,**  
 No. 110, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.  
 e-mail: [careers@dcsl.melsta.com](mailto:careers@dcsl.melsta.com)

Please ensure you have the required qualifications & experience as outlined above, before applying for the vacancy. Applications which do not meet the criteria indicated will be disqualified.

**"Join Sri Lanka's Largest State Retail Chain"**

**Management Assistant (MA 1-2)**

**Qualifications :**  
**External Candidates :**  
 a) Having passed the G.C.E. (O/L) examination in six subjects in one sitting with credit passes for four subjects including  
 i. Sinhala / Tamil  
 ii. Mathematics  
 b) Having passed three subjects (other than the General Paper) at the G.C.E. (A/L) examination.  
**Internal Candidates :**  
 Employees of the categories of Primary Level - Skilled, Primary Level - Semi skilled and Primary Level - Unskilled who possess the following qualifications are eligible to apply.  
**Educational :**  
 Having passed the G.C.E. (O/L) examination in six subjects with two credit passes for following subjects,  
 i. Sinhala / Tamil  
 ii. Mathematics  
 AND  
 Having completed a minimum of five (05) years satisfactory service in a permanent post under the above employee category.  
 WITH  
 Part qualifying in any certificate course relevant to the post in IT (at least six months)  
**Age :** Age should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years.  
 (The upper age limit will not apply to internal candidates.)  
**Salary & Other Allowances :** Basic Salary Rs.27,910/-  
 (In addition allowance approved by the Government will be paid.)  
**Salary Scale :** MA 1-2 - 2016 Rs. [27,910 - 10 x 300 - 7 x 350 - 12 x 600 - 12 x 710 - 49,080]

**Office Aid (PL - 1)**

**Qualifications :**  
**External Candidates :**  
 Persons who have sat for the G.C.E.(O/L) Examination.  
**Age :** Age should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years.  
**Salary & Other Allowances :** Basic Salary Rs. 24,750/-  
 (In addition allowance approved by the Government will be paid.)  
**Salary Scale :** PL 1 - 2016 Rs. [24,750 - 10 x 250 - 10x250 - 7x300 - 15x330 - 37,000]

**Store Assistant (PL - 1)**

**Qualifications :**  
**External Candidates :**  
 Persons who have sat for the G.C.E.(O/L) Examination.  
**Age :** Age should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years.  
**Salary & Other Allowances :** Basic Salary Rs. 24,750/-  
 (In addition allowance approved by the Government will be paid.)  
**Salary Scale :** PL 1 - 2016 Rs. [24,750 - 10 x 250 - 10x250 - 7x300 - 15x330 - 37,000]

**Every applicant,**

- i. Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- ii. Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to **Serve in any part of Sri Lanka.**
- iii. Should be of excellent moral character.

If you have the right qualifications and experience, please submit your curriculum vitae with copies of certificates under registered cover within 14 days of this advertisement to below mentioned address:  
 (The post applied for should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.)  
 (The organization will correspond only with the shortlisted candidates)

**The Chairman**  
**Lanka Sathosa Limited**  
 No. 27, CWE Secretariat Building,  
 Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

**Lowest Price | Your Place**

Ministry of Trade



# THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

## VACANCIES

Applications will be received by me up to 13.10.2020 from suitably qualified persons for the following Posts. Applications should be made in the prescribed form obtainable from the Open University.

### Posts

Post	Medium	Basic Qualifications	Preferable field	Department/ Centre
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Early Childhood and Primary Education	Sinhala and English	B.Ed/B.A./B.Sc. Degree	Pre-School Education and Primary Education	Early Childhood and Primary Education
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Secondary & Tertiary Education	Sinhala and English	B.Sc./B.A./B.Ed Degree 1 <sup>st</sup> Class or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Upper Division and Post Graduate Diploma in Education with merit pass or Master of Education	Educational Technology	Secondary & Tertiary Education
	Tamil and English		Educational Measurement & Evaluation	
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Special Needs Education	Sinhala and English	B.Ed/B.A./B.Sc. Degree	Special Needs Education/ Inclusive Education/ Speech and Hearing Science	Special Needs Education
	Tamil and English			
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Basic Sciences	English	Special / Honours Degree in Human Biology / MBBS Degree	Human Anatomy/ Human Physiology	Basic Sciences
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Civil Engineering	English	Special Degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized University	Structural Engineering specialization with the exposure to Fiber Reinforcement Polymers and numerical modelling.	Civil Engineering
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Mechanical Engineering	English	Honours Degree in Engineering from a recognized University.	Mechanical/Mechatronics (specialized in Power Electronic and Motor Drives, Signal Processing, Modern Control Systems or Artificial Intelligence).	Mechanical Engineering
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Medical Laboratory Sciences	English	Special/ Honours Degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences	Hematology	Medical Laboratory Sciences
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Nursing	English	Special/Honours Degree in Nursing	Nursing Informatics Psychiatry and Mental Health Nursing Management and Leadership in Nursing Oncology Nursing	Nursing
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Pharmacy	English	Special Degree in Pharmacy or other relevant qualifications	Pharmaceutical Technology Pharmacology Therapeutics Pathophysiology	Pharmacy
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Zoology	English	BSc Special /Honours Degree in Zoology or, BSc Degree with Zoology, Second Class and with Masters Degree in a relevant field with fulltime research of atleast two years duration or Doctoral Degree		Zoology
Temporary Lecturer in Early Childhood & Primary Education	Sinhala and English	B.Ed/B.A./B.Sc. Degree	Pre-School Education and Primary Education	Early Childhood & Primary Education
Temporary Lecturer in Secondary & Tertiary Education	Sinhala and English	B.Ed/B.A./B.Sc. Degree with class	Educational Management Child Rights	Secondary & Tertiary Education
Temporary Lecturer in Special Needs Education	Sinhala and English	B.Ed/B.A./B.Sc. Degree	Special Needs Education Inclusive Education Speech and Hearing Science	Special Needs Education
Temporary Lecturer in Social Studies	Sinhala, English and Tamil	B.A.	Economics	Social Studies (Colombo)
Lecturer (On Contract) in Social Studies	Sinhala, English and Tamil	B.A.	Youth Studies Political and International Relations 1. Political and international relations 2. Sociology 3. Economics 4. Mass Communication	Social Studies (Colombo) Social Studies (Kandy & Anuradhapura)

### SALARY SCALES :

Senior Lecturer Gr.I	U-AC3(I)	- Rs.91,310-7x2170-106,500/-p.m.
Senior Lecturer Gr.II	U-AC3(II)	- Rs.79,360-11x1630-97,290/-p.m.
Lecturer (unconfirmed)	U-AC3(III)	- Rs.69,580-5x1630-77,730/-p.m.
Lecturer (Probationary)	U-AC3(IV)	- Rs.54,600-10x1335-67,950/-p.m.
Temporary Lecturer	U-AC 2	- Rs.49,860-p.m. (fixed) + Cost of Living Allowance

### Note

In addition to the above salary,

- The following allowances will be paid for permanent appointees in the percentage of the basic salary.
  - Academic allowance
    - Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II - 151%
    - Lecturer (Unconfirmed) - 131%
    - Lecturer (Probationary) - 115%
  - Additional monthly allowance – 20% of the basic
  - Research allowance – 35% (based on the research activity)
- Cost of living allowance of Rs. 7800/-

**QUALIFICATIONS** - Please refer OUSL Web site for more details. (www.ou.ac.lk)

### SABBATICAL LEAVE :

The holders of Post of Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II are eligible for one year sabbatical leave with pay or two years without pay on completion of seven years of service. Those proceeding abroad on sabbatical leave are eligible to receive full passage for self and spouse.

### HOW TO APPLY :

Applicants froms can be obtained from Senior Assistant Registrar/Establishments, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda either by sending a self addressed stamped envelope 23X10 cm size to reach the University on or before 07.10.2020 calling over at the Office of the Senior Assistant Registrar/Establishments. Application form (Academic) may also be downloaded from the University Web Site (<http://www.ou.ac.lk.vacancies/>)

Applicants from Higher Educational Institutions, Government Departments and Government Corporations should apply through the Head of the Institution/Department/Corporation. Applications which do not confirm to the requirements, applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will be rejected. Please attach certified copies of certificates of confirmed results to prove qualifications and experience.

Duly filled applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the Senior Assistant Registrar / Establishments (Academic), The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda on or before 13.10.2020. The post applied for should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Registrar  
The Open University of Sri Lanka,  
Nawala, Nugegoda  
20.09.2020.

University Web site : [www.ou.ac.lk](http://www.ou.ac.lk)



# SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

## VACANCIES

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka will entertain applications for the undermentioned posts from suitably qualified persons up to 12.10.2020

### 1. FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

- Post : Instructor (Computer Technology) Gr. II - (01 No.)

### 2. FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

#### Department of Sports Sciences & Physical Education

- Post : Senior Lecturer Gr. I/Senior Lecturer Gr. II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Lecturer (Probationary) - (01 No.)

**Qualification** : MBBS / BDS degree

**Subject areas** : Sport Medicine and Injury Prevention, Safety and Injury Prevention, Drug and Sports, Systemic Anatomy and Basic Physiology, Exercise Physiology

**Special Notes** : Preference will be given to the candidates who can conduct lectures/practical classes in above subject areas. Postgraduate qualifications and experience in relevant field will also be preferably considered.

- Post : Senior Lecturer Gr. I/Senior Lecturer Gr. II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Lecturer (Probationary) - (03 Nos.)

**Qualification** : BSc Special degree in Sport Sciences & Management / BSc. Special degree in Physical Education

**Special Notes** : Preference will be given to the candidates with the ability to teach and conduct practicals in Swimming & Life Saving/Athletics/Badminton/Karate/Baseball/Rugby.

- Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (02 Nos.)

**Qualification** : BSc Special degree in Sport Sciences & Management / BSc. Special degree in Physical Education

**Special Notes** : Candidates with the ability to teach and conduct practicals in at least one sport in Table Tennis/Tennis/Athletics/Dance/Practicum/Netball/Elle

- Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (01 No.)

**Qualification** : BSc Special degree with one or more subjects of Basic Maths/Anatomy/Physics/Chemistry/Statistics/IT

### 3. FACULTY OF GEOMATICS

#### Department of Survey and Geodesy

- Post : Senior Lecturer Gr. I/Senior Lecturer Gr. II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Lecturer (Probationary) - (01 No.)

**Qualification** : BSc in Surveying Sciences with academic qualifications, research experience/outputs and work experience in Geodesy, Construction Surveying and Surveying Sciences.

- Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (04 Nos.)

**Qualification** : BSc. in Surveying Sciences/BSc. Hons in Surveying Sciences

**Subject area** : Land Surveying field practicals

- Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (01 No.)

**Qualification** : BSc. degree in Mathematics

**Subject area** : Mathematics

#### Department of Remote Sensing & GIS

- Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (01 No.)

**Qualification** : BSc degree in Physics

**Subject area** : Physics

### 4. FACULTY OF MEDICINE

#### Computer Centre

- Post : Instructor (Computer Technology) Gr. II - (02 Nos.)

#### Department of Family Medicine

- Post : Senior Lecturer Gr. I/Senior Lecturer Gr. II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Lecturer (Probationary) - (02 Nos.)

**Subject area** : Family Medicine

**Special Notes** : Candidates must be qualified with MBBS or equivalent qualifications as their first degree. Postgraduate qualifications in the relevant field/MD qualifications would be preferred.

### 5. FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & LANGUAGES

#### Department of Social Sciences

- Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (02 Nos.)

**Qualification** : BA Special degree in Sociology

**Special areas** : Course units of the BA special in Social Science degree programme as per the faculty hand book in <http://www.sab.ac.lk/fssl/media/OtherDocuments/Handbooks/Handbook-2015-2016.pdf>

**Special Note** : The candidate should be able to conduct lectures in both Sinhala and English media

- Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (01 No.)

**Qualification** : BA Special degree in Political Science

**Special areas** : Course units of the BA special in Political Science degree programme as per the faculty hand book in <http://www.sab.ac.lk/fssl/media/OtherDocuments/Handbooks/Handbook-2015-2016.pdf>

**Special Note** : The candidate should be able to conduct lectures in both Sinhala and English Media.

- Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (01 No.)

**Qualification** : BA Special degree in Geography

**Special areas** : Course units of the BA special in Political Science degree programme as per the faculty hand book in <http://www.sab.ac.lk/fssl/media/OtherDocuments/Handbooks/Handbook-2015-2016.pdf>

**Special Note** : The candidate should be able to conduct lectures in both Sinhala and English media

- Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (01 No.)

**Qualification** : BA Special degree in Geography

**Special areas** : Course units of the BA special in Political Science degree programme as per the faculty hand book in <http://www.sab.ac.lk/fssl/media/OtherDocuments/Handbooks/Handbook-2015-2016.pdf>

**Special Note** : The candidate should be able to conduct lectures in both Sinhala and English media

### 6. CENTRE FOR COMPUTER STUDIES

- Post : Instructor (Computer Technology) Gr. II - (02 Nos.)

### 7. MAIN LIBRARY

- Post : Assistant Librarian - (01 No.)

**Special Note** : Preference will be given to the candidates who have Special degree in Library Information Science with experience in handling Library Automation systems in a recognized library.

### Salary Scales:

Lecturer (Probationary)	Rs. 54,600 - 10x1,335 - 67,950 p.m.	[U-AC 3 (IV) - 2016A]
Lecturer (Unconfirmed)	Rs. 69,580 - 5x1,630 - 77,730 p.m.	[U-AC 3 (III) - 2016A]
Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Rs. 79,360 - 11x1,630 - 97,290 p.m.	[U-AC 3 (II) - 2016A]
Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Rs. 91,310 - 7x2,170 - 106,500 p.m.	[U-AC 3 (I) - 2016A]
Temporary Assistant Lecturer	Rs. 49,860 p.m. (Fixed)	[U-AC 2 - 2016]
Instructor (Computer Technology) Gr. II	Rs. 50,625 - 3x1335 - 54,630 (EB) 55,965 - 14x1335 - 74,655 p.m.	[U-AS 2(II) - 2016A]
Assistant Librarian	Rs. 54,600 - 10x1335 - 67,950 p.m.	[U-AC 3 (IV) - 2016A]

### BENEFITS:

Appointees to the permanent posts are required to contribute 10% of their monthly salary to the Universities Provident Fund; the University in turn contributes a sum equivalent to 8% to the Universities Pension Fund, 7% to the Universities Provident Fund (UPF) and 3% to the Employees Trust Fund (ETF).

Appointees to the temporary posts will contribute 10% of their monthly salary to the UPF the University in turn contributes a sum equivalent to 15% to the UPF and 3% to the ETF.

In addition to the above salary, Cost of Living Allowance, Academic Allowance, Research & Development Allowance and other due allowances approved by the University Grants Commission will also be paid to the staff where relevant. The appointees for Senior Lecturer Gr. I, Senior Lecturer Gr. II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed) and Lecturer (Probationary) are entitled to Academic Allowance of 151%, 151%, 131% and 115% of the basic salary of their posts respectively.

### SABBATICAL LEAVE:

All appointees to the posts of Senior Lecturer Gr. II and above are entitled for one year Sabbatical Leave with pay once in every seven years of service and as per the provisions of relevant UGC circulars. Air passage will be paid by the University to the teacher and his/ her spouse when proceeding abroad on such leave.

### CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:

Selected candidates if presently serving in a government department will have to obtain his/her release through their respective appointing authority. Government employees will not be entitled to maintain their pension rights whilst in the university service.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Application forms and qualification guidelines could either be downloaded from the university website: [www.sab.ac.lk](http://www.sab.ac.lk) or obtainable from the Deputy Registrar (Academic Establishments) of the University, by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope 9"x4" in size on or before 05.10.2020

Applicants from the Public Service/Corporations/Statutory Boards should forward their applications through their respective heads. Duly completed applications on prescribed forms together with certified copies of degree certificates, professional certificates, etc., should be sent under registered cover, indicating the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, to reach the Deputy Registrar (Academic Establishments), Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O Box 02, Belihuloya on or before 12.10.2020.

Candidates are advised to submit separate applications when applying for more than one post.

Applications received after the closing date or incomplete applications or applications that have not been prepared in the prescribed format will be rejected without intimation. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates, if necessary.

Actg. Registrar,  
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

**D.B.C. HOLDINGS (PVT) LTD**

Leading interior & exterior design and build company located in the North of Colombo.  
Following vacancies are available :

**SHOWROOM MANAGER**

- \*Excellent marketing, communication & presentation skills
- \*Good computer literacy and experience in Ms Office package
- \* 2 years experience in Showroom management
- \*Age below 45 years

**ASSISTANT SHOWROOM MANAGER**

- \*Excellent marketing, communication & presentation skills
- \*Good computer literacy and experience in Ms Office package
- \* 1 year experience in Showroom management
- \*Age below 30 years

**CLIENT SERVICE EXECUTIVES**

- \*Smart young individuals with excellent marketing, communication & presentation skills
- \*Good computer literacy and experience in Ms Office package
- \* 1 year experience in sales and Marketing
- \*Age below 30 years

**SALES ASSISTANT - SHOWROOM**

- \*Smart young individuals with excellent marketing, communication & presentation skills
- \*Good computer literacy and experience in Ms Office package
- \* 1 year experience in sales and Marketing
- \*Age below 30 years

**INVOICING ASSISTANT / STORE ASSISTANT**

- \*AAT part qualification
- \*Smart young individuals who are hard working, responsible and conversant in English language
- \*Good computer literacy and experience in MS Office package
- \*1 year experience in similar capacity
- \*Age below 30 years

**DATA ENTRY OPERATOR**

- \*Smart young individuals who are hard working, responsible and conversant in English language
- \*Good computer literacy and experience in MS Office package
- \*1 year experience in similar capacity
- \*Age below 25 years

**FORWARD YOUR CV'S WITH CONTACT DETAILS OF TWO NON RELATED REFERES - dbholdingscareers@gmail.com**  
Within 7 days of this advertisement

**TRAINEE QUALITY CONTROLLER (MALE)**

For Corrugated Box manufacturing industry  
• A/L Science passed • Below 30 years  
**PACKSENSE (PVT) LTD**  
491/D, Sri Sumangala Mawatha, Yakkaduwa, Ja-Ela.  
011-2247958, 0777-867702

**TECHNICAL OFFICER**  
(FOR APARTMENT COMPLEXES)

- \* A THROUGH KNOWLEDGE IN QS IS ESSENTIAL
  - \* VALID MOTOR BIKE RIDING LICENCE
- dmr constructions pvt ltd**  
NO.36B, S. DE S. JAYASINGHE MAWATHA, KALUBOWILA.  
Email:deepikadesilva76@gmail.com

**VACANCIES**

**Site Supervisor & Technical Officer**  
Male/Female  
Age 22 -30 Years  
with or without Experience

**MN PROPERTY DEVELOPER PVT LTD**  
507/A, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya.  
0772987957 / 011 - 4343882  
info@mnproperty@gmail.com

**VACANCY - OPERATIONS MANAGER**

A Leading Security Company based in Colombo looking for a potential candidate to fill it's position of Operations Manager immediately.

Minimum of 02 Years experience as an Operations Manager in the same field is mandatory.

Please submit your Bio Data to following E-mail.  
E-mail : axre.official@gmail.com

**VACANCY**

We are a reputed Shipping, Logistics, Trading Company having following vacancy for.

**Post of Shipping Documentation Executive**

- Minimum 10 years experience in shipping, logistics with Export shipments
- Salary and other conditions are negotiable.

Email: doc@serendibworldwide.com  
Contact: 0765766459 / 0777350 730

**WANTED MANAGEMENT TRAINEES**

Leading company in Colombo 13 wants management trainees to work full time with the following qualifications;

- > Minimum A/L qualified.
- > Fluent in Reading and Writing Sinhalese and English.
- > Detailed knowledge in MS Office such as Excel, Word.

School leavers can apply. Successful candidate will start with a salary of Rs. 20,000/- on one year contract basis. Walk-in interviews from 10AM to 3PM Monday to Friday at the following address:  
414/10, K. Cyril C. Perera Mawatha, Colombo 13.  
Contact: 0112436671

**A leading Japanese Subsidiary Company is looking for candidates in the following fields,**



**ASSISTANT MANAGER - Human Resources**

- Attorney at Law
- 1 year experience in relevant field
- HR management knowledge
- Age below 35 years
- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills
- Handling EPF/ETF
- Computer literacy skills

**ASSISTANT MANAGER - Online Business**

- Minimum 1 year experience in relevant field
- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills
- Target oriented
- Ability to work under pressure
- E-commerce knowledge is a must
- Business development skills
- Valid driving license
- Age below 40 years

**JUNIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER - Information Technology**

- E-commerce knowledge is a must
- 2 years experience in IT field
- Knowledge about programming languages
- Web maintenance & development skills
- Age below 30 years
- Previous experience in e-commerce site operation is an added advantage

**JUNIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER - Customer Care**

- Minimum 1 year experience in online site operation
- Excellent customer care skills
- Pleasing personality
- Excellent communication skills
- Age below 30 years
- Ability to work under pressure

**JUNIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER - STORES (Male)**

- Minimum 3 years Supervisory level experience in stores handling
- Multiple store handling ability
- Storage management skills
- Ability to work in computerized stores environment
- Valid driving license
- Age below 35 years

**JUNIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER - Transport & Delivery**

- Minimum 2 years experience in relevant field
- Supervisory skills & communication skills
- Computer Knowledge
- Valid driving license
- Age below 45 years

**JUNIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT - Sales (Male)**

- Minimum qualification GCE (O/L)
- Pleasing personality with good communication skills
- Valid driving license (light vehicle)
- Previous experience in the field will be an added advantage
- Age below 30 years

**STORES ASSISTANT (Male)**

- Minimum qualification GCE (O/L)
- Knowledge in store handling
- Valid driving license
- Age below 25 years

If you feel you could add value to our business and would benefit by being part of our team, please send in your detailed CV with a recent photograph within 07 days of this advertisement to

Address : Parkland, No 33, Park Street, Colombo 02.  
Contact No. : 077 5 106 633  
E-mail : cv.jobs3000@gmail.com

**D.B.C. HOLDINGS (PVT) LTD**

Leading interior & exterior design and build company located in the North of Colombo.  
Following vacancies are available :

**CIVIL ENGINEERS/ASST CIVIL ENGINEER**

- \*Bachelors Degree or equivalent in appropriate engineering subject is essential
- \*Age below 40 years
- \*2 years professional experience in similar capacity
- \*Have strong communication and inter-personal skills

**QUANTITY SURVEYOR**

- \*N.C.T HNDE/HND or equivalent qualification
- \*Thorough knowledge in preparation of detailed costs and bills for projects ( interior & exterior )
- \*Good computer literacy with hands on experience in Auto CAD, Ms Office package
- \*2 Years' working Experience
- \*Age below 30 years

**ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR**

- \*N.C.T HNDE/HND part qualified.
- \* knowledge in preparation of detailed costs and bills for projects( interior & exterior )
- \*Good knowledge in Auto CAD, Ms Office package
- \*1 Year working Experience
- \*Age below 25 years

**DRAFTSMAN**

- \* NCT or similar qualification
- \*Good knowledge in Auto CAD, Ms Office package
- \*Age below 25
- \*1 Year Experience

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER & 3D VISUALISER**

- \* Knowledge in designing 3D models and walk through videos
- \*Thorough knowledge in 3D modeling software and renderings ,Auto CAD, Photoshop, Illustrator, CorelDraw
- \*Age below 25 years
- \*1 years' Experience

**FORWARD YOUR CV'S WITH CONTACT DETAILS OF TWO NON RELATED REFERES dbholdingscareers@gmail.com**

Within 7 days of this advertisement

**VACANCY**

**COMPANY SECRETARY**

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL) widely known as Lake House, is the home and heart of print media in Sri Lanka invites an experienced candidate to play a key role as Company Secretary. We are looking for a competent, dynamic person with an excellent knowledge of English and a working knowledge of Sinhala language.

**Requirements:**

- He/ she should have ten years post qualifying experience as an Attorney-at-Law, out of which three years should be as a Company Secretary of any recognized institution.
- LLB Degree from any recognized university will be an added qualification.
- He/she should be registered as a Company Secretary.
- Thorough knowledge of relevant legislation and regulations including corporate governance practices.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English.
- Should possess the ability to successfully work under pressure as a self-motivated team player and further should have the capacity to work independently.
- Should display effective time management and ability to manage in changing /conflicting priorities.
- Should be proactive, assertive and forward thinking.

**Key Responsibilities :**

- Assist in ensuring smooth running of Board/Board Committee/General Meetings and dissemination of decisions of the board in an effective and timely manner.
- Ensuring compliances with the requirements of Companies Act, the articles of association, listing rules, any other relevant legislation or regulations and corporate governance practices, by establishing proper and effective processes and controls to comply with these provisions.
- Providing support and guidance to the Directors with respect to their duties and responsibilities in order to assist them to discharge their duties effectively.
- Preparation of documents to shareholders, i.e. notices, circulars and annual report and other corporate documentation.
- Protecting the Company's interests by ensuring the effectiveness of all documentation in corporate actions and special projects.
- Monitoring changes in relevant legislation and the regulatory environment and taking appropriate action.

**Age** : Below 45 years

The selected candidate will be offered an attractive remuneration package commensurate with relevant expertise, competencies and past track record.

Please forward your completed Curriculum Vitae within seven days of this advertisement with names and contact details of two non-related referees to the under-mentioned address stating the position on the top left-hand corner of the envelope or e/mail to the following e-mail address with the subject line "Post of Company Secretary".



**Head of Human Capital**  
**The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited**  
No.35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.  
dgm.hc@lakehouse.lk



**MINISTRY OF BUDDHASASANA, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF MUSICIAN IN THE STATE MUSIC ENSEMBLE ON CONTRACT BASIS**

- Applications are invited from the Sri Lankan citizens who possess under-mentioned qualifications for making recruitment on contract basis to the vacancies in the State Music Ensemble of the Department of Cultural Affairs.
- Duly filled applications should be sent to reach the Director, Department of Cultural Affairs, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla on or before 09.10.2020 by registered post. Applications received after the closing date will be rejected.
- Applications should be in the form set out below in A4 size sheets.
- "Musician" (Contract Basis) should be clearly written on the top left hand corner of the envelope enclosing the application.
- Information on educational and other qualifications should be correctly furnished in filling applications.
- Terms of Engagement and Conditions
  - Appointment is made on contract basis for a period of 03 years.
  - Salary:-** A monthly allowance of Rs. 33,600/= will be paid.
- Educational and other qualifications
  - Educational Qualifications:**  
Should have passed three subjects (03) including the subject of Music at General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination and  
Should have passed the National Music Final Examination or Music Visharad Examination of Bathkande Faculty  
or  
Should have possessed a degree in Music subject, recognized by the University Grants Commission.
  - Professional Qualifications:**  
Not Applicable (Professional Qualifications will be considered as an added qualification at the interview to test the eligibility)
  - Experience:**  
05 year experience as a musician in an Arts School (Kalayathanaya) recognized by the Government or in an Arts School, recognized by the Director of Cultural Affairs as an equivalent institution.  
or  
Should be a traditional musician (Should be certified in writing)
  - Physical Qualifications:**
    - Every candidate should physically and mentally fit to perform the duties in the post and to serve in any part of the island.
    - Height of the candidate should be not less than 5 feet and 3 inches
  - Other Qualifications:**
    - Every candidate should possess a good moral character and should physically fit.
    - Every candidate should have fulfilled all the requisite qualifications in every manner as at the date stipulated in the advertisement for recruitment to the post.
    - Proficiency in singing/playing instruments will be considered.
- Age Limit:** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years at the date of closing applications.
- Method of Recruitment:
  - Recruitments will be made on the results of an interview to test the eligibility and a Professional Test.
  - Only the candidates who have passed the interview to test the eligibility, will be called upon for the Professional Test. Recruitments will be made in order of merit of the total marks obtained both from the interview to test the eligibility and the Professional Test.

**Interview to test the eligibility**

Key headings of giving marks	Maximum Marks	Minimum marks for selection
1. Additional Educational Qualifications	20	Not Applicable
2. Experience in the relevant field (Should be certified through certificates)	35	Not Applicable
3. Professional Qualifications <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should have participated in the events at national level under the guidance of veterans in the field.</li> <li>Should have participated in performance shows held abroad with the veterans or by Cultural Centers.</li> </ol>	25	Not Applicable
4. Language Proficiency	15	Not Applicable
5. Skills shown at the interview	05	Not Applicable
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

**Professional Test**

Key headings of giving marks	Maximum Marks	Pass Mark
1. Main Subject (Singing/Playing instruments)	60	30
2. Sub subjects (Playing instruments for singers/ Singing for instrumentalists)	20	10
3. Ability to read/write notations	20	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>

Director  
Department of Cultural Affairs  
08<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya  
Battaramulla  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**SPECIMEN APPLICATION FORM**

For Office Use

Application for the Post of Musician (Contract Basis) in the Department of Cultural Affairs

- Name with initials:.....
- Name denoted by initials: .....
- Date of Birth:.....
- Age (as at 09.10.2020):.....
- Height:..... Feet.....Inches.....
- National Identity Card No:.....
- Sex:.....
- Address:.....
- Telephone No: .....
- Educational Qualifications: .....

i. G.C.E. (Advanced Level)  
Year..... Index No.....

Subject	Grade

ii. Degree obtained:.....

Effective Date	Field	University/Institute

iii. National Music Final Examination or Music Visharad Examination of Bathkande Faculty

Effective Date	Examination Passed	University/Institute

- Professional Qualifications:.....
- Experience: .....

I hereby confirm that the particulars furnished by me in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that if it is revealed that any information contained in the application is found to be incorrect I will be liable to disqualification if the inaccuracy is revealed before the selection and to dismissal if it is so revealed after the appointment.

Date:..... Signature of the candidate



**UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA**  
**AHEAD Project (World-Bank Funded)**

**VACANCY : Technical Assistant (Full-Time)**

The objective of world-bank funded Accelerating Higher-education Expansion And Development (AHEAD) project is to expand enrolment in priority disciplines, improve the quality of degree programs, and promote research and innovation in Universities. The Ministry of Higher Education and the UGC coordinate the implementation of AHEAD, which has branch Operations Technical Secretariats (OTS) in the universities.

This announcement is to invite applications for the above position in the OTS at the University of Moratuwa. This position will be a contract appointment.

**Technical Assistant (full-time)**

- Should be an AAT Finalist or ICASL (Executive Level) with Minimum two (2) years experience in the Accounting field
- Initially, the appointment shall be for a period of 12 months and appointment may be renewed based on performance and need
- Salary: Rs. 46,000 per month, with applicable EPF, ETF

Job descriptions, responsibilities and required qualifications are included in the Terms of Reference (TOR) documents at <https://uom.lk/vacancy/vacancy-technical-assistant>

**How to apply:** Apply by email with your CV to [ahead.uom@gmail.com](mailto:ahead.uom@gmail.com) by 02nd October 2020, specifying the position applied for in the Subject. Include the contact info of at least 2 non-related referees in your CV.

Registrar, University of Moratuwa

**Maintenance Executive (Electrical / Mechanical / Air-Conditioning)**

A reputed Frozen Food Manufacturing Company is in need of a person for the above post. The ideal candidate should be ;

- With minimum five years' experience in a similar capacity in automated machinery and equipment & in mechanical discipline, especially in a meat processing industry.
- Qualified in a reputed technical institution. (CGTI / NAITA / ATI) with electrical, mechanical and electronic knowledge & basic knowledge in Industrial refrigeration.
- Good managerial skills and ability to work on shift basis under work pressure for extended hours.

Salary Negotiable.

Excellent training & development opportunities await the right candidate.

Please forward your CV within 7 days to :

**Maintenance Engineer**  
**P.O. Box 02, Ekala.**

**CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY VACANCIES**

**Buildmart Lanka ISO 9001:2015; 14001: 2018; and 45001: 2018 OSHA ; Certified CIDA C1 Grade leading Construction Company in the Country do have immediate multiple vacancies for the following positions with the upcoming projects in Colombo and suburbs.**

**SITE MANAGERS**

Should possess NDT/NDES or equivalent with 08 years' experience.

**CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENTS**

Should possess NCT or equivalent with 04 years' experience.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS**

Should possess NCT or equivalent with 03 years' experience.

**NEGOTIABLE TERMS FOR IMMEDIATE ENGAGEMENT. PLEASE APPLY WITH 02 NON RELATED REFEREES WITHIN 07 DAYS.**

**BUILDMART LANKA (PVT) LTD**

ISO 9001 - 2015 ; ISO 14001 - 2018 AND 45001 - 2018 Certified Construction Company  
25 & 25B, JESMIN GARDEN, NAWALA, RAJAGIRIYA.  
**0777 515 760 / 0773 876 296**  
[info@buildmartlanka.lk](mailto:info@buildmartlanka.lk) | [www.buildmartlanka.lk](http://www.buildmartlanka.lk)

A leading blue-chip conglomerate located in Colombo with interests in maritime, logistics and a number of other sectors are seeking suitably experienced individuals to join our operations in South Africa in the following capacity.

**Straddle Carrier Operators (South Africa)**

The above position requires candidates with a minimum of 5 years' experience in operating straddle carriers. Candidates with a certificate in straddle carrier operations will be preferred. The selected individuals will be contracted for a period of 12 months and will be based in South Africa.

Meals, accommodation, transport and return air tickets to Sri Lanka will be provided.

Email your curriculum vitae to [sourcingunit@gmail.com](mailto:sourcingunit@gmail.com) together with the names of three non-related referees and a passport size colour photograph of yourself. Indicate the position applied for on the subject line of the email when sending your CV. All applications should reach us on or before 23rd September 2020. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

**Observer JOBS**  
We change your world  
FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT

**QATAR Vacancies**

A leading Facility Management Company in Qatar needs following staff to fulfill their Recruitment. Qualified candidates are request to report office with bio data, photograph, education & experience certificates.

CATEGORY	Qty	Salary (QR)
<b>HOUSE KEEPING SUPERVISOR</b>	100	2000

Minimum 5 Years Related Experience  
Knowledge of Cleaning Machinery & Cleaning Chemicals, COSH, BICS  
Under general direction or supervision, plan, schedule, assign, and review the work of team leader and cleaner related to housekeeping & janitorial area; coordinate, monitor, and provide technical input for assigned housekeeping, janitorial, and other special Programs Required

**Terms & Condition** (Subject to change according to exchange rate) QR 01 = (49 SL.Rs)  
Free Food, Accommodation, Medical will be provide by the employer.  
Working hours 8 hours One day off. Over time as per Qatar labour law.  
Contract period 2 years. joining / Return air tickets will be provided by the employer after the completion of contract. Other Terms & Condition as per Qatar labour law. AL/ADVT/2248/04/20

Hotline - 077 0116117

**CAPITAL RECRUITMENT INTL(PVT) LTD**  
No:130 3/1, 3rd Floor, Grandpass Road, Colombo-14. Tel: 011 2478319, 011 2478320 Fax: 011 2478321 E-mail: : capitalgrandpass@gmail.com

**Alucare** with a fame in Aluminium fabrications & total interior solutions, specialized flooring, wall paneling systems and supply of Auditorium and office furniture, needs following staff.

**ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE**

- Minimum three years of experience in QB base Accounting.
- Part professional qualifications in ICASL/ ACCA / AAT
- Ability to work independently.
- Fluency in English is an added advantage.

**JUNIOR SECRETARY/ CLERK**

- Pleasing personality, fluency in English with written and spoken ability
- Experience in computer based working environment.
- Ability to work independently.



Please forward your curriculum vitae with names of two non-related referees.

**ALUCARE (PVT) LTD,**  
No 90 /A-4, Colombo Road,  
Katuwawala, Boralesgamuwa.

Email: [sales@alucare.lk](mailto:sales@alucare.lk), [alucare.snk@gmail.com](mailto:alucare.snk@gmail.com)

**Alucare** with a fame in Aluminium fabrications & total interior solutions, specialized flooring, wall paneling systems and supply of Auditorium and office furniture, needs following staff.

**ENGINEERING ASSISTANT TECHNICAL OFFICER**

- HNDE / NDES or NCT with minimum three years of experience.
- Past experience in Aluminium Fabrication/ Interior finishing preferred.
- Knowledge in Auto Cad, 3D designing etc.
- Ability to work independently with labour handling skills.
- Fluency in English & valid Riding /Driving license is an added advantage.

Please forward your curriculum vitae with names of two non-related referees.



**ALUCARE (PVT) LTD,**  
No 90 /A-4, Colombo Road,  
Katuwawala, Boralesgamuwa.

Email: [sales@alucare.lk](mailto:sales@alucare.lk), [alucare.snk@gmail.com](mailto:alucare.snk@gmail.com)



**Japanese Translator cum Admin. Assistant**

IM Japan (International Manpower Development Organization, Japan) Colombo Representative Office is looking for a person who is fluent in Japanese Language with the following skills.

**Requirements and skills:**

- Proficiency in Japanese language JLPT N2 (NAT TEST LEVEL 2) or above.
- Ability to handle general office work in both Japanese and English.

**Job description:**

- Work related to sending Technical Intern Trainees to Japan.
- Japanese language translation, interpretation and office work.

(Able to do overtime work, work on holidays and business trips (overnight) within Sri Lanka)

Working hours: Weekdays 8.00 - 17.00

Salary: Depends on the experience, ability and qualifications (Overtime pay, Holiday work allowance and transportation expenses are given.)

Employment is on contract basis (contract is updated every three months or one year.)

Please send your CV within 14 days of this advertisement by Email-[ayeshadharmasiri94@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshadharmasiri94@gmail.com) having mentioned "Japanese Translator cum Admin. Assistant" as the subject.

Address : **IM Japan (International Manpower Development Organization, Japan)**  
**Colombo Representative Office**  
C/O SLBFE, No.553/1, New Kandy Road,  
Thalangama North,  
Battaramulla.

Telephone: 011-2791912

**sierra**  
**Quantity Surveyor**  
 HND/NDT/TTI with more than 10 years' Experience (including More Than 5 Years In Large Scale Water Supply Projects)  
**Work Supervisor**  
 NCT/NVQ with Water Supply Project Expeirance  
**Mobile 0710520877**  
 sithira.p@sierra.lk

**Opportunity for Experienced Sales Executives & Sales Managers**  
 Send your CV  
 sugath.nugaduwa@aialanka.com  
 Call - 0777398819

**IMMEDIATE VACANCY**  
**Technical Officer:**  
 2-5 years site experience in Construction N.D.T./N.V.Q. or related exam pass (Male)  
**Sales Officer:**  
 Male only/Valid Driving Licence Added Qualification 2-3 years experience in Glass Aluminium & Hardware  
**Account Assistant:**  
 A/L exam or AAT Exam Female/looking for within Colombo  
**Tel: 0718 146 951**  
**E-mail: acc.ashaie@gmail.com**

**WANTED FIELD OFFICER**  
 Leading company in Colombo 13 wants Field Officer to work full time with the following qualifications;  
 > Minimum A/L qualified.  
 > Must have a valid motorbike and three wheeler driving licence.  
 > Must be able to Read & Write in Sinhalese and English.  
 School leavers can apply. Successful candidate will have attractive remuneration package on one year contract basis. Walk-in interviews from 10AM to 3PM Monday to Friday at the following address:  
 414/10, K. Cyril C. Perera Mawatha, Colombo 13.  
**Contact: 0112436671**

**We are looking for.....**  
 → **QUANTITY SURVEYOR** (experience must)  
 → **SITE SUPERVISORS**  
 → **TECHNICAL OFFICERS**  
**Contact:- 0766552292 or 0777366781**  
**Email:- info@nexustech.lk**  
**Nexus Tech (Pvt) Ltd.,**

**LYCEUM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS**  
 We are committed to broadening the horizons of education as we seek to empower our students to be the best they can be.  
 We are focused on our expansion and diversification, therefore we are looking for self-motivated, dynamic and performance oriented individuals with the perfect blend of core competencies to join our Nugegoda team.  
**DAYCARE CENTRE MANAGER**  
 • NVQ level 6 child care.  
 • Age should be below 50 years.  
 • At least 5 years of experience on working with children. Priority should be given to the those who have worked in the capacity of an Assistant Center Manager.  
 • Minimum of 30 years of age.  
 • Females are considered more suitable for this role.  
**LYCEUM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS**  
 3/1, Raymond Road, Nugegoda.  
 Tel: 0112-822387 E-mail : careers\_lys@lyceum.lk

**VACANCIES - KULIYAPITIYA**  
 CBS is a fast growing Company with a history of 40-years and a leading player in the food industry. The organization is looking for a result oriented dynamic individuals for the Coconut Processing Plant in Kuliypitiya.  
**QUALITY CONTROLLER**  
**Knowledge and Experience**  
 • Familiar with ISO, HCCP certification procedures and Food Safety & Quality management systems and standards.  
**PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR**  
**Knowledge and Experience**  
 • Suitable academic and professional qualifications (Diploma in Food Science / Food Technology /Chemistry) is an added qualification  
**General Requirements**  
 • Minimum G.C.E. A/L Qualifications  
 • 3 years of experience in the Coconut Processing Plant in similar capacity is preferable.  
 • Ability to work in shift timing based work schedule  
 • Good interpersonal relationship  
 • Age around 35 years  
 • Should be computer literate  
 • Candidates residing around the Kuliypitiya area are preferable.  
 Attractive remuneration package with meals and other fringe benefits will be offered to the selected candidate.  
 Apply within 7 days with complete resume and names of two non-related referees to:  
 Manager- Human Resources  
 Consolidated Business Systems Limited  
 184/2, Koolin Refinery Road, Werahera,  
 Boralegama.  
 Email: jobs@cbstdk.com  
 Web site : www.cbstdk.com

**SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER COCONUT BASED PRODUCTS**  
 A well-established & reputed company producing **COCONUT WATER, COCONUT MILK and VIRGIN COCONUT OIL** is looking to engage Sales and Marketing Managers to sell its Coconut Water, Coconut Milk and Virgin Coconut Oil in the international market.  
 He/she should have experience of 3 years in selling the above products and be fluent in English, very good in effective communication and have good IT literacy.  
 This position shall be based in Dubai and an attractive remuneration package awaits the right candidates in addition to Free Visa, Free Accommodation, and Free Medical Insurance with one return Air-ticket per year with 30 days paid annual leave.  
 Interested candidates may send CV to: [stc95@eim.ae](mailto:stc95@eim.ae) before 30th September 2020 and mention **"Application for Coconut Product Sales"** as the subject and **only those who are in the coconut industry should apply.**

**Recruitment of Project Staff for Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP)**  
**MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION**  
 The Ministry wishes to invite applications from qualified and experienced citizens of Sri Lanka to serve in the Project Management Unit (PMU) on "Contract Basis" for the following positions as per the Department of Management Services (MSD) Circular 01/2019, "Cadre & Remuneration Management of the Projects" of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 for the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP) funded by Green Climate Fund (GCF). The Project will be implemented in Mee Oya, Malwathu Oya and Yan Oya river basins in seven administrative districts for a period of 7 years started since 2017.  
 Applicants should preferably be below 45 years, Proficiency in English, familiarity with government regulations and computer literacy are essential prerequisites.  
**1. Project Engineer - PS 4 Category A - Field Based**  
**01 Position - Kurunegala & Puttalam Districts**  
**01 Position - Vavuniya & Mannar Districts**  
**01 Position - Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa & Trincomalee Districts**  
**Required Qualifications:**  
 1. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the Civil Engineering field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC)  
 or  
 • A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the Degree in the Civil Engineering field  
 or  
 • An associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the Civil Engineering field  
**with**  
 • At least Seven (07) years Post qualifying experience in the relevant field  
 2. An Officer of the Government All Island Services Class III / II or above or similar status in the relevant field  
**with**  
 • At least 07 years of experience in Class III / II post  
**Salary level: Rs. 115,000.00 - Rs. 130,000.00\***  
 \* Cost of Living Allowance will be paid in addition to the salary specified above as per MSD Circular No. 01/2019.  
**2. Project Engineer - PS 4 Category B**  
**01 Position - Colombo Head Office Based and Relevant visits to the Field**  
**Required Qualifications:**  
 1. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the Civil Engineering field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC)  
 or  
 • A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the Degree in the Civil Engineering field  
 or  
 • An associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the Civil Engineering field  
**with**  
 • At least five (05) years Post qualifying experience in the Civil Engineering field  
 2. An Officer of the Government All Island Services Class III / II or above or similar status in the Civil Engineering field  
**with**  
 • At least 05 years of experience in Class III / II post  
**Salary level: Rs. 100,000.00 - Rs. 110,000.00\***  
 \* Cost of Living Allowance will be paid in addition to the salary specified above as per MSD Circular No. 01/2019.  
**3. Communication & Information Technology Assistant - (Category: Management Assistant) - Colombo Based**  
**Required Qualifications:**  
 • Having passed the GCE (O/L) examination in six (06) subjects with three (03) credit passes including English and Sinhala/Tamil language in one sitting and having passed three (03) /four (04) subjects in one sitting at A/L examination  
**with**  
 • A minimum of 02 years work experience in public or private sector as a Management Assistant or in similar capacity  
 • Ability to work in all three languages i.e. Sinhala, English & Tamil (both writing skills and speaking) is mandatory  
 • Holding a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Media & Communication or in a relevant subject will be given preference  
 • Preference will be given to the candidates who possess work experience in foreign funded Projects  
**Salary level: As per the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019 of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**  
 \* Cost of Living Allowance will be paid in addition to the salary specified above as per MSD Circular No. 01/2019.  
**Applications:**  
 The applicants are requested to forward their Curriculum Vitae including educational, professional qualifications and experience with two contacts of non-related referees.  
 Shortlisted applicants based on highest qualifications & experience, will be called for an interview and selection will be based on merit. Copies of the certificates to prove basic qualifications should be attached along with the application and all the incomplete applications will be rejected.  
 Applicants who are in the Government/Semi Government Sector should forward their applications through their respective Heads of Departments.  
 Applications should be forwarded via Registered Post on or before 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to reach the address given below and indicate the Post applied for, on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.  
**Secretary Administration /HR Division Ministry of Irrigation No. 500, T. B. Jayah Mawatha Colombo 10**  
**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**NOTICE**  
**MINISTRY OF BUDDHASASANA, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
**Recruitment of Chief Composer of the Buddhist Encyclopaedia on Contract Basis**  
 Applications are called from qualified Sri Lankan citizens for the above mentioned vacancy  
**Qualifications :-**  
 01. The candidates should have obtained an Honors Degree with a 1st or 2nd Class in Pali, Buddhist Culture and a Doctor of Philosophy or Master of Art Degree from a recognized university  
 02. At least 10 years of experience as an encyclopaedist in an encyclopaedic office.  
 03. Should have an excellent knowledge of English language.  
**Application Closing Date 25.10.2020**  
**Secretary, Ministry of Buddhasasana Religious and Cultural Affairs 135, "Dahampaya" Sreemath Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07**

**Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine NATIONAL MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
**VACANCIES**  
 Applications are invited from qualified citizens of Sri Lanka for the following posts at the National Medicines Regulatory Authority.  
 These posts are permanent and should contribute to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and without any transfers.  
**01. POST OF DIRECTOR (Human Resources) - (No. of Vacancies - 01)**  
**Qualification:**  
 For External Applicants  
 Should have obtained a degree in Management / Development / Social Science recognized by the University Grants Commission  
 With  
 A postgraduate degree in Management / Development / Social Science  
 And  
 At least fifteen (15) years service experience in managerial level in human resources in government / semi government or reputed private institution.  
 Age: Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years.  
**Salary Step relevant to the Post**  
 Salary Scale as per the Management Circular No. 02/2016 for Category HM 1-1-2016 Rs. (81,670 - 12x2,270 - 115,720/-) and the salary entitled as at 01.01.2021 is Rs. 81,670/- and approved allowances  
**Method of recruitment:** Through a structured interview conducted by a Board of Interviewers appointed by the Competent Authority.  
**02. POST OF MEDICAL OFFICER (No. of Vacancies - 04)**  
 i. **Medical Officer (Quality Management) - 02**  
 ii. **Medical Officer (Planning) - 02**  
**Qualifications:**  
 Bachelors of higher Medical degree awarded by a Medical Faculty of a university recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka or in a foreign country and should have completed compulsory internship of one year in a hospital recognized by the Sri Lanka Medical Council and should have been registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council as a doctor.  
**Age:** Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years  
**Salary Step relevant to the Post:**  
 Salary Scale as per the Management Circular No. 02/2016 for Category MM 1-3-2016 Rs. (55,925 - 10x1,375 - 15x1,910 - 98,325/-) and the salary entitled as at 01.01.2021 is Rs. 55,925/- and approved allowances  
**Method of recruitment:** Through an Open Competitive Examination and / or a structured interview conducted by a Board of Interviewers appointed by the Competent Authority.  
 Syllabus for the Open Competitive Examination  
 (a) Language Proficiency  
 (b) Aptitude Test  
**Language Proficiency:**  
 It will be a test paper to measure the knowledge of candidate regarding expression, understanding, spelling and the use of general grammar.  
**Aptitude test:**  
 It will be a test paper to judge the candidate's aptitude and ability in duly performing the duties entrusted to the post.  
**Others:**  
 Every Applicant;  
 i. Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka  
 ii. Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties entrusted to the post and to serve in part of the island  
 iii. Should have an excellent moral character  
 • Applicants serving in government or semi government institutions should forward their applications through the Heads of their institutions.  
 Duly perfected applications should be sent by registered post addressed to "Chief Executive Officer, National Medicines Regulatory Authority, No. 120, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10" to receive on or before 03.10.2020 and the post applying for should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.  
**Chairman National Medicines Regulatory Authority**  
**NATIONAL MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
 Application for the Post of .....  
 01. Name in Full:  
 02. Name with Initials:  
 03. Address:  
 04. District of Residence:  
 05. Date of Birth:  
 06. Age : Years Months Days  
 07. Gender(Sex):  
 08. National Identity Card No.  
 09. Medium of sitting the Examination:  
 10. Telephone No. Fixed:..... Mobile: .....  
 11. Email Address:  
 12. Educational Qualifications:  
 13. Professional Qualifications:  
 14. Experience  
 15. Names, Telephone Nos. and Addresses of two non-related referees:  
 I hereby declare that the information I have given above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
 Date: .....  
 Signature of Applicant  
**Note:**  
 Application should be perfected and sent only as per the relevant specimen and the copies of certificates that prove your educational and professional qualifications should be submitted with the application.



Lanka Canneries (Pvt) Limited, the market leader in processing, canning and bottling of food products under the brand name of **MD** have a vacancy for the post of:

## HR EXECUTIVE

The ideal candidate should have a University Degree or Diploma in Human Resources from a recognised Institute with minimum 03 years work experience in a similar capacity.

Salary and other benefits are negotiable.

Apply with complete curriculum vitae, contact telephone number and names and addresses of two non-related referees within seven days of this advertisement to :

The Director  
**LANKA CANNERIES (PVT) LTD.**  
 45/75 Narahenpita Road, Colombo 5.  
 Tel: 2586622. Fax: 2368480.  
 E-mail: careers@lankacanneries.com

## VACANCIES



**LANKA BUILDING MATERIALS CORPORATION LTD**



**STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRIES PROMOTION**

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the following posts in Building Materials Corporation.

### GENERAL MANAGER (Contract Basis) POSTS - 01

#### Qualifications :

##### External

01. A Bachelors Degree in Accountancy / Marketing Management or Business Administration which is recognized by the U.G.C.

AND

Postgraduate Degree in Accountancy / Management / Marketing or Business Administration or any other relevant field or Corporate Membership of a Recognized professional Institution in Management

AND

At least 20 years experience in "Managerial Level" out of which 05 years of experience should be at Senior Managerial Level with a proven track record in a Corporation, Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment after obtaining the first Degree

OR

A Bachelors Degree in Accountancy / Management / Marketing or Business Administration or other relevant field which is recognized by the U.G.C.

AND

PhD. Degree in Accountancy / Management / Marketing or Business Administration or other relevant field

AND

At least 05 years experience at Senior Managerial Level with a proven track record and Management experience in a Corporation, Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment after obtaining the first Degree.

##### Internal

A minimum of five (05) years satisfactory service in a post in the Senior Manager category in the subject area relevant to the post

AND

A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams. Experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources

**Age :** Age should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates.

**Salary :** Salary Code and the monthly Salary Scale of the employees category - **HM 2-1 Rs. (91,645 - 12x2700 - 124,045) w.e.f. 01.01.2016**

### MARKETING MANAGER (Contract Basis) POSTS - 01

#### Qualifications :

##### External

A Bachelors' Degree in the field of Commerce / Business Administration / Marketing which is recognized by the U.G.C.

And

A minimum of one year post qualifying experience in the relevant field to the Post after obtaining the first Degree

OR

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification level 7, issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission in the field of Commerce / Business Administration / Marketing

And

A minimum of one year post qualifying experience in the relevant field in Public Service, a Corporation, Statutory Board / Institution or a reputed private Institution.

**Age :** Age should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates.

**Contract Salary of - Rs. 60,975/= (MM 1-1)**

### COMMERCIAL MANAGER (Contract Basis) POSTS - 01

#### Qualifications :

##### External

A Bachelors' Degree in the field of Commerce / Business Administration / Marketing which is recognized by the U.G.C.

And

A minimum of one year post qualifying experience in the relevant field to the Post after obtaining the first Degree

OR

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification level 7, issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission in the field of Commerce / Business Administration / Marketing

And

A minimum of one year post qualifying experience in the relevant field in Public Service, a Corporation, Statutory Board / Institution or a reputed private Institution.

**Age :** Age should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates.

**Contract Salary of - Rs. 60,975/= (MM 1-1)**

#### General Conditions :

1. The applicant should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
2. Applications from Employees in the State Sector should be forwarded through the Head of the Institution.
3. Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
4. Should be of excellent moral character.
5. Bio-Data with copies of Certificates and the names and addresses of two referees (Non-related) should be forwarded on or before 05th October 2020.

**CHAIRMAN**  
**Lanka Building Materials Corporation Ltd.,**  
**No. 541, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha,**  
**Colombo 10.**  
**Tel. : 2326701/02**

## WANTED

### Accountant - Assistant Account - Accounts Assistant

Fast growing sea food exporting company looking for energetic candidates to fill the following positions at the new factory situated in Dankotuwa.

#### Qualifications

- Professional qualification (Chartered, CIMA) in accounts field.
- 5 years experience in similar position.
- Good oral & written communication skills.
- Ability to handle work independently with minimum supervision.

Please email your CV to [ram@ceyloncatch.com](mailto:ram@ceyloncatch.com) &  
 Call 0766164445 for interview appointment.



IT'S TIME TO TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL

## REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

This position will offer you a pioneering role in the financial sector where you will be responsible for steering, guiding and directing branches in the assigned region, towards achieving their business targets.

#### CANDIDATE PROFILE

- A dynamic and assertive business manager with exceptional leadership skills.
- Excellent communication skills in English and Sinhala.
- A full or part qualification in marketing is a pre-requisite.
- Previous experience in the financial services sector and managing a sales team will be a definite advantage.
- This position entails extensive travelling and demands commitment to deliver set objectives.

#### JOB PROFILE

- Steering the branches of the assigned region towards delivering ambitious KPI's.
- Providing inspirational leadership to the team.
- Reviewing, monitoring and following up on performance of each branch in a timely manner.
- Promptly resolving issues of internal and external customers.

#### WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

- The selected candidate can look forward to a remuneration package on par with industry standards, with **performance-based incentives** and a **company maintained car**.
- Access to enriching training and development opportunities.
- Opportunities for rapid career progression.

Interested candidates should forward their CV's via email to [hrd@cf.lk](mailto:hrd@cf.lk) indicating the post applied for on the subject line with contact telephone numbers and names of two non-related referees within 7 days of this advertisement or post an updated CV to the following address.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.



**General Manager (HR)**  
**Central Finance Company PLC,**  
**270, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 2.**  
**E-mail : [hrd@cf.lk](mailto:hrd@cf.lk)**

[www.cf.lk](http://www.cf.lk)

## VACANCY

# POSTS OF ELECTRICIAN

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL), widely known as Lake House, is the home and heart of print media in Sri Lanka invites experienced candidates to play a key role as Electricians.

We are looking for competent, dynamic personnel with excellent knowledge of Electrical background.

#### Qualifications & Requirements:

- Passed G.C.E.(O/L) in six subjects including Science & Maths
- Full-time Electrical Certificate course with 05 years of electrical work experience.

#### Key Responsibilities :

- Support to the new electrical projects, minimize the breakdown time of printing presses, mail room equipment and all other electrical items and for smooth running of all electrical systems and machines at the ANCL.
- Maintenance of generators & substation room.

**Age:** Below 45 years

The selected candidates will be offered an attractive remuneration package.

Please forward your complete Curriculum Vitae within seven days of this advertisement with names and contact details of two non-related referees to the under-mentioned address stating the position on the top left-hand corner of the envelope or e-mail to the following e-mail address with the subject line "Posts of Electrician".



Head of Human Capital  
**The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited**  
 No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha,  
 Colombo 10  
[dgm.hc@lakehouse.lk](mailto:dgm.hc@lakehouse.lk)

## IMMEDIATE VACANCIES

A company engaged in Chemical Marketing and distribution at Kotikawatte is looking for suitable candidates from nearby area for following vacancies.

#### ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE (FEMALE)

- Part qualification in ACCA or CIMA or full qualification in AAT
- Good command of English and Computer literacy
- Good knowledge of accounting & finance principals with knowledge of accounting software.
- Minimum 2 years experience in a similar post

Salary 35,000/- to 40,000/- (All inclusive)

#### TRAINEE ACCOUNTS CLERK / DATA ENTRY OPERATOR (FEMALE)

- Should have followed a recognized course in Accountancy
- School leavers with GCE (A/L) Accounts
- Good command of English and Computer literacy

Salary 20,000/- (All inclusive)

Email: [ransanjifchem@gmail.com](mailto:ransanjifchem@gmail.com)

A leading hotel in Nittambuwa area is looking for suitable individuals to fill the following vacancies.

#### \* HOUSE KEEPING ATTENDANTS

- Below 45 yrs.
- Male candidates only

#### \* WAITER / WAITRESS

- Below 35 yrs
- Previous experience will be added advantage.

#### \* CASHIER (male/female)

- Below 30 yrs.
- A/L in Commerce stream

#### \* CHEF

- Sri Lankan Rice & Curry
- Indian - Western
- Chinese - European

An attractive remuneration package together with fringe benefits will be offered to the right candidates.

Contact: 0777 844 760

## TEACHERS VACANCY

### AMI TEACHERS

### PRE SCHOOL TEACHERS

(WITH A/LEVELS AND GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE)

### PRE SCHOOL TEACHERS TRAINER

(NVQ 5/6) (SINHALA / ENGLISH)

### CHILD PSYCHOLOGY LECTURER

### NATIONAL SYLLABUS ENGLISH MEDIUM TEACHERS

(MATHS / SCIENCE / HEALTH / ART / ACCOUNTS & BUSINESS / P.T / BAND TEACHERS)

Walk in Interview on September 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 09.00am - 01.00pm

**APPLE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**  
 NO. 133, JAMPETTAH STREET, COLOMBO 13.  
**0723 623 676**

**www.adz.lk**  
 it's what you want



**SAFEGWAY SOLAR**  
*Happiness Beyond Lists...*

**WE'RE HIRING**  
JOIN OUR TEAM

Safeway Tech International (Pvt) Ltd is a leading solar-related service providing company in Sri Lanka. We are looking for a candidate who is highly dedicated, reliable, and most importantly self-motivated. Someone who can work under pressure within tight deadlines and deliver the best results.

❖ **Corporate Sales Manager**  
❖ **Sales Executive**

Minimum of 1 year experience  
English & computer literacy is a must  
Valid driving license required  
Experience in marketing sector is essential

Hotline: 0770 130 130

❖ For immediate employment.  
❖ Walk-in interview (09.30 AM to 12.00 AM)  
❖ Please be present with all original certificates.

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No. 579, Colombao Road, Katunayake.  
Hotline: 0770 130 130 / 071 77 66 066  
071 683 0410  
Land: 011 225 2257

www.safewaysolar.lk info@safewaysolar.lk



**Arc International Fertility & Research Centre (Pvt) Ltd**  
PV NO - 00202838

**VACANCIES**

- Gynaecologist / VOG
- Medical Officer
- Hospital Administrators / HR
- Nurse
- Andrologist / Embryologist

Mail to: [coo@arcfertility.in](mailto:coo@arcfertility.in) No: 16/1 Joseph Lane, Bambalapitiya, Colombo 4

Web: [www.arcivf.com](http://www.arcivf.com)

Contact: 075 317 9032

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**ADMINISTRATION OFFICER**

- Should be able to handle transport, maintenance of office building / vehicle fleet and able to handle other administrative work.
- Preference will be given to retired service personnel
- Maximum age limit - 58 years.
- Basic Computer literacy and working knowledge of English essential.
- Remuneration - Negotiable.

Please send CVs to : [hrdep1010@gmail.com](mailto:hrdep1010@gmail.com)

Our client has been in the forefront of supplying High Technology Instruments to diverse markets in Sri Lanka. Continuing to thrive and expand in its' competitive market place, the company now seeks the services of a proactive and results oriented individual to join their Company in the capacity of

**HEAD OF PROJECTS - WATER INDUSTRY**

The incumbent will be responsible for seeking potential market opportunities in the Water Industry, liaising with suppliers and leading partners, ensuring project identification and implementation, financial and administrative oversight whilst monitoring of the project to deliver desired results.

**Job Role:**

- Perform market intelligence to identify and create opportunities in the Water industry, to initiate and execute projects with potential revenue growth.
- Provide strategic leadership and technical, operational, financial expertise for the total Project deliverables.
- Oversee budget pipeline development and budget monitoring.
- Oversee development of a monitoring and evaluation plan for the successive phases of the project to capture project performance and results.

**Candidate Profile:**

- Over 10 years of experience in leading large-scale projects; preferably in Water industry.
- A Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical or Electrical discipline or equivalent.
- Expertise in carrying out Turnkey Projects will be an advantage.
- Innovator and executor with the ability to influence teams and stakeholders.
- Demonstrated diplomatic, management and negotiation skills to liaise and advocate with the government authorities, suppliers and other stakeholders.

An attractive and negotiable remuneration package with other fringe benefits will be offered based on qualifications, experience and competence.

Please forward your complete resume with contact details of two non-related referees to [mslrecruitment@slt.net.lk](mailto:mslrecruitment@slt.net.lk) within 10 days of this advertisement quoting **MSL Ref. No. 7521** in the subject line of your e-mail.

**MSL Management Systems (Pvt) Ltd.** No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08. [mslr@slt.net.lk](mailto:mslr@slt.net.lk) [www.bposrilanka.com](http://www.bposrilanka.com)

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**Sunday Observer**

Our client has been in the forefront of supplying High Technology Instruments to diverse markets in Sri Lanka. Continuing to thrive and expand in its' competitive market place, the company now seeks the services of a proactive and results oriented individual to join their Company in the capacity of

**VICE PRESIDENT - MANUFACTURING**

The selected candidate's strategic and tactical responsibility will be establishing a manufacturing plant, catering to the Country's Vision. Implement manufacturing strategies and operational goals to the market need and demand, exceeding customer expectations for product quality, cost and delivery, optimizing production levels to drive operational excellence.

**Job Role**

- Venture into a Manufacturing Start-up in the Reagents and Pharmaceutical Sector.
- Conduct advanced research, strategize and execute the business plan that includes the market plan, master production schedule and operations budgets.
- Work closely with internal and external stakeholders striving for best in class Health Industry products.
- Build a people structure with capability and market ability to achieve the operational and financial metrics.
- Manage finances, monitoring budgets, expenses, and product unit costs to drive revenue and margin projections.

**Candidate Profile:**

- Over 12 years of demonstrable experience of leading a manufacturing function delivering innovative and effective manufacturing strategies; preferably in Health Sector.
- Bachelor's Degree in relevant Engineering / Manufacturing discipline or equivalent.
- A Master's qualification would be an added advantage.
- Input and end responsibility for manufacturing budgets with the ability to add value, reduce cost and make business improvements.
- Strong and confident negotiator with the ability to influence at all levels.

An attractive and negotiable remuneration package with other fringe benefits will be offered based on qualifications, experience and competence.

Please forward your complete resume with contact details of two non-related referees to [mslrecruitment@slt.net.lk](mailto:mslrecruitment@slt.net.lk) within 10 days of this advertisement quoting **MSL Ref. 7520** in the subject line of your e-mail.

**MSL Management Systems (Pvt) Ltd.** No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08. [mslr@slt.net.lk](mailto:mslr@slt.net.lk) [www.bposrilanka.com](http://www.bposrilanka.com)

**BH BEN HOLDINGS**

*We Are Hiring*

BEN Holdings (Pvt) Limited, holds some of Sri Lanka's foremost business entities in the fields of Entertainment, Broadcasting and Retail. The Company owns and operates some of the most popular brand names in Sri Lanka that are associated with both trust and professionalism.

Now reaching Sri Lankans across more than 60 business locations island wide through its theaters and retail spaces while capturing the imagination of millions of viewers and listeners through television and radio, the Company is on a rapid investment and expansion drive. Also backed by substantial direct investment, Ben Holdings is committed in creating value and driving industry-wide change through its brands Swarnamahal Jewellers, EAP Films & Theaters, EAP Security Services, EAP Property as well as Swarnawahini, Shree Fm, E Fm and Ran Fm.

The Company is on the lookout for professionals who can drive that change aligning with the true potential of our businesses and the value that it can generate for the Sri Lankan economy.

**SOFTWARE ENGINEER - PHP**

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- ◆ Design and build web applications using the latest technologies and best practices.
- ◆ Troubleshoot and test code/databases to ensure strong optimization and functionality
- ◆ Collaborate with cross-functional teams to design and deliver new features.
- ◆ Test own code to ensure the quality standards, usability and reliability.
- ◆ Improve application performance and fixing issues.
- ◆ Continuously discover, evaluate, document and implement new technologies.

**Requirement**

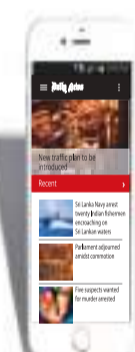
- ◆ Degree in Computer Science or equivalent
- ◆ 3+ Years of experience in software engineering and development using PHP
- ◆ Experience with at least one of PHP Frameworks (Laravel, Yii, CodeIgniter or Zend)
- ◆ Experience with MySQL Databases
- ◆ Experience creating CMS and Web Services
- ◆ Experience in common third-party APIs (PayPal, Facebook, Twitter and Google)
- ◆ Sound knowledge of HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, JQuery, XML/JSON and Ajax
- ◆ Joomla wordpress experience
- ◆ Excellent team working skills

Attractive remuneration package will be provided depending on the qualification and experience.

Please send your CV to [grouphoffice\\_BH@benholdings.lk](mailto:grouphoffice_BH@benholdings.lk) With the subject line 'Software Engineer PHP'

The Group Head of Human Resources,  
**BEN Holdings Private Limited,**  
No. 42, Dr. N. M. Perera Mw, Colombo 08.

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**Negombo South International School Network (Nittambuwa Branch)**

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**Master of Discipline**  
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**Class Teachers (Grade 1/2) (English Medium)**  
**Buddhism Teachers (Grade 1-4) (English Medium)**  
**Roman Catholic Teachers (English Medium)**  
**Christianity Teachers (English Medium)**  
**Elocution Teachers (English Medium)**  
**Art Teachers**

Send your CV to HR Manager with the contact number. Please indicate the post on the top left corner of the bio – data. Canvassing in any form will be a disqualification.

**HR Manager,**  
150/C, Veyangoda Road, Nittambuwa  
([nsis.nittambuwa@yahoo.com](mailto:nsis.nittambuwa@yahoo.com))  
033-2297555



# STATE PHARMACEUTICALS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION



## VACANCIES

We are looking for qualified, dynamic, self-motivated, career ambitious, team players to join SPMC to fill the following vacancies.

Every applicant,

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
- Should be of excellent moral character.

### 1. DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER – HUMAN RESOURCES (HM 1-1)

#### Rewarding Career

Head of the Human Resources and Administration Division and responsible to the Chairman/Managing Director and General Manager for all matters relating to Human Resources and Administration. Looking for high caliber, result-oriented individual to head its Human Resources and Administration Division.

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- (i) First degree in upper division in Human Resources / Management / Administration or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **Or**
  - Special Degree in Human Resources / Administration or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **Or**
  - Bachelor's Degree including the subject of Human Resources / Administration / Law or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **And**
- Postgraduate Degree (Masters) in Human Resources / Management / Administration relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **And**
- Minimum of 12 years post qualifying experience in Managerial level relevant to the field of Human Resources and Administration in a Public / Corporation / Board / Statutory Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

### 2. DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER – QUALITY CONTROL (HM 1-1)

#### Rewarding Career

Head of the Quality Control Division and responsible to the Chairman/Managing Director and General Manager for all matters relating to quality control. Looking for high caliber, result-oriented individual to head its Quality Control Division.

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- (i) B.Sc. General Degree including the subject of Chemistry with first or second class or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **Or**
  - B.Sc. Special Degree in Chemistry or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **Or**
  - B.Sc. General Degree including the subject of Chemistry or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **And**
- (i) Postgraduate Degree (Masters) relevant to the field of Analytical Chemistry or any other Scientific Testing / Analysis of Pharmaceuticals of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **Or**
  - Corporate membership of the Institute of Chemistry. **And**
- Minimum of 12 years post qualifying experience in managerial level relevant to the field of Scientific Evaluation / Laboratory Testing / Production of Pharmaceuticals in a Public / Corporation / Board / Statutory Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

### 3. DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER – FORMULATION CUM RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (HM 1-1)

#### Rewarding Career

Head of the Research & Formulation Development Division and responsible to the Chairman/Managing Director and General Manager for all matters relating to Research & Formulation Development. Looking for high caliber, result-oriented individual to head its Formulation Research & Development Division.

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- (i) B.Sc. General Degree including the subject of Chemistry with first or second class or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **Or**
  - B.Sc. Special Degree in Chemistry or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **Or**
  - B.Sc. General Degree including the subject of Chemistry or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **And**
- (i) Postgraduate Degree (Masters) relevant to the field of Analytical Chemistry or any other Scientific Testing/ Analysis of Pharmaceuticals of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **Or**
  - Corporate membership of the Institute of Chemistry. **And**
- Minimum of 12 years post qualifying experience in managerial level relevant to the field of Scientific Evaluation / Laboratory Testing / Production and Research in the field of Pharmaceuticals / food in a Public / Corporation / Board / Statutory Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

### 4. DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER – MARKETING (HM 1-1)

#### Rewarding Career

Head of the Marketing Division and responsible to the Chairman/Managing Director and General Manager for all matters relating to Marketing. Looking for high caliber, result-oriented individual to head its Marketing Division.

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- First Degree or BSc Special Degree in Marketing / Commerce / Business Administration or equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **And**
- Postgraduate Degree (Masters) relevant to the field of Marketing / Commerce / Business Administration of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **And**
- Minimum of 12 years post qualifying experience in managerial level relevant to the field of marketing of a Public / Corporation / Board / Statutory Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

#### Qualifications for the above Post (1) to (4): Internal Candidates

Minimum of two (2) years satisfactory continuous service in the Manager Category (MM 1-1) Grade I, in the subject area relevant to the post.

#### General for the above Post (1) to (4)

**Salary Scale :** HM 1.1-2016 - Rs. 80,295/= - 15x 2,270/= - 114,345/=

**Age :** Should not be less than 35 years and not more than 55 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to the Internal Candidates.

#### Method of Recruitment: By structured interview

#### Other Benefits for the above Post (1) to (4)

- Corporation maintained official Vehicle or allowance for own vehicle as per the Circular No. PED 1/2015(i)
- Fuel allowance (120 Liters of diesel or petrol per month).

### 5. MANAGER PLANNING AND PROCUREMENT (MM 1-1 – GRADE II)

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- (i) Bachelor's of Science / Commerce Degree of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **Or**
  - Any other equivalent Degree of a University/Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission. **And**
- Computer Literacy. **And**
- Minimum of 05 years post qualifying experience relevant to the field of planning and procurement, local / foreign procurement / purchases in a Public / Corporation / Board / Statutory Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

#### Qualifications: Internal Candidates

- Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates **Or**
- Completion of minimum 5 years satisfactory service in a post in the Junior Manager Category (JM 1-1) in the subject area relevant to the post.

**Salary Scale :** MM 1.1- 2016- Rs.53,175/= - 10 x 1,375/= - 15 x 1,910/= - 95,575/=

**Age :** Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.

**Method of Recruitment:** Written competitive examination and structured interview.

### 6. PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGIST - PRODUCTION (JM 1-1-GRADE II)

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- First Degree in Pharmacy, Natural Science or Engineering or equivalent qualifications of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission. **And**
- Computer Literacy. **And**
- One year post qualifying experience in the field of manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.

#### Qualifications: Internal Candidates

- Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above. **Or**
- Completion of minimum five (05) years satisfactory service in a post of the Management Assistant 'Technological' (MA 2-1) Grade II, in the subject area relevant to the post.

**Salary Scale :** JM-1-1- 2016 - Rs. 42,600/= - 10 x 755 - 18 x 1135 - 70,580/=

**Age :** Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.

**Method of Recruitment :** Written competitive examination and structured interview.

### 7. STORE KEEPER (MA-2-1 GRADE III)

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- Educational:**
  - Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, English, Mathematics and Science at the GCE (O/L) Examination, in one sitting. **And**
  - Passes in 02 subjects in science stream, (other than the General Paper) at the GCE (A/L) Examination. (New Syllabus) **Or** Passes in 02 subjects in science stream at the GCE (A/L) Examination (Old Syllabus) **And**
  - Computer Literacy. **And**
- Minimum of one year post qualifying experience in a Public Corporation / Board or Reputed Mercantile Establishment. **And**
- Vocational :** Diploma in Purchasing or Inventory Management, which is equivalent to NVQ - Level 5.

### 8. PLANNING AND PROCUREMENT ASSISTANT (MA -2-1 – GRADE III)

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- Educational Qualifications**
  - Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, English, Mathematics and Science at the G.C.E (O/L) examination, in one sitting. **And**
  - Passes in 02 subjects in science stream (other than the General Paper) at the G.C.E (A/L) Examination (New Syllabus). **Or** Passes in 02 science subjects in science stream at the G.C.E (A/L) Examination (Old Syllabus). **And**
  - Computer Literacy. **And**
- Minimum of one year post qualifying experience in a Public Corporation / Board or Reputed Mercantile Establishment. **And**
- Vocational :** Diploma in Purchasing or Inventory Management, which is equivalent to NVQ - Level 5.

### 9. TECHNICAL ASSISTANT - FORMULATION CUM RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (MA -2-1 – GRADE III)

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- Educational / Vocational**
  - Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, English, Mathematics and Science at the G.C.E (O/L) examination, in one sitting. **And**
  - Passes in 03 science subjects with 2 credits (other than the general paper) including a credit pass in Chemistry at the GCE (A/L) Examination (New Syllabus). **Or** Passes in 03 science subjects with 2 credits including a credit pass in Chemistry at the G.C.E (A/L) Examination (Old Syllabus). **And**
  - Computer Literacy will be considered as an added qualification **And**
  - Three (3) years Analytical Experience in reputed Laboratory
- Recruitment of Trainees:** Recruiting as trainees with above (i), (ii) & (iii).  
Completing 1 ½ years in house training period (which is equivalent to NVQ - Level 5) as a Trainee Technical Assistant (FD&R) in the SPMC and passing the written test are prerequisites to absorb into the permanent cadre as Technical Assistant - Formulation cum Research & Development.
- During the training period, they will be paid an allowance.

### 10. QUALITY CONTROL ASSISTANT (MA -2-1 – GRADE III)

#### Qualifications: External Candidates

- Educational / Vocational:**
  - Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, Science, English and Mathematics at the G.C.E (O/L) Examination, in one sitting. **And**
  - Passes in 03 science subjects with 2 credits (other than the General Paper) including a credit pass in Chemistry at the GCE (A/L) Examination. (New Syllabus) **Or** Passes in 03 science subjects with 2 credits including a credit pass in Chemistry at the G.C.E (A/L) Examination. (Old Syllabus) **And**
  - Computer Literacy will be considered as an added qualification. **And**
  - Two (2) years experience in a reputed pharmaceutical manufacturing organization.
- Recruitment of Trainees:** Recruiting as trainees with above (i), (ii) & (iii).  
Completing 1 ½ years in house training period (which is equivalent to NVQ - Level 5) as a Trainee Quality Control Assistant in the SPMC and passing the written test are prerequisites to absorb into the permanent cadre as Quality Control Assistant.
- During the training period they will be paid an allowance.

### 11. PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNICIAN - PRODUCTION (MA -2-1 – GRADE III)

#### Qualifications : External Candidates

#### (a) Educational

- Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, English, Mathematics and Science at the GCE (O/L) Examination, in one sitting. **And**
- Passes in 02 subjects in science stream, (other than the General Paper) at the GCE (A/L) Examination. (New Syllabus) **Or** Passes in 02 subjects in science stream at the GCE (A/L) Examination (Old Syllabus) **And**
- At least 2 years production experience in a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant as a permanent employee.

#### (b) Recruitment of Trainees : Recruiting as trainees with above (i) & (ii)

Completing 1 ½ years in house training period (which is equivalent to NVQ - Level 5) as a Trainee Pharmaceutical Technician -Production in the SPMC and passing the written test are prerequisites to absorb into the permanent cadre as Pharmaceutical Technician -Production.

#### (b) During the training period, they will be paid an allowance.

### 12. BOOK KEEPER - (MA 2-1- GRADE III)

#### Qualifications : External Candidates

#### Educational

- (i) Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, Science, English and Mathematics at the G.C.E (O/L) Examination, in one sitting. **And**
- Passes in 02 subjects (other than the General Paper) at the GCE (A/L) examination (New Syllabus) - preferable in science or commerce stream. **Or** Passes in 02 subjects at the GCE (A/L) examination-(Old Syllabus), preferable in science or commerce stream **And**

#### Vocational:

- (i) Intermediate Examination of Institute of Administrative Accountants, not below the N.V.Q. Level 5. **Or**
- Associate Member of the Institute of Book Keepers, not below the N.V.Q. Level 5. **Or**
- Passes at the Final Examination of AAT. **Or**
- Any other equivalent certificate course not below the N.V.Q. Level-5, relevant to the field of Book Keeping. **And**

#### (c) Computer Literacy. **And**

- Minimum of 3 years post qualifying experience as a Book Keeper or Accounts Clerk in a Public/Corporation/Board/Statutory Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment or an Audit Firm.

#### Qualifications: Internal Candidates for the Post (06) to (12)

Being an employee of the SPMC in the Primary Level-Unskilled, Semi Skilled, Skilled categories, having passed G.C.E. (O/L) examination, six subjects with credit passes for four subjects including Sinhala/Tamil, Maths, Science and English not more than two sittings and vocational qualifications with 05 years satisfactory continuous service in a permanent post subject to obtain relevant experience.

**Salary Scale:** MA 2.1-2016 : Rs.30,310/= - 10x300 - 7x350 - 4x495 - 20x660 - 50,940/=

**Age :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years.

The upper age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants

**Method of Recruitment :** Written competitive examination and structured interview.

### 13. MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (NON-TECHNOLOGICAL) (MA -1-1 - GRADE III)

#### Qualifications : External Candidates

- Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, English, Mathematics and any other one subject at the GCE (O/L) Examination in one sitting. **And**
- (i) Passes in 02 subjects (other than the General Paper) at the GCE (A/L) Examination (New Syllabus). **Or**
- Passes in 02 subjects at the GCE (A/L) Examination-(Old Syllabus). **And**
- Computer literacy with minimum typing speed of 35 w.p.m. **And**
- Minimum of one year post qualifying experience in a Public Corporation/ Board of Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Note :** Competence in Microsoft Office or Open Office packages will be an added qualification.

#### Qualifications: Internal Candidates (13)

Being an employee of the SPMC in the Primary Level-Unskilled, Semi Skilled, Skilled categories, having passed G.C.E. (O/L) examination, six subjects with credit passes for four subjects including Sinhala/Tamil, Maths, Science and English not more than two sittings and vocational qualifications with 05 years satisfactory continuous service in a permanent post subject to obtain relevant experience.

#### General for the Post (13)

**Salary Scale:** MA 1.1-2016 : Rs. 27,910/= - 10x300 - 7x350 - 4x495 - 20x660 - 48,540/=

**Age :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years.

**Method of Recruitment:** Written competitive examination and structured interview.

#### Fringe Benefits :

- Attendance & performance incentive.
- Reimbursement of unutilized annual and sick leave.
- Provide Medical insurance scheme and medical reimbursement scheme.
- The Corporation will contribute 15% of the salary towards the EPF whilst the employee will have to contribute 10%.
- The Corporation will also contribute 3% of the salary towards the ETF.

#### General Instructions:

- Application using the prescribed form should be forwarded with names, addresses and contact details of two non-related referees. Certified copies of all Educational Certificates should be enclosed along with the application. Application form could be downloaded from the official Website of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation <http://www.spmc.lanka.lk>

- Applications from employees in Government Department and Statutory Boards should be forwarded through their Heads of Institutions who should certify whether the applicant could be released to take up appointment, if selected.

- The post applied for written on the top left hand corner of the envelope which contains the application should be sent to the following address by registered Post within 10 days of this advertisement.

- The applications not complying with the above requirements will be rejected.

**Chairman**  
State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation  
No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha  
Kandawala Estate - Ratmalana.

11.09.2020





# STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

## VACANCIES

State Pharmaceuticals Corporation is the sole importer of pharmaceuticals and medical devices for the government hospitals and the leading importer and distributor of pharmaceuticals for the private sector in Sri Lanka.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Sri Lankan citizens to fill the following vacancies.

### 1). MANAGER (RESEARCH & NEW PROJECTS) (MM 1.1) GRADE II - (01 VACANCY)

**Qualifications:**

(a) (i) Bachelor's Degree or Bsc. Special Degree in Marketing/ Commerce/ Business Administration/ Economics of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**Or**

(ii) Any other equivalent Degree of a University/ Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy

**And**

(c) Minimum of three (03) years post qualifying experience relevant to the field of Planning of a Public/ Corporation/ Board/ Statutory Body/ Reputed Mercantile establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 41,899/- 1,095/- x 3, 1,205/- x 7, 1,515/- x 15 - Rs. 76,344/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 80,560/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 2). MANAGER (RAJYA OSU SALA) - (MM 1.1 - GRADE II) - (01 VACANCY)

**Qualifications :**

(a) (i) Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**Or**

(ii) Any other equivalent Degree of a University/ Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy

**And**

(c) Minimum of three (03) years post qualifying experience as a Pharmacist of a Public/Corporation/Board/Statutory Body/Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 41,899/- 1,095/- x 3, 1,205/- x 7, 1,515/- x 15 - Rs. 76,344/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 80,560/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 3). ACCOUNTANT (STOCKS & PRICING) - (MM 1.1 - GRADE II) - (01 VACANCY)

**Qualifications :**

**1. Educational/ Professional :**

(a) (i) Intermediate Level of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL)

**OR**

(ii) Intermediate Level of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

**OR**

(iii) Intermediate Level of Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants (ACCA)

**OR**

(iv) Higher National Diploma in Accountancy of a recognized institution.

**OR**

(v) Equivalent qualifications relevant to the field of Accounting and Finance of an Institution recognized by a Professional Body.

**AND**

(b) Computer Literacy

**AND**

(c) Minimum of 03 years post qualifying experience in the field of Accounting and Finance/ Book Keeping / Auditing of a Corporation/ Board / Statutory Body / Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**OR**

**2. Educational/ Professional :**

(a) (i) Degree in Management or Commerce of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**OR**

(ii) Any other Degree relevant to the field of Accounting and Finance of a University / Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**AND**

(b) Computer Literacy

**AND**

(c) Minimum of 03 years post qualifying experience in the field of Accounting and Finance/ Book Keeping / Auditing of a Corporation/ Board / Statutory Body / Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 41,899/- 1,095/- x 3, 1,205/- x 7, 1,515/- x 15 -Rs. 76,344/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 80,560/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 4). PERSONAL SECRETARY (JM 1.1 - GRADE II) - (01 VACANCY)

**Qualifications :**

(a) The Certificate of 'Chartered Secretary' of Chartered Institute of Secretaries,

**And**

(b) Should have typing speed of 40 w.p.m. and shorthand speed 80 w.p.m.

**And**

(c) Computer Literacy

**And**

(d) Minimum of 10 years post qualifying experience in the field of Secretarial Work of a Public/ Corporation/Board/ Statutory Body/ Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 33,540/- 600/- x 10, 905/- x 18 - 55,830/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 69,279/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 5). TECHNICAL OFFICER (MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION) (JM 1.1 - GRADE II) - (01 VACANCY)

**Qualifications:**

Vocational/ Professional :

(a) (i) Certificate of National Diploma in Technology (NDT) relevant to the field of Civil Works issued by the University of Moratuwa.

**Or**

(ii) Any other Diploma in Technology relevant to the field of Civil Works not below the N.V.Q. Level-5 of a University/ Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy.

**And**

(c) Minimum of 10 years post qualifying experience in the field of Civil Works of a Public/Corporation/Board/ Statutory Body/ Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 33,540/- 600/- x 10, 905/- x 18 - 55,830/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 69,279/-)

**Age Limit:** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 6). INTERNAL AUDIT OFFICER (JM 1.1 GRADE II) - (01 VACANCY)

**Degree Holders :**

(a) BSc Special Degree in Commerce/Accountancy/ Business Administration or equivalent qualifications of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission,

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy,

**And**

(c) Minimum of 03 years post qualifying experience in the field of Auditing/ Accounting of a Public/ Corporation/ Board/ Statutory Body/ Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Vocational/ Professional :**

(a) (i) Intermediate Level of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL)/ Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)/ Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants (ACCA) or equivalent qualifications of an Institution recognized by a Professional Body

**Or**

(ii) AAT Full qualification

**Or**

(iii) Higher National Diploma in Accountancy of a Government Technical College.

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy

**And**

(a) Minimum of 03 years post qualifying experience in the field of Auditing/ Accounting of a Public/ Corporation/ Board/ Statutory Body/ Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 33,540/- 600/- x 10, 905/- x 18 - 55,830/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 69,279/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 7). PROCUREMENT OFFICER (JM 1.1 - GRADE II) - (03 VACANCIES)

**Qualifications :**

(a) BSc General Degree including the subject of Chemistry / BSc Special Degree in Chemistry or equivalent qualifications of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy

**And**

(c) Minimum of one year post qualifying experience in the field of Procurement of Tenders of a Public/ Corporation/Board/ Statutory Body/ Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 33,540/- 600/- x 10, 905/- x 18 - 55,830/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 69,279/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 8). DISTRIBUTION OFFICER (JM 1.1 - GRADE II) - (01 VACANCY)

**Qualifications :**

(a) (i) Bachelor's Degree in Marketing/ Commerce/ Business Administration of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**Or**

(ii) Any other equivalent Degree of a University/ Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy

**And**

(c) Minimum of one year (01) post qualifying experience in the field of Marketing/ Sales/ Distribution of a Public/ Corporation/ Board/ Statutory Body/ Reputed Mercantile establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 33,540/- 600/- x 10, 905/- x 18 - 55,830/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 69,279/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 9). PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY OFFICER (JM 1.1 - GRADE II) - (01 VACANCY)

**Qualifications :**

(a) I. Bachelor's Degree or Bachelor's Degree relevant to the field of Mass Communication of a University/ Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission,

**Or**

II. Any other equivalent Degree of a University/ Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy

**And**

(c) Minimum of one year post qualifying experience relevant to the field of Mass Communication/ Mass Media of a Public/ Corporation/ Board/ Statutory Body/ Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 33,540/- 600/- x 10, 905/- x 18 - 55,830/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 69,279/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 10). OFFICER - IN - CHARGE, RAJYA OSU SALA (JM 1.1 - GRADE II) - (10 VACANCIES)

**Qualifications :**

(a) (i) Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy of a University recognized by the University Grants Commission.

**Or**

(ii) Any other equivalent Degree of a University/ Institution recognized by the University grants Commission.

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy

**And**

(c) Minimum of one year post qualifying experience as a Pharmacist of a Public/ Corporation/Board/ Statutory Body/ Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 33,540/- 600/- x 10, 905/- x 18 - 55,830/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 69,279/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 11). MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (PHARMACIST) (MA 2.1 - GRADE III) - (12 VACANCIES)

**Vocational Qualification**

(a) Certificate of Registration as a Pharmacist awarded by the Sri Lanka Medical Council, not below the N.V.Q. Level 5, with a minimum of 01 year post qualifying experience in dispensing at a registered Pharmacy of a Public/ Corporation/ Board/ reputed Mercantile establishment.

**And**

(b) Computer Literacy

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 23,881/- 240/- x 10, 280/- x 7, 390/- x 4, 530/- x 20 - 40,401/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 56,239/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 12). MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (PHARMACIST ASSISTANT) (MA1.1), GRADE III - (03 VACANCIES)

**Qualifications :**

(a) Having passed the G. C. E. (O/L) examination in six subjects within one sitting.

**And**

(b) Having passed the G.C.E. (A/L) examination other than the General Knowledge Paper within one sitting.

**And**

(c) Being a registered apprentice Pharmacist in Ceylon Medical College Council

**And**

(d) 02 years experience as a Trainee Pharmacist of a registered Pharmacy, after registration in Ceylon Medical College Council.

**And**

(e) Computer literacy

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 21,970/- 240/- x 10, 280/- x 7, 390/- x 4, 530/- x 20 - 38,490/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 53,659/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 13). MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT) (MA 1.1 - GRADE III) (02 VACANCIES)

**Qualifications :**

(a) Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, English, Mathematics/Arithmetic/Commercial Arithmetic and 01 other subject at the GCE (O/L) Examination, within not more than two sittings.

**And**

(b) (i) Passes in at least 02 subjects including Chemistry (other than the General Paper) at the GCE (A/L) Examination (New Syllabus),

**Or**

(ii) Passes in 03 subjects including Chemistry at the GCE (A/L) Examination-(Old Syllabus),

**And**

(c) Computer Literacy

**And**

(d) Three years post qualifying experience in production work of a Public/ Corporation/ Board/ reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 21,970/- 240/- x 10, 280/- x 7, 390/- x 4, 530/- x 20 - 38,490/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 53,659/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 14). MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (CASHIER) - (MA - 1.1), GRADE III - (03 VACANCIES)

**Qualifications :**

(a) Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, English, Mathematics/ Commercial Arithmetic & 01 other subject at the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination within, not more than two sittings.

**And**

(b) (i) Passes in at least 02 Commerce subjects (Other than the General Paper) at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (New Syllabus),

**Or**

(ii) Passes in 03 Commerce subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (Old Syllabus)

**And**

(c) Computer Literacy

**And**

(d) Minimum of three years post qualifying experience as a Cashier of a Public/ Corporation/ Board/ Reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 21,970/- 240/- x 10, 280/- x 7, 390/- x 4, 530/- x 20 - 38,490/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 53,659/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 15). MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (STORE KEEPER) (MA 1.1 - GRADE III) - (09 VACANCIES)

**Qualifications :**

1.1 Educational :

(a) Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil, English, Mathematics and 01 other subject at the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination, within not more than two sittings.

**And**

(b) i) Passes in at least 02 subjects (other than the General Paper) at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (New Syllabus)

**Or**

ii) Passes in 03 subjects at the GCE (A/L) Examination - (Old Syllabus)

**And**

(a) Computer Literacy,

**And**

(b) Three years post qualifying experience as a Store Keeper of a Public/ Corporation/ Board/reputed Mercantile Establishment.

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 21,970/- 240/- x 10, 280/- x 7, 390/- x 4, 530/- x 20 - 38,490/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 53,659/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.

### 16). MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (STENO/ TYPIST - ENGLISH) MA 1.1 GRADE III (06 VACANCIES)

(a) Passes in 06 subjects with 04 credits including Sinhala/Tamil/ English, Mathematics and 02 other subjects at the GCE (O/L) Examination, within not more than two sittings.

**And**

(b) (i) Passes in at least 02 subjects (other than the General paper) at the GCE (A/L) Examination (New Syllabus),

**Or**

(ii) Passes in 03 subjects at the GCE (A/L) Examination - (Old Syllabus).

**And**

(c) Should have a typing speed of 40 w.p.m. and shorthand speed of 70 w.p.m. in English.

**And**

(d) Computer Literacy

**Salary Scale :** Rs. 21,970/- 240/- x 10, 280/- x 7, 390/- x 4, 530/- x 20 - 38,490/- (Approximate monthly remuneration will be around Rs. 53,659/-)

**Age Limit :** Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to Internal Candidates.



## TENDER NOTICE

### South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd

#### Repair of Electric Motors, Starter Motors & Alternators

**Tender No: LCL-017-2020**

South Asia Gateway Terminals (Private) Limited (SAGT), a container terminal operator operating within the Port of Colombo invites sealed bids from prospective bidders for Repairing Electric Motors, Starter Motors & Alternators. Details of items to be repaired are as follows :

- 01) Brake Thrusters 220/240 V
- 02) RAM Spreader Motors 11 kW
- 03) Electric Motor 15 kW
- 04) Electric Motor 18.5 kW
- 05) Electric Motor 22 kW
- 06) Electric Motor 55 kW
- 07) Electric Motor 35 kW
- 08) Alternator PM (Cummins Engine)
- 09) Alternator RTG Engine (Cummins Engine)
- 10) Starter Motor

- A pre-bid meeting will be held at 11.30 am on 29th September 2020 at South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd (Third Floor), Port of Colombo, Colombo 01. As port entry permit is required to enter port premises, please contact T.P. 077-2457262 or 071-6011868 to arrange port entry passes on or before 28th September 2020.
- Sealed offers can be sent by email to [quotations@sagt.com.lk](mailto:quotations@sagt.com.lk) or by physically handing over to SAGT security counter at the Mackinnons Building, No 11, York Street, Colombo 01 at or before 3.00 pm on 06th October 2020.
- Tender scope has been available on the SAGT website ([www.sagt.com.lk](http://www.sagt.com.lk)) under E-Services.
- State the tender number on all related documents such as quotations, invoice etc.

**South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd**  
**PO Box 141, Port of Colombo, Colombo 01.**  
**T.P. 011-2457273/292**  
**Email : [quotations@sagt.com.lk](mailto:quotations@sagt.com.lk)**



## MINISTRY OF TRADE THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENT

### Invitation for Bids for the revaluation of fixed assets of Co-operative Wholesale Establishment

Bids are invited from reputed institutes that revaluable fixed assets for the revaluation of the fixed deposits of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment.

Relevant Tender documents could be obtained from the Procurement Division upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/- to the Cashier at Head Office.

A refundable tender deposit of Rs. 15,000/- should be paid when submitting tenders. This payment should be paid to the Chief Cashier at the Head Office of C.W.E. before 12.00 noon on 14.10.2020.

Sealed Bids on a letterhead should be deposited in the Tender Box No. 20 before 2.00 p.m. on 14.10.2020 and bids will be opened at the same time.

Tender Board reserves the right of final decision.

**Chairman,  
 Procurement Committee,  
 The Co-operative Wholesale Establishment,  
 No. 27, Vauxhall Street,  
 Colombo-02.**  
 16.09.2020

40 years



## THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

### Invitation for Bids

#### PROVIDING OF PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICE FOR CENTRAL CAMPUS & COLOMBO REGIONAL CENTER OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA (2020/2021)

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) invites sealed bids from reputed establishment for providing of Private Security Service for Central Campus & Colombo Regional Center of the Open University of Sri Lanka (2020/2021).

Interested bidders can obtain bidding documents from the Senior Assistant Registrar / General Administration of the OUSL on submission of receipts issued by the Shroff of the OUSL for payment of **Rs. 5,000.00 as non-refundable tender fees** from 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 between 09:00 hours to 14:00 hours on working days. All Bids shall be accompanied a **Bid Security amount of Rs. 100,000.00 to cover a period of 121 days.** (Up to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021) The bid security should be obtained from a commercial bank registered under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in favor of "Vice Chancellor, The Open University of Sri Lanka" or paid by cash to the University Shroff.

Bidding documents prepared in English Language and duly filled bidding documents (**both Envelope 1 - Qualification and Experience Information and Envelop 2 - Financial Bid separately**) marked "Envelope 1 - Qualification and Experience Information" and "Envelope 2 - Financial Bid" in two separate sealed envelopes, putting in one sealed envelope, marked "Providing of Private Security Service for Colombo Regional Center & Central Campus of the Open University of Sri Lanka" on the top left corner of the envelope should either be sent by Registered Post to the address given below or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the General Administration Division of the OUSL to be received **before 1400 hours on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.** Late bids will not be accepted under any circumstances.

**Bids will be opened on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 1400 hours** at the Board Room of the Registrar's office of OUSL in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

Further clarifications can be obtained from the Senior Assistant Registrar/General Administration (Telephone No. 0112881209) of the Open University of Sri Lanka during working days.

**Chairman,  
 Department Procurement Committee,  
 The Open University of Sri Lanka,  
 General Administration,  
 Nawala, Nugegoda.  
 20.09.2020**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS



இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
 இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
**CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA**

### TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF 2 NOS. OF FIREWALLS FOR THE CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

1. Sealed quotations are invited for the purchase of 2 nos. of firewalls for the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) from tenderers who have supplied and are maintaining the tendered brand(s) of firewalls in Sri Lanka during the 3 years ended on 30. 06. 2020. The tenderers should be accredited agents for the offered brand.

#### Tender Details

<b>Bid Security</b>	Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft of Rs. 50,000/=
<b>Issuing Bidding Documents</b>	0900 Hrs. - 1500 Hrs. From 09 September 2020 - 29 September 2020 Mail Room, Ground Floor CBSL Head Office Building, Colombo 01
<b>Bid-Closing Time &amp; Date</b>	1430 Hrs. - 30 September 2020

2. Bidding documents may be inspected **free of charge** and collected by producing a letter of request made on a business letterhead.
3. For further details, you may contact
  - a. Senior Assistant Secretary/Procurement - Tel: 0112398754 (For procurement matters)
  - b. Senior Assistant Director/IT - Tel: 0112477124 (For technical matters)

The Secretary

Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No. 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01

## LANDS REQUIRED

**60+ PERCHES LANDS FACING A GRADE AND B GRADE ROADS ARE REQUIRED ACROSS THE ISLAND. (FOR LONG TERM LEASE)**

Contact: 0766443364  
 cineland.inm@gmail.com

## CORRECTION NOTICE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

**Bid for Design, Supply and Installation of Fire Detection and Fire Protection Systems for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.**

Contract No. DHQC/FP&FD 04/2020

This refers to the above titled advertisement published on page No. 30 of Sunday Observer on 13 September 2020. Please note that item No. 09 should be corrected as follows:

9. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the bid box placed at the address below at or before 10.00 hrs on 12.10.2020, late bids will be rejected.

Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. The other contents remain unchanged.

**The Chairman,  
 Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)  
 Ministry of Defence  
 No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,  
 Colombo 03, Sri Lanka  
 Tele. 0094-011-2390719**



## PEOPLE'S MICRO-COMMERCE LTD

(Subsidiary of People's Bank)

### SALE OF VEHICLES & MACHINERIES

#### MOTOR BIKES

VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	YARD	VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	YARD
WP-BFQ-907X	BAJAJ CT 100	2017	Maradana	NC-BFS-922X	TVS SCOOTY PEP	2017	Galewela
WP-BGY-779X	BAJAJ CT 100	2018	Maradana	WP-BFI-400X	TVS SCOOTY PEP	2017	Maradana
NC-BFY-383X	BAJAJ CT 100	2017	Galewela	WP-BGO-794X	TVS STRYKER	2017	Maradana
SG-BGV-776X	BAJAJ PLATINA ES UG	2018	Maradana	EP-BGC-302X	TVS WEGO	2017	Monaragala
UP-BFO-704X	BAJAJ PULSAR 150	2017	Maradana	WP-BFV-384X	TVS WEGO	2017	Maradana
NC-BUI-859X	BAJAJ PULSAR 150 NEO	2019	Galewela	UP-BFT-084X	YAMAHA FZ ver.2	2017	Monaragala
WP-ABU-151X	BAJAJ RE- SB	2019	Maradana	SP-BGL-783X	YAMAHA RAY - ZR	2018	Maradana
NC-BFO-896X	HERO DASH	2017	Galewela	SP-BFY-132X	YAMAHA RAY ZR	2017	Maradana
NW-BFN-931X	HERO HF - DELUXE	2017	Maradana	WP-BGL-177X	YAMAHA RAY ZR DISK	2018	Maradana
EP-BFW-134X	HERO HF - DELUXE	2017	Galewela	SP-BHH-538X	YAMAHA RAY ZR-DISK	2018	Monaragala
SG-BGC-328X	HERO I SMART 110	2017	Maradana	UP-BFI-252X	HERO GLAMOUR	2017	Monaragala
NW-BGW-636X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2018	Galewela	SG-BDP-132X	TVS METRO	2016	Maradana
UP-BFU-905X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2018	Monaragala	CP-BHE-863X	BAJAJ PULSAR 135 LS	2018	Maradana
WP-BGD-977X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2017	Maradana	SP-BEJ-607X	MAHINDRA CENTURO	2016	Maradana
SG-BFY-177X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2017	Maradana	WP-BFI-300X	HONDA TWISTER	2016	Maradana
SG-BGQ-571X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2018	Monaragala	UP-BGD-361X	TVS METRO	2016	Monaragala
EP-BGM-260X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2018	Monaragala	UP-BEA-084X	BAJAJ PLATINA	2015	Monaragala
SG-BGE-719X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2017	Maradana	SG-BBE-104X	BAJAJ DISCOVER 125M	2014	Maradana
SP-BGC-459X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2017	Maradana	UP-BDT-220X	DEMARK D7	2014	Maradana
SG-BGD-742X	HERO PLEASURE	2017	Maradana	SG-BAE-010X	BAJAJ PLATINA	2012	Maradana
NC-BGM-141X	HONDA DIO	2018	Galewela	SG-BAM-406X	BAJAJ DISCOVER 125	2013	Maradana
NC-BIF-449X	HONDA DIO APDR 6	2019	Galewela	CP-BAX-956X	HERO I SMART 110	2014	Maradana
SP-BHW-133X	HONDA DIO APDR 6	2019	Maradana	SG-BDU-903X	TVS METRO	2016	Maradana
CP-BHX-694X	HONDA DIO APDR 6	2019	Galewela	NC-BBC-390X	BAJAJ PLATINA	2014	Maradana
UP-BFL-745X	HONDA TWISTER	2017	Maradana				
WP-BDW-906X	MAHINDRA GUSTOVX	2016	Maradana				
SP-BHA-893X	TVS METRO	2018	Maradana				
SP-BHG-967X	TVS NTORQ	2018	Maradana				

- Vehicle and the documents will be delivered as they are
- Available information of the vehicle will be displayed in the windscreen of each vehicle.
- Visit [www.pml.lk](http://www.pml.lk) to see the pictures of vehicles.
- The full payment or any alternate arrangements should be made within 3 days from the date of advance
- Payment to get the vehicle released.
- No refund of advance payment will be entertained in any circumstances.

#### Time & Period of inspection

18th, 19th, 20th, 21st & 22nd September 2020 9.00a.m - 4.00p.m (All Below mentioned Yards)  
**Tender will be closed on 22nd September 2020 by 4.00 p.m**

#### Venues of inspection

- ☑ Maradana - In front of Colombo Municipal Council Work Shop, (Former Gamini Hall), Darley Road, Maradana.
- ☑ Galewela - People's Leasing Vehicle Yard & Sale Center, Ketalagolla, Beligamuwa, Galewela. (T.P.066-2287355)
- ☑ Monaragala - People's Leasing Co. PLC, Monaragala (T.P.055-2277485)

Offers to be addressed to  
 Chief Executive Officer  
**PEOPLE'S LEASING & FINANCE PLC**  
 No. 1161, Maradana Road, Colombo 08.

\* Offers will be informed to successful bidders after 07 days of opening the tender box.

Offers could be placed to Tender Boxes at our Vehicle Yards & Head Office or sent under registered cover or hand delivered marked "Sale of Vehicles" (Registration No. of the vehicle offered) on the left hand corner of the cover and should reach to the above address on or before 22nd September 2020 before 4.00 p.m. Chief Executive Officer of the People's Leasing & Finance PLC, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the offers without any reason being given for such rejections. Tender forms can be obtained from our Head office at Borella, Branches or at our vehicle yards, after paying non refundable Rs.750/- for each.

#### Tender Section

**People's Leasing & Finance PLC.**  
 Tel: 011 2631631 Fax: 011 2631593

Vehicle yards - Maradana Tel: 011 2688026 Makola Tel: 011 2964300 Mabima Tel: 011 2401031  
 Galewela Tel: 066-2287355 Monaragala Tel: 055-2277485

## A Revolution in Emergency Healthcare in Sri Lanka

Call 1990 for free 24-hour pre hospital care ambulance service

This service is now implemented island-wide. Lake House is proud to partner this initiative.



# AMENDMENT FOR THE INVITATION FOR BIDS

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### CAPITAL OVERHAUL, PROGRAMMED DEPOT MAINTENANCE (PDM), MAJOR OVERHAUL AND SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION OF AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS OF THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

1. This is with reference to the Procurement Notice published in Silumina, Varamanjari and Sunday Observer Newspaper on 12 July 2020, the closing date of the following bids have been amended as follows;

Procurement Identification Number	Description	Date and time of Bid closing / opening	
		Delete	Insert
AHQ/19/FR/M17/1015	Capital Overhaul of SMH-4419 MI-171E Helicopter	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at 1400Hrs	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020 at 1400Hrs
AHQ/19/FR/M17/1016	Capital Overhaul of SMH-4429 MI-171E Helicopter	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 1400Hrs	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2020 at 1400Hrs
AHQ/18/FR/HRC/1009	Programmed Depot Maintenance (PDM) of SCH-880 C-130 Aircraft	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at 1100Hrs	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020 at 1100Hrs
AHQ/17/FR/ANT/1008	Major Overhaul and Service Life Extension of SCM-868 AN-32B Aircraft	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 1100Hrs	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2020 at 1100Hrs

- The period for the site inspection of aircrafts and helicopters is extended till **07<sup>th</sup> October 2020** between **0900hrs to 1500hrs** on every working day.
- Last date of issuing of bids will be **21<sup>st</sup> October 2020**.
- All other matters in the notice will remain unchanged.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Procurement Officer (Tel. 011-2325468) or Procurement Officer Tenders (Tel. 011-2441553 or 011-2441044 Extension 23569 Fax: 011- 2441553 and 011-2347694).

**Air Force Headquarters,  
P.O. Box 1592  
Colombo 02**

**COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE**



## SRILANKAN AIRLINES LTD PROCUREMENT NOTICE

**REFERENCE NO: CPIT/ICB 06/2020**  
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE PROVISIONING OF A FULLY AUTOMATED MAINTENANCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (MIMS) FOR ENGINEERING DIVISION

**REFERENCE NO: CPIT/ICB 08/2020**  
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE PROVISIONING OF AN AUTOMATED CREW SCHEDULING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**REFERENCE NO: CPIT/ICB 11/2020**  
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE SOFTWARE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, REVAMP AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CORPORATE MOBILE APPLICATION

The bidding forms could be downloaded directly from the following link  
[https://www.srilankan.com/en\\_uk/corporate/tender-notices](https://www.srilankan.com/en_uk/corporate/tender-notices)  
with effect from 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 after 10.00 am Sri Lankan time (GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

Bid closing date: 03<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at 11.00 am Sri Lankan time (GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
ON BEHALF OF SRILANKAN AIRLINES LIMITED**



## DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

**Strategic Cities Development Project (Credit Number: 5428lk)**

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Procurement of a Specialist Sub Contractor for

#### **Fabrication and Installation of Replicas of Historic Cannons, Artillery Guns, Mounting Carriages and Associated Accessories at Galle Fort Under Rehabilitation of Fort Rampart – Package 2**

**SCDP/WB/WK/GL/08a**

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Strategic Cities Development Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Procurement of a Specialist Sub Contractor for Fabrication and Installation of Replicas of Historic Cannons, Artillery Guns, Mounting Carriages and Associated Accessories at the Galle Fort (Contract No. SCDP/WB/WK/GL/08a) which shall be executed as a part of the contract; Rehabilitation of Fort Rampart – Package 2 (Contract No. SCDP/WB/WK/GL/08), currently under implementation in Galle.
- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the said works as described below.

Contract Title	Non-Refundable Bid Fee per set of Bidding Document	Construction Period	Engineering Estimate (LKR)	Amount of Bid Security	Liquid Assets (LKR)
<b>Contract Title:</b> Procurement of a Specialist Sub Contractor for Fabrication and Installation of Replicas of Historic Cannons, Artillery Guns, Mounting Carriages and Associated Accessories at Galle Fort Under Rehabilitation of Fort Rampart – Package 2 <b>Contract No.</b> SCDP/WB/WK/GL/08a	Rs.8,000/=	6 months (180 Days)	31.0 Mn	Rs.310,000/=	15.5 Mn

The work comprises of fabrication of replicas of historic Cannons, Artillery Guns, Mounting Carriages and Associated Accessories and installation of same at the locations identified for each replica, within the historic Galle Fort, as specified in the bidding documents.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure. As specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits (January 2011 edition) and **Following Two Envelope System**.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Eligible bidder must meet the following General and Specific criteria:
  - The bidder shall possess a valid Business Registration.
  - The bidder (owner of the individual) shall be a graduate, with a Bachelor's degree B.FA (Sculpture) from a recognized university. If the bidder is a company, a permanent employee of the company shall possess a bachelor's degree B.FA (Sculpture) from a recognized university.
  - The bidder (Owner of the individual or a permanent employee of the company) shall possess not less than 10 years post qualifying work experience in following fields:
    - Preparation of models of objects to be replicated, for replication without taking a mould/cast directly from the object and by studying the drawings, sketches, photographs etc.
    - Production of faithful replicas to scale, of hollow archaeological objects or historic structures and more than 1.0 meter in length, width or height.
    - Production of structurally durable (with structural reinforcements), aesthetically appealing and environmentally and socially robust replicas for outdoor display.
    - Production of replicas using UV resistant fiber mat and resin mixture.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Project Director (Contract Administration), Tel: 011-2887 320-2, Facsimile: 0112-868188, E-mail: modscdp@gmail.com and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Strategic Cities Development Project at 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla from **21.09.2020** until **13.10.2020** between 09.00hrs & 15.00hrs on week days.
- A Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **29. 09. 2020 at 11.30 a.m.** at Strategic Cities Development Project office at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Central Shopping Complex, Talbot Town, Galle. A site visit will be conducted at 9.30 a.m. by the Employer before the Pre-Bid meeting.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Project Director, Strategic Cities Development Project, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla from **21. 09. 2020 until 13. 10. 2020** from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on week days. Upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned above, by cash at Strategic Cities Development Project, 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla.
- A Bid Security shall be required for the amount mentioned above as specified in ITB 17.1 of the Bid Documents in the currencies and forms specified as therein and bids must be delivered to the Strategic Cities Development Project, 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla at or before 2.00 p.m., on **14. 10.2020**.
- Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

**The Chairman  
Project Procurement Committee (PPC)  
Strategic Cities Development Project  
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya I, Battaramulla**

## Expression of Interest



STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS

SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### CALLING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR MECHANIZED VERTICAL CAR PARKING SYSTEMS IN IDENTIFIED CITIES PROCUREMENT NO. S/568/20

- Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC) under the State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness, was initially a body corporate duly established under the Colombo District (low lying areas) Development Board Act No. 15 of 1968 as amended by Law No. 27 of 1976, Act No. 52 of 1982 and Act 35 of 2006.
- When urban development is concerned, car parking limitations in the urban cities were identified as a key issue which requires an immediate attention. In order to address this issue, it is proposed to operate mechanized vertical car parking systems in identified cities for facilitating parking for about 2000 vehicles.
- SLLDC is in search of potential Investors to Finance, Construct, and Operate such mentioned vertical car parking systems by calling an Expression of Interest (EOI). The requirement for the Investors is to execute the project on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. SLLDC shall provide the land required for the Investors.
- Interested potential Investors are minimally required to submit the following details.
  - Detailed Company Profile
  - Past Experience in similar projects along with details
  - Financial Competency along with audited financial statements for recent past 3 years
- The EOI shall be submitted in a one sealed envelope and the subject of the EOI shall be written in the top left corner of the envelope and shall be delivered to the following address or can be sent by registered post to reach on or before 09<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 13:30hrs.
 

Chairman – Procurement Committee,  
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation,  
No. 03, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Welikada,  
Rajagiriya,
- Interested parties shall obtain further information from;
 

Deputy General Manager (Planning & Business Development)  
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation  
No. 03, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya  
Telephone: +94 71 4557796, +94 71 2117359 Fax: +94 11 2861170  
E-mail: [pbd@sllrdc.lk](mailto:pbd@sllrdc.lk)

**Chairman – Procurement Committee  
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation  
No. 03, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya  
Head Office Tel : 0112 889485-7 Web : [www.landdevelopment.lk](http://www.landdevelopment.lk)**





DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

## Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

### Strategic Cities Development Project (Credit Number: 5428lk)

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### Kandy Lakeside Walkability Improvements - Phase II

SCDP/WB/WK/KD/54

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Strategic Cities Development Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for **Kandy Lakeside Walkability Improvements - Phase II**.
- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the said works as described below:

Contract Title	Non-Refundable Bid Fee per set of Bidding Document	Construction Period	Engineering Estimate (LKR)	Amount of Bid Security
Kandy Lakeside Walkability Improvements - Phase II (SCDP/WB/WK/KD/54)	Rs.25,000/=	6 months (180 Days)	120.0 Mn	Rs.1,200,000/=

The scope of work consists of improvements to the Kandy Lakeside with demolition and removal of existing hard landscaping comprising paving, electrical works, plumbing works etc and refurbishment of hard landscaping comprising relaying of paving, soft landscaping, electrical works, plumbing works from Zone 19 to Zone 22.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following qualification requirements:

CIDA Minimum Grade & Field of Specialization	Average Annual Construction Turn Over for the last 5 years	Liquid Assets and/or Credit Facilities required	Specific Construction Experience of similar Nature within last 5 years
C3 or above in the specialty of Highway Construction	> Rs.240.0 Mn	> Rs.60.0 Mn	Two Contracts, each of minimum value LKR 100.0 Million performed after 1st January 2015

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Eng. U.R.N. Rathnayake, Civil Engineer (Mobile: 071 9258862 Tel: 011-2887 321-22, Facsimile: 0112-868188, E-mail: modscdp@gmail.com) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Strategic Cities Development Project at 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla from **21.09.2020** until **12.10.2020** from 09.00hrs to 15.00 hrs on weekdays.
- A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **30.09.2020 at 11.00 a.m.** at Strategic Cities Development Project Office at No.274, George E De Silva Mawatha, Kandy. A site visit will be conducted at 9.00 a.m. by the Employer before the Pre-Bid meeting.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Project Director, Strategic Cities Development Project, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla from **21.09.2020 until 12.10.2020** from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on weekdays upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned above, by cash at Strategic Cities Development Project, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla.
- A Bid Security shall be required for the amount mentioned above as specified in ITB 17.1 of the Bid Documents in the currencies and forms specified as therein and bids must be delivered to the Strategic Cities Development Project, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla at or before 2.00 p.m. on **13.10.2020**.

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

**The Chairman**  
Project Procurement Committee (PPC)  
Strategic Cities Development Project  
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla.

## STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA



### PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites sealed quotations from registered and previous sources for following items and bids will be closed at the respective times on the dates given below and will be opened immediately thereafter.

**(E-mail/Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable)**

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

#### SURGICAL SPECIAL ITEMS

Tender No.	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item	Quantity
DHS/RSS/RQ/5/21	09.10.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Consumables	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/72/20	25.09.2020	2.00 pm	Soft clotheliner tape	70,000 Roll
DHS/RSS/RQ/73/20	02.10.2020	2.00 pm	Retractor, Valve, for Off Pump Coronary Bypass Graft (OPCABG) Surgery, Octopus type or similar, with flexible arm, stainless steel.	02 Nos
DHS/RSS/RQ/74/20	02.10.2020	2.00 pm	N95 Particulate Filtering Face Mask	20,000 Nos
DHS/RSS/RQ/76/20	09.10.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Consumables	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/77/20	09.10.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Consumables	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/200/19	02.10.2020	2.00 pm	Vascular Retrieval Forceps, flexible, Cook type or similar, size 3F, 120cm(approx.) length, sterile.	10 Nos
DHS/RSS/RQ/205/19	25.09.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Consumables	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding Documents available at the Head Office of State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the award.

**CHAIRMAN - PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE**  
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA  
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA  
COLOMBO 1,  
SRI LANKA.

FAX : 00 94-11-2335008 / 2344082  
TELEPHONE : 00 94-11-2335008 / 2326227 / 2335374  
E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk



## Ministry of the Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government

### National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka

## Calling Applications for Obtaining Urgent Services

National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka (NHRDC) is an organisation functioning under the purview of the Ministry of the Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government. Make recommendations to the minister, on plans and programmes on human resource development, in accordance with the national policy, for submission to the government is a key duty of NHRDC in terms of Act No. 18 of 1997.

Accordingly, NHRDC expects to establish a Pool of Experts urgently, including specialists /experts at National, Provincial and District level in national human resource development policies and research with special reference to,

- 1) Labour Market 2) TVET Sector 3) Education 4) Employment 5) Human Resource Development 6) Science and Technology 7) Poverty Eradication 8) Social Protection 09) Population 10) Professional Development 11) Small and Medium Enterprises Development 12) Law Reforms 13) Management Information System/Data Science.

Please submit your CV along with the copies of following certificates under registered post to reach the Chairman, National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka, 354/2, 7th Floor, "Nipunatha Piyasa", Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 on or before 03/10/2020. "Application for Obtaining urgent services" should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

- Educational Qualifications, Professional Qualifications, Experience, Awards and Achievements, Service Certificates, Key Competencies

**Note:** This is not a permanent position and your service will be obtained according to the requirement of the NHRDC. Please indicate your preference level (National/Provincial/District) in CV. Payments will be made according to the Public Finance Circular No.01/2020. This circular can be viewed in the NHRDC website.

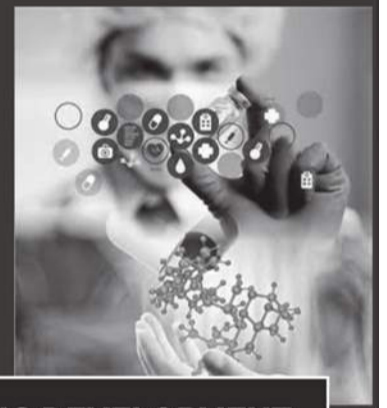
**Chairman,**  
**National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka**  
**354/2, 7th Floor, "Nipunatha Piyasa",**  
**Elvitigala Mawatha,**  
**Colombo 05.**

Telephone : 0112-595680

## SANDS ACTIVE (PVT) LTD

A Pharmaceutical company of Melwa group (Sri Lanka's leading steel manufacturer and distributor in civil construction industry)

Melwa group has several functions contributing to the country's economy and greatly to the employees. We have several key achievements and plans for a lot more for the future. We are looking for the right candidates to be a part of our growth in pharmaceutical space



### ANALYTICAL DEVELOPMENT LAB EXECUTIVE

- Hands on experience to Analytical Method Development, transfer and validation for new dosage (OSD and parenteral powder) forms.
- Knowledge of Cleaning method development and validation as per MACO value.
- Good knowledge of technical documentation as per Pharmacopoeia / Regulatory norms like COA, Specification (API, Excipients, Drug products), Test methods, Analytical method development /Validation reports and others for API and drug products.
- Hands on knowledge and trouble shooting of analytical instruments like HPLC, FTIR, GC, KF Titrator, Dissolution tester (USP Type-1, 2, 3, 6), etc. as well as their qualification and calibration.
- Adequate skill on data compilation as well as compliance of GLP and GDP.
- Knowledge of ICH, PIC/S, WHO Guideline as well USP, BP, Ph.Eur., IP, etc.
- Analysis of routine, In-process, stability samples with zero error within timeline.
- Knowledge of packing material analysis would be an added advantage.
- 3-4 years' experience in the particular field.

### R&D CHEMIST (Formulation)

- In detailed Literature search for Drug, Drug products, Packaging material as per New Product Proposal or PIF request.
- Innovator sample evaluation, Preparation of QTPP, CQA, and CPP and follow QbD. approach of product development as per ICH Q8 guidelines.
- Finalization of trade dress with necessary approval.
- Preparation of project plan and necessary approval
- Lab scale equipment handling like Sifter, RMG, FBD, Size reduction mill, Compression machine, Auto coater, Blister packaging machine, etc. Exposure to trouble shooting, routine and qualification.
- Identify RM, PM, Tooling materials as well as suppliers
- 3-4 years experience in the particular field.

### PACKAGING DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

- Experienced in artwork design for Blister, Carton, labels, shipper, leaflet, etc.
- Good exposure in packing equipment like Blister pack, Bottle pack, Cartonator, etc.
- Good knowledge of packaging material like Base film (PVC/PVDC), Lidding foil (Aluminium, Glassine paper, etc.), HDPE bottle, PET bottle, LDPE bags, TLSB bags, Glass bottle, Rubber closures, etc. as per pharmacopoeia.
- Knowledge on anti-counterfeiting measures.
- Preparation of packaging documents like Master Packaging Record/ Batch Packaging Record, etc.
- Should be well versed with Word, Excel. Knowledge of Artwork design software like Corel or Advance.
- Experience in FMCG will be an added advantage.
- 6-7 years experience in relevant field.

### QC CHEMIST

- Analysis of Purified water, Raw material, Packaging material, In-Process, Finished Product, Stability samples as per Standard Test Procedures or Pharmacopoeia.
- Hands on knowledge and trouble shoot of core analytical instruments with their operating software like HPLC/UHPLC, UV, FTIR, Karl-Fischer titrator, Dissolution tester (USP Type-1, 2, 3, 6). GC handling would be an added advantage.
- Qualification of instruments and routine calibration and maintenance.
- Good knowledge on GLP, GMP and Laboratory Safety.
- Preparation of SOPs of Analytical instruments & laboratory controls.
- Sampling of inventory at warehouse.
- 3-4 years' experience in the particular field.

A competitive and attractive remuneration package exceeding current industry standards is on offer based on individual competencies and skills. Good career growth prospects are available for the selected candidate

If you think you possess the required attributes to carry out the scope of work detailed above, forward your CV to

**hr@melwire.com**

within 7 days of the advertisement or please post it to  
**No.21 Temple Road, Ekala, Ja ela.**

**The Housewives' companion**  
**Classifieds on**  
**Daily News**



### PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

#### STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka will receive sealed Bids for supply of following items to the Department of Health Services.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of issuing of Bid Documents	Non-refundable Bid Fee LKR
DHS/L/WW/183/20	02.11.2020 At 9.00 am	Ethyl Alcohol (Absolute) and Methyl Alcohol Absolute AR	22.09.2020	20,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/266/21	04.11.2020 At 9.00 am	Dental Consumables	22.09.2020	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/267/21	04.11.2020 At 9.00 am	Non Absorbable Surgical Suture - Various sizes	22.09.2020	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/268/21	04.11.2020 At 9.00 am	Molar Bands, various sizes	22.09.2020	3,000/- + taxes

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective Bidders on working days between 0930 hours and 1500 hours at the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Head Office, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bidding Document Fee per set as mentioned above. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary potential Bidder/Bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 before collecting the Bidding Documents and also should get the contract registered after the Tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the Box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the Mezzanine Floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

**Bids will be closed at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter.** Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding documents are being sent to Sri Lanka Missions abroad and foreign missions in Sri Lanka.

**CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE,  
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA,  
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA, COLOMBO 1, SRI LANKA.  
TEL/FAX: 00 94-11-2335008 E-MAIL: dgmsurgical@spc.lk**



### PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

#### STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka will receive sealed bids for supply of following item to the Department of Health Services for year 2020.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of issuing of Bid Documents	Non-refundable Bid Fee
DHS/P/WW/743/19	03.11.2020 at 9.00 am	1,000,000 Tablets of Co-amoxiclav Tablet BP 375mg	21.09.2020	Rs. 3,000/= + Taxes

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours and 1500 hours at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bid Fee per set as mentioned above. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever applicable, potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bidding Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

**Bids will be closed at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter.**

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding Documents are being sent to Sri Lanka missions abroad and foreign missions in Sri Lanka also.

**CHAIRMAN- DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE  
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA  
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA  
COLOMBO 1  
SRI LANKA.**

**FAX : 00 94-11- 2344082  
TELEPHONE : 00 94-11-2326227/94-11-2335374  
E-MAIL : pharma.manager@spc.lk**

### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

#### OBTAINING CLEANING AND SANITARY SERVICES

Open quotations are invited from a reputed institution for obtaining Cleaning and Sanitary Services for a period of one year from 01.10.2020 until 30.09.2021 for the Secretariat Building for the Identity of Persons (Suhurupaya).

Proposals and Quotations should be submitted after inspection of the site for the provision of Cleaning Services and Sanitary Services in the premises of the Main Building consisting of 20 storeys and two other buildings situated at Sri Subuthipura Road, Battaramulla. This is a building constructed as per the environment friendly concept. Tables, chairs, windows, staircases, stairs handrails, walls, electric elevators and electric fans in the floors mentioned should be cleaned daily.

Therefore, only the institutions that fulfill the following qualifications should submit quotations.

- Should be registered as a company. (Preference will be given to institutions with ISO Certification)
- Should be an institution that abides by the government rules and regulations with regard to service payments and tax payments.
- Should be an institution that has been providing services for more than three (03) years.
- Should submit a list of institutions to which services were provided during last three years. (As special consideration will be given to institutions that provide services at present to ministries, departments and 5 Star Hotels, relevant documents to substantiate them should be submitted)
- Procedures that should be followed to control Covid – 19 should be available.
- Machinery used for cleaning should be of latest technology and suitable for this building.
- Quotations submitted should be valid up to 01.11.2020.
- As it would not be allowed to revise the prices during the contracted period under any circumstance quotations should be submitted accordingly.
- Only the skilled staff should be deployed in service.
- Should be able to deploy in service only the employees to whom continuous contributions have been made with regard to Employees Trust Fund (ETF) and Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for the last five (05) years including year 2020.
- Welfare activities should have been provided to the staff
- Should be able to deploy employees for cleaning at emergencies
- As males are required as per the nature of the building, should be able to deploy them.
- Minimum number of employees that should be deployed for cleaning of the building should be 25.
- Should be able to provide both cleaning services and sanitary services and on the days the services are provided daily there should be a male labourer within the minimum number of workers.

Tender documents and details may be obtained from the Accountant (Supplies and Damages) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3500.00 to the Payments Division of the Ministry of Defence from 9.00 a.m. on 21.09.2020 up to 12.00 noon on 12.10.2020 (on working days of the week) and permission should be obtained to inspect the premises and to find out details. A bid security for Rs. 10,000.00 obtained in favour of Secretary, Ministry of Defence should be submitted. The receipt obtained from the Shroff of the ministry upon payment in cash or a bank guarantee obtained from a reputed bank registered with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka should be submitted with the tender. Selected applicants should be able to submit a performance bank guarantee to the value of 10% of the tender value. Sealed bids may be hand delivered to this ministry before 2.00 p.m. on 12.10.2020. The caption "Invitation for Quotations for the Supply of Cleaning Services – Year 2020 - Suhurupaya" should be mentioned on the left-hand top corner of the envelope containing the quotation. Bids will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on 12.10.2020.

Tenderer or his representative may be present at the time of opening of quotations.

**Defence Secretary  
Ministry of Defense  
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha  
Colombo 03  
20.09.2020**

## Sri Lanka Insurance

### Tender Notice

Tenders are invited for the disposal of partially damaged vehicles (cars, double cabs, single cabs, jeeps, three wheeler, lorry, prime mover & motor cycles), registration cancelled lorries, damage lorry cabins, motor salvages, electrical and electronic items, tea bagging machine & miscellaneous items.

#### Locations

- Sri Lanka Insurance, No. 54, Model Town Road (Rathmalana), Katubedda.**
- Sri Lanka Insurance, No. 288, Union Place, Colombo 02. (Motor salvages only)**

#### Conditions

- You will be given authority to enter the premises and examine the items between 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 21st September 2020 to 28th September 2020 (inclusive of Saturday and Sunday).
- If you are interested in purchasing any of the items, please collect a quotation form from Salvage Department, 54, Model Town Road, Katubedda upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,500/- and send the completed and sealed quotation via registered post to the address given below or deposit in the tender box located at the Sri Lanka Insurance Salvage Department on or before 3.00 p.m. on 28th September 2020.
- A separate quotation should be submitted for each item tendered.
- A Rs.20,000/-refundable deposit will be charged for each tender form. However, for the lot no. 32 refundable deposit will be Rs.100,000/- each
- The offer should be marked as 'SLIC Quotation for Salvage Tender No. 57' on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Offers received after the above date will not be considered.
- SLIC reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without explanation.

**Inquiries : 011-2607396**

Manager  
Sri Lanka Insurance  
Salvage Department  
54, Model Town Road  
Katubedda.

Company Registration Number : PB - 289



Like a father - Like a mother



## SRILANKAN AIRLINES LTD TENDER NOTICE

**TENDER NO: ADV/MEDIA BUYING/RFP/03/2020**  
**MEDIA BUYING AND PLACEMENT FOR SRILANKAN AIRLINES IN SRI LANKA AND OVERSEAS**

The bidding forms could be downloaded directly from the following link  
[https://www.srilankan.com/en\\_uk/corporate/tender-notice](https://www.srilankan.com/en_uk/corporate/tender-notice)  
with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 1100hrs onwards  
(Sri Lankan time GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

Bid closing date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 1100hrs  
(Sri Lankan time GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

**SENIOR MANAGER MARKETING  
SRILANKAN AIRLINES**


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United Nations Development Programme



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Conduct an Overall Mapping of Available Services and Processes to Strengthen the Functioning of the Department of Motor Traffic Sri Lanka.

(RFP/PID/2020/70)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka wishes to call for Request for Proposals from qualified service providers to provide a Proposal to Conduct an Overall Mapping of Available Services and Processes to Strengthen the Functioning of the Department of Motor Traffic Sri Lanka.

This procurement process is being conducted through Online Tendering System of UNDP and detailed instructions and link to the e-Tendering event can be accessed from [www.lk.undp.org](http://www.lk.undp.org) procurement > procurement notices.

**Bid Submission deadline appearing on e-Tendering portal will be FINAL and prevail on the ones appearing on other websites.**

Proposals submitted via email or by hard copies will not be accepted.

Head of Procurement/Administration  
United Nations Development Programme  
202-204 Baudhaloka Mawatha  
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

*UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal. The procurement process will be governed by the rules and regulations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

## CUMMINS 750 kVA GENERATOR

**13.0 Million (negotiable)**

Brand : Cummins - UK  
Year of Manufacture : 2016  
Engine : Cummins/ VTA-28-G6  
Alternator : Stamford  
Total Running Hours : 750  
Condition : Used

**FOR SALE**

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## SALE OF VEHICLES & MACHINERIES

BUSES				CABS				CARS			
VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	YARD	VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	YARD	VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	YARD
NW-JI-707X	ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING,seat 42	2004	MABIMA	CP-PB-297X	CHANGAN SC1030EH	2007	GALEWELA	SP-KG-596X	CHEVROLET AVEO-U-V-A	2008	MARADANA
WP-IY-997X	ASHOK LEYLANDVIKING,seat 42	2005	MABIMA	NW-PT-527X	MAHINDRA MAXXIMO	2012	GALEWELA	018-807X	FORD LASER GL	1993	GALEWELA
WP-ND-917X	ASHOK LEYLANDVIKING,seat 42	2011	GALEWELA	CP-PT-821X	MAHINDRA MAXXIMO	2012	GALEWELA	CP-KH-025X	MICRO KYRON 200XDII	2008	MONARAGALA
WP-ND-205X	ASHOK LEYLANDVIKING,seat 54	2017	JAFFNA	NW-PV-537X	MAHINDRA MAXXIMO PLUS	2013	GALEWELA	NW-KJ-245X	MARUTI ZEN ESTILO VXi	2010	MARADANA
WP-NA-929X	ASHOK LEYLANDVIKING,seat 58	2011	MABIMA	SG-PV-674X	MAHINDRA MAXXIMO PLUS	2013	GALEWELA	CP-CAE-070X	MERCEDES BENZE250 AMG SPORT CDI	2013	MARADANA
060-781X	ASHOK LEYLAND-,seat 30	1990	MONARAGALA	056-905X	NISSAN,	1991	MARADANA	032-010X	NISSAN SUNNY BS11FU	1983	MARADANA
WP-NA-880X	TATA LPO 1512,seat 42	2010	MABIMA	SP-PV-594X	PIAGGIO APE MINI	2012	MONARAGALA	WP-KT-926X	NISSAN THIDA	2010	MARADANA
NP-ND-698X	TATA LPO1512,seat 57	2010	GALEWELA	SG-PY-482X	TATA SUPER ACE	2014	MONARAGALA	WP-KT-003X	PERODUA AMIGXR	2011	MARADANA
WP-ND-039X	mitsubishi skg be 640 G ROSA	2012	MABIMA	NP DAD-392X	TATA ACE(DAMAGE)	2016	GALEWELA	WP CBO-X062	SUZUKI ALTO LXI 800	2018	MARADANA
<b>EXCAVATOR &amp; DOZER</b>				<b>TIPPERS</b>				<b>LORRIES</b>			
6Y101147	CATERPILLAR D4C XL	2007	MONARAGALA	WP-LG-848X	ASHOK LEYLAND COMETIPPER	2007	MABIMA	042-935X	ASHOK LEYLANDTUSKER,BOWSER	1991	MONARAGALA
D7G	CATERPILLER D7G	1990	MABIMA	CP-LI-052X	TATA LPK 1615	2010	MONARAGALA	227-356X	LEYLAND TUSKER SUPER	1999	MABIMA
MS 180-8	MITSUBISHI MS180-8	2004	MABIMA	WP-LI-X658	TATA LPK2516	2011	MABIMA	UP-GU-627X	ISUZU ELF	1997	MONARAGALA
PC200	KOMATSU PC200(DAMAGE)	2000	MONARAGALA	WP-LI-X659	TATA LPK2516	2011	MABIMA	SG-GD-113X	ISUZU ELF 150	1995	MONARAGALA
7NF05289	CAT E120B(DAMAGE)	1999	MONARAGALA	<b>TRACTORS</b>				NW-LD-651X	ISUZU NHR69EU3ES	2003	GALEWELA
CAT 308B	CAT 308B IYSO3410(DAMAGE)	2004	MABIMA	EP-RF-681X	POWERTRAC PTEURO 41	2017	MONARAGALA	NW-LN-376X	JAC HFC1091KD	2017	MABIMA
<b>THREE WHEELERS</b>				NC-RF-822X	SONALIKA DI 50 RX-ZWD	2018	ANURADAHAPURA	NW-LH-541X	TATA LPT 1109	2010	GALEWELA
WP-ABD-529X	BAJAJ RE	2015	MARADANA	EP-RD-597X	TAFE 45 DI	2013	MONARAGALA	NC-LK-796X	TATA LPT709	2013	GALEWELA
SP-AAC-755X	BAJAJ RE205	2012	MONARAGALA	NC-RF-908X	TAFE 45DI	2018	GALEWELA	227-520X	TOYOTA DYNA	1992	MABIMA
WP-YE-474X	MAHINDRA ALFA	2010	MARADANA	NP-RD-770X	KUBOTA L4508	2014	GALEWELA	EP LO-603X	ISUZU(DAMAGE)	2009	MABIMA
CP-YG-174X	TVS KING	2010	MARADANA	<b>VAN</b>				WP PT-326X	SUZUKI DA63T(DAMAGE)	2006	MAKOLA
WP-AAJ-177X	TVS KING	2013	MARADANA	WP-HF-309X	DAIHATSU HIJET	1999	GALEWELA	<b>PRIME MOVER &amp; TRAILER</b>			
NC-AAQ-774X	BAJAJ RE	2014	Anuradhapura	SP-HT-433X	MAZDA KG-SK54V	1999	MONARAGALA	WP-LX-370X	DUTCH LANKADLLB 40,TRAILER	2018	MABIMA
SG AAC-315X	BAJAJ RE205(DAMAGE)	2012	MONARAGALA	WP-PD-896X	NISSAN CARAVAN	2007	MARADANA	CP IY-012X	DAF PRIME MOVER(DAMAGE)	2001	MABIMA
WP YC-015X	BAJAJ 45	2010	MARADANA	SP-PE-876X	NISSAN KR-VWE25	2006	MARADANA	<b>MOTOR BIKE</b>			
<b>PRIME MOVER &amp; TRAILER</b>				WP JB-183X	NISSAN KG-VNGE24(DAMAGE)	1996	MONARAGALA	WP-BEM-068X	HONDA DIO	2016	MARADANA
WP-LX-370X	DUTCH LANKADLLB 40,TRAILER	2018	MABIMA	<b>JCB</b>				NP-BHA-460X	YAMAHA FZ5	2018	JAFFNA
CP IY-012X	DAF PRIME MOVER(DAMAGE)	2001	MABIMA	SP-RS-064X	J.C.B 3CX BACKHOE LOADER	2001	MONARAGALA	CP BGM-232X	YAMAHA FZ-5(DAMAGE)	2018	GALEWELA
<b>MOTOR BIKE</b>				EP-ZA-375X	J.C.B 3CX	1997	MONARAGALA	WP BFI-023X	BAJAJ DISCOVERY 125(DAMAGE)	2017	MAKOLA

- Vehicle and the documents will be delivered as they are
- Available information of the vehicle will be displayed in the windscreen of each vehicle.
- Visit [www.plc.lk](http://www.plc.lk) to see the pictures of vehicles.
- The full payment or any alternate arrangements should be made within 3 days from the date of advance payment to get the vehicle released.
- No refund of advance payment will be entertained in any circumstances.

United Nations Development Programme



## REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

### Supply and Delivery of Construction Materials to support improvement of facilities at Nittambuwa Rehabilitation Centre

(RFP/UNODC/2020/69)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka wishes to Request for Quotations from eligible National Manufacturers, Distributors and authorized dealers to Supply and Delivery of Construction Materials to support improvement of facilities at Nittambuwa Rehabilitation Centre.

This procurement process is being conducted through Online Tendering System of UNDP and detailed instructions and link to the e-tendering event can be accessed from [www.lk.undp.org](http://www.lk.undp.org) procurement > procurement notices.

**Bid Submission deadline appearing on e-Tendering portal will be FINAL and prevail on the ones appearing on other websites.**

Proposals submitted via email or by hard copies will not be accepted.

Head of Procurement/Administration  
United Nations Development Programme  
202-204 Baudhaloka Mawatha  
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

*UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal. The procurement process will be governed by the rules and regulations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

**Time & Period of inspection**

18 th ,19 th ,20 th ,21 st & 22 nd September 2020 9.00a.m - 4.00p.m (All Below mentioned Yards)

**Tender will be closed on 22 nd September 2020 by 4.00 p.m**

**Venues of inspection**

- Maradana - In front of Colombo Municipal Council Work Shop, (Former Gamini Hall), Darley Road, Maradana.
- Mabima - No. 225/D, Nayagala Road, Heiyanthuduwa, Mabima.
- Makola - No.496, Makola North, Makola
- Galewela - People's Leasing Vehicle Yard & Sale Center,Ketalagolla,Beligamuwa,Galewela. (T.P.066-2287355)
- Monaragala - People's Leasing Co. PLC, Monaragala(T.P 055-2277485)
- Matara - No.364,Nupe,Matara (T.P 077-5235888)
- Jaffna - No.02,Dutch Road,Irupalai(021-228031,077-3097353,077-4803804)
- Anuradhapura Sales Unit - No.12,Maithripala Senanayake Mawatha,Anuradhapura (T.P.076-2358365, 025-2226054)

Offers to be addressed to  
Chief Executive Officer  
**PEOPLE'S LEASING & FINANCE PLC**  
No. 1161, Maradana Road, Colombo 08.

Offers could be place to Tender Boxes at our Vehicle Yards & Head Office or sent under registered cover or hand delivered marked "Sale of Vehicles" (Registration No. of the vehicle offered) on the left hand corner of the cover and should reach to the above address on or before **22nd September 2020 before 4.00 p.m.** Chief Executive Officer of the People's Leasing & Finance PLC, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the offers without any reason being given for such rejections. Tender forms can be obtained from our Head office at Borella, Branches or at our vehicle yards, after paying non refundable Rs.750/- for each.

\* Offers will be informed to successful bidders after 07 days of opening the tender box.

**Tender Section**  
**People's Leasing & Finance PLC.**  
Tel: 011 2631631 Fax: 011 2631593

Vehicle yards - Maradana Tel: 011 2688026 Makola Tel: 011 2964300 Mabima Tel: 011 2401031 Galewela Tel: 066-2287355

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## RELOCATION

Dear Valued Customers,

We are pleased to inform you that the Commercial Credit Vehicle yard in Bokundara-Piliyandala will be re-located in the following mentioned address, with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Our new address is  
**No. 140, Athurugiriya Road, Homagama.**

We invite you to visit our new vehicle yard for your future vehicle purchasing requirements and we look forward to provide you the best service at all the time.

Thank you,  
**Management of  
Commercial Credit and Finance PLC**

Hotline : 0112 000000



## INVITATION FOR BIDS



ශ්‍රී ලංකා මහ බැංකුව  
இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

**TENDER FOR SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING AND TRAINING OF THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO AN INTEGRATED IT SYSTEM TO THE CENTRE FOR BANKING STUDIES (CBS) OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA (CBSL)**

- Sealed quotations (including financial proposal) are invited for software development, installation, configuration, testing, commissioning and training of the activities related to an Integrated IT System (CBS Interactive Website – CBSIW and Institute Management System – IMS) for CBS from interested institutions who have fulfilled the minimum eligibility criteria given below:
  - Should be a company registered and operating in Sri Lanka.
  - Should have successfully implemented bespoke software in at least two institutions in Sri Lanka and should have been engaged in maintaining similar software in Sri Lanka during the 5 years ended 30.06.2020.
  - Should have a project team including project managers, team leaders, software developers, quality assurance personnel and other technical experts who possess relevant academic, professional qualifications and experience.
  - Should have positive net worth and be in profits at least for two years out of the last three years.

### Tender Details

Non-Refundable Tender Deposit	Rs. 1,000/=
Bid Security	Bank Guarantee of Rs. 100,000/=
Issuing Bidding Documents	0900 Hrs. – 1500 Hrs. From 11 September 2020 – 02 October 2020 Mail Room, Ground Floor, CBSL Head Office Building, Colombo 01
Pre – Bid Meeting	1000 Hrs - 22 September 2020
Bid-Closing Time & Date	1430 Hrs. – 05 October 2020

- Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge and collected by producing a letter of request made on a business letterhead and by paying a non-refundable cash fee of Rs. 1,000/=.
- For further details, you may contact Senior Assistant Director/IT  
Tel: 0112398617 or Senior Assistant Secretary/Procurement – Tel: 0112398754

The Secretary - Central Bank of Sri Lanka  
No.30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01

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SECTION



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## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MATERIAL REQUIREMENT FOR MATERIAL FOR  
MAIN ROOF OF BLOCK 01

OF

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT  
AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2020/H/212

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified tenderers for the **Supply of Hardware Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** as described below.

### Description of Items

**Universal Beam,"C" Channel, "C" Purlin,Box Bar – RHS, Flat Iron,Galvanized Chemical Anchoring Bolt,Full Threaded Nut and Bolt with Three Washer,MS Plate,Cutting Wheel,Grinding Wheel, Welding Rod.**

- Estimated cost will be **Rs. 10 million** (excluding VAT).
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful tenderers shall not have been blacklisted and shall Possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids. Also Submission of registration certificate of Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987 along with Bids is Compulsory.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rupees Three Thousand Five Hundred (**LKR. 3,500.00**) (The method of payment shall be cash) by the interested bidder on the submission of a written application to the address below from **0900 hrs to 1600 hrs from 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 to 1000hrs on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020;**  
"The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor), C/o The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla"
- All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security , to the value of **One Hundred Thousand Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR. 100,000.00)** obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be **valid from 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021** (120 days).
- Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bids Opening.
- Tenders shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**. Late Tenders will be rejected. Tenders will be opened soon after closing in the presence of tenderers, representatives who choose to attend.

The address referred to above para (05 and 07) is.

The Chairman,  
Project Procurement Committee (Minor),  
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,  
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,  
Battaramulla.  
Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885  
E-mail: [pmudhqc@gmail.com](mailto:pmudhqc@gmail.com)

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**classified@lakehouse.lk**



About our daughter, born again Christian, pretty, slim, 28 years, professionally qualified and employed overseas. A professionally qualified kind hearted son is sought. Email: proposaljr20@gmail.com  
**OB151361**

About our daughter, successfully completed Cambridge Ordinary Levels and currently reading for fashion designing degree at Limokwing University. Born in April 2000, height 5'2", tan in skin colour pretty, well-cultured and mannered. We are a reputed Business family, seeking for a well cultured, handsome, good son (not above 26 yrs of age) from a reputed business family. Matching horoscope details - 6th square - Ravi, Kuja, Shani. 9th square - Chandra, Rahu. Please note that daughter's horoscope is "Shani Mangala Yoga" horoscope. Reply with family details, horoscopes and contact numbers.  
**OB151305**

Academically and professionally accomplished son is sought by G/B sister for 38 year old. 5'6", fair, academically qualified and employed in a highly recognized profession. Please reply with family details, horoscope to: r misanda@gmail.com  
**OB151252**

Academically and professionally qualified caring son is sought by B/G family for their daughter living in Australia son (29-32 age) living in Sri Lanka who's willing to migrate to Australia is preferred or living in Australia. She is 28, 5'4" graduated from well reputable University in Western Australia and has a Degree, currently working at a government hospital. Please reply with family details and contact information. Email: s ujewa626@hotmail.com  
**OB151248**

Academically and professionally qualified kind son is sought by a Sinhala, Catholic mother for the pretty daughter 5'2" height born in 1990, studied in a leading convent in Colombo. Completed Masters. She is divorced from a short incompatible marriage with no encumbrances. Please reply with family details and a contact number. Contact: 011-2840720. **OB151331**

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by B/G parents for their daughter born in Nov. 1984 pretty slim 5'4" educated at leading school in Colombo has completed. BSc, MGT in Colombo University, CIMA, MBA, (PIM) working in reputed firm in Colombo as CFO Rahu 01, Ravi 07. Contact with family details and with horoscope.  
**OB151272**

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by B/G parents for their pretty well-mannered daughter born in 1992, 5'2" tall. She is an Engineer graduated from University of Peradeniya. Currently working at a leading company. Please reply with family details and contact information. 1992.12 proposal@gmail.com  
**OB151232**

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by B/K parents living in New Zealand for their 24 year-old 5'3" New Zealand citizen daughter Engineer working in New Zealand. Citizens and persons currently living in New Zealand, Australia preferred. Please reply with family details horoscope. pereraps22@gmail.com  
**OB151193**

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by respectable Buddhist parents from Colombo for their youngest daughter born in 1992 March. She is 5'2" pretty fair studied in an International School Colombo, at present she is holding a managerial position in our family business. Reply with horoscope and family details to email: hoscopes7890@gmail.com  
**OB150155**

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Sinhala parents living in USA for their daughter excellent character brought up according to Sinhala Buddhist values. 5'8" born in July 1990, graduate BSc (IT) currently working as a Vice-president in worldwide bank. Please reply with full details and contact numbers. pjay2017@yahoo.com **OB151294**

Academically and professionally qualified son sought by G/B parents of a respectable family for their 5'3" slim and pretty daughter, born in 1983, living in Atlanta Georgia (USA), she graduated and working in USA. Reply with family details, recently taken picture, horoscope and a contact number to 9c andrew@gmail.com  
**OB150107**

Academically and professionally qualified son, is sought by parents living in UK for future marriage for their 20 years old elder daughter. She is an undergraduate pretty, slim, fair and has been brought-up with Sri Lankan values. Below 26, living in UK / overseas highly preferred. Please reply with family details and horoscope to millennium@myself.com  
**OB151177**

Academically and professionally qualified well-brought up partner with a good family background is sought by Govi/Buddhist sister from Kandy for her sister 5'3" tall, Tan complexion in medium built with excellent character born in 1973. She is qualified MBA CMA NDHRM SLIM (PGD) Grad. ICSS and reading for LLB (London), management staff in reputed company in Colombo. Horoscope, recent photograph family and contact details expected in first letter. Those who live abroad are also considered. E-mail: hasithal@yahoo.com  
**OB151131**

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by respectable Buddhist parents from Colombo for their eldest daughter born in 1988. She is 5'4" pretty fair slim qualified and well-occupied daughter. Please reply with family details and the horoscope to: hscope783@gmail.com  
**OB150161**

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by respectable K/Buddhist parents from Gampaha, for their elder daughter born in 1992. She is 5'1" pretty fair & slim, studied in a leading girls' school (convent) she holds a degree in English teaching, graduated in a foreign country. Presently working as an English teacher in Indonesia. Please reply with family details and the horoscope. rm m.proposal@gmail.com  
**OB151243**

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered BG son, employed in Sri Lanka, is sought by Colombo BG respectable parents, for their well accomplished, slim and pretty daughter, born 08/86, 5'4" tall, brought up with Sinhala, Buddhist values, studied at a leading girls' school in Colombo. Well employed in a managerial capacity, with postgraduate qualification from UK University. She will inherit a modern up-stair house in Colombo. Prefer a son who can converse fluently in English and has a good personality, kindly reply with full family details, copy of horoscope and contact information to: m echtron608@gmail.com  
**OB151001**

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered and kindhearted son from a respectable family is sought by Bodu/Govi parents from Homagama, for their daughter, born in 1993, fair, educated at a leading Buddhist girls' school in Colombo 07. She holds a bachelor's degree from University of Colombo and CIMA (UK) and currently reading for MBA, while working in a reputed private company. Reply with horoscope and family details. Horoscope matching with Kuja 1 and Shani 8 and with Western Province. pspproposal@gmail.com  
**OB151292**

Academically professionally qualified NS/TT partner sought by Bodu Govi professional parents for their daughter 1990 March 5'3" holds MSc UK in Biotechnology, educated at a leading Catholic Girls' school Colombo 3, well employed in private sector, owns a new car house, only brother (younger) Accountant. Kuja Shani Rahu Sikuru in 8th House. Reply with family details including the schools son studied, horoscope contact numbers FB link, email abeygunaratne@gmail.com  
**OB151103**

Academically professionally qualified partner sought by respectable Vishwakula parents resident in Western Province for their very smart pretty daughter for 24 yrs 5'3" and inherits valuable assets, completing logistic degree this year - 5 Kethu 7 house. Only brother is a doctor. Reply with horoscope. kasthuriyage@gmail.com  
**OB151281**

Academically qualified kind son with sober habits is sought by Sinhala B/G parents residing in Moratuwa for their 5'0" feet pretty daughter born in 1996. She is a BSc graduate and currently works in HR at a leading company in Sri Lanka also she inherits substantial assets. Father works as a Finance Manager abroad and mother is a retired Government Bank Officer in Sri Lanka only brother is married and working abroad as a group Accountant parties who are interested. Please reply to us with family details horoscopes will be exchanged on mutual understanding of both parties a2 4marriage2020@gmail.com  
**OB150717**

Academically qualified pretty lady divorced is looking for a loving kind hearted non-alcoholic partner for marriage. She is in her 50s but very young and very pretty with a pleasing personality. Contact replies: sithym@gmail.com  
**OB151148**

Academically qualified son with good qualities from a respectable Bodu/Govi family is sought by B/G parents for their only child daughter with MBA Degree with managerial experience 1991 born, fair pretty slim earns six figure salary as an academic and will inherit assets including our buildings in town. She brought up with Buddhist values please reply. proposal836@gmail.com  
**OB151262**

Academically & professionally compatible son from a respectable family is sought by father in Colombo of a graduate daughter (B.B Mgt. & Mktg - Australia & CIM - UK qualified) born in 1990, Oct 5'7", Sinhala, Buddhist studied at a leading school in Colombo & employed in the private sector in an Assistant Managerial position. Please reply details with horoscope. E-mail: gtd9048@gmail.com  
**OB151288**

Academically, professionally qualified, well brought up son with Sinhala Buddhist values and sober habits is sought by Kandyan G/B Australian citizen parents to be introduced to our younger daughter leading to a marriage. She is 31 yrs., 5'4", fair, pretty, slim, Specialist Medical Doctor in Australia. Ideally he should be G/B with similar background. Reply with full details and horoscope. Email only : parakum89@outlook.com **OB151159**

Anuradhapura Sinhala Buddhist pretty only daughter of the family 27 years 5'4" height. Parents seek a suitable partner. Considerable dowry available. Please write with details: cwm87@hotmail.com  
**OB151123**

An educated partner is sought by parents for elder daughter, graduate holding a senior executive position. 1981 born, fair and very attractive with calm and kind personality. Divorced from a short-term marriage, no encumbrances. Reply with horoscope. Email: marray.proposals.2020@gmail.com **OB151070**

An educated professionally qualified son is sought by retired G/father for his daughter 38, 5'1" much younger looking, educated qualified and employed legally separated no encumbrances with assets. Reply with horoscope (malefic) and contact No. pm341101@gmail.com **OB151359**

Australian citizen Burgher / Tamil Catholic parents seek an educated well-mannered partner for their daughter (born in Australia) 35 years, slim and attractive and brought up in a good family background. She is currently working full time in a Government Health Services in Sydney. Prefer a partner who is born in Australia or lived here since early childhood aged 37 or under, who is currently holding a good position. If you are interested, please reply with details and a photo attached to o ssie.27@hotmail.com  
**OB151298**

Australian citizen, GB mother residing in Australia seeks professionally qualified partner for her very attractive daughter (only child) 1984 Nov, 5'6". Completed Engineering Degrees and Masters in Australian Universities. Currently working as a Senior Project Manager in a reputed organization in Australia. She owns and inherits substantial assets in Australia. Caste, religion immaterial. Please reply with full details and horoscope. Email: rsjay@optusnet.com.au  
**OB151316**

A professionally educated partner is sought by Bodu Govi well-to-do reputed business parents for their daughter 5'7" tall 28 years old, thin fair unblemished, a doctor MBBS just finished her internship. Only two children in the family younger brother is a student. Parents will entertain proposals only from those who have Rahu 7 Shani Mangala Dasha. Daughter will inherit a Sizable dowery. **OB151313**

A suitable well employed partner is sought by mother for her daughter, Sinhala Buddhist Durawa / Govi 46 years, 5'5" Accountant / Manager in a leading company drawing six figure salary, owns a house and a new car. Reply with family details. hwgproposal5@gmail.com **OB151094**

A suitable well established partner (below 40) is sought by G/B parents for their daughter 1984 born, 5'3" MBA holder working in Australia. Australian PR or citizen preferred. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email: marriage438@gmail.com **OB151088**

A wealthy, respectable Sinhala family from Colombo wishes to find a qualified, tall (minimum 5'10"), handsome and decent son from respectable family for marriage to 5'7" tall, very pretty, elder daughter (1992). She is a Consultant Lawyer to a PLC and a directress in the well-established family business. Educated at leading school in Colombo. She has CIMA and MBA from Jayawardanapura University and currently reading for Doctorate. She inherits substantial assets Email all relevant information to: infoprop2019@gmail.com **OB151273**

A well-employed qualified well-mannered son from a respectable G/B family South by Govi Buddhist parent for pretty fair slim accomplished daughter 5'5" born 82 Nov. Masters Degree holder working in Executive capacity in reputed organization. Fluent in English. Substantial assets. jatatilaka444@gmail.com **OB151115**

A widow aged 65 seeks kind hearted wealthy educated gentleman as the future partner living abroad too considered. **OB151354**

Bodu Govi parents estate owner from North Western Province looking for educated son from a business family for their younger daughter born in 1991 September, she is 5'4" height pretty studied in an international school. She owns valuable assets. If you are interested please email: pr oposal\_1991@yahoo.com **OB151173**

Bodu Govi parents seek professionally qualified partner from a respectable family for their pleasant daughter born in April 1993, height 5'5" Chemistry Special Degree holder, currently following MBA, highly employed with considerable wealth. 0812410084. (After 7 pm). wasanthabde@gmail.com **OB151190**

Bodu Govi/Catholic Durawa professional parents seek a loving and caring son between 28-33 years of age for their professionally qualified pretty daughter 5'2", 28 years old who studied in prestigious international schools Colombo and overseas. She is an Attorney-at-Law with both Bachelors and Masters from UK. She is working for a reputed company in Colombo. Pl. send the horoscope and a few recently taken photographs or FB link to: aishaw1926@gmail.com **OB151181**

Bodu Govi/Catholic Durawa professional parents seek a loving and caring son between 28-33 years of age for their professionally qualified pretty daughter 5'2", 28 years old who studied in prestigious international schools Colombo and overseas. She is an Attorney-at-Law with both Bachelors and Masters from the UK. She is working for a reputed Company in Colombo. Pl. send the horoscope and a few recently taken photographs or FB link to: aishaw1926@gmail.com **OB151154**

Bodu/Govi respectable parents from Gampaha District seek well-mannered educated partner for their pretty slim fair 5'1" height daughter, born 1991 January, qualified with BSc Management, working in a leading bank in executive grade. Reply with details to: proposalhps@gmail.com **OB151276**

Buddhist Govi family living in Piliyandala area, retired government parents seeking a suitable partner for their professionally qualified (Chartered Accountant) daughter working as an Accountant in a leading manufacturing company in Sri Lanka. Born in 1985, height 5'2". (8th position, Kuja, Budha, Ravi). **OB151333**

Buddhist Govi parents from a respectable family of Colombo suburbs seek an academically and professionally qualified, kind-hearted son for their elder daughter. She was born in 1993, 5'6", fair, pretty, educated at a leading girls' school in Colombo, is a foreign Graduate Engineer holding a Master's Degree. Please reply with full family details and a copy of horoscope to : marriageproposal487@gmail.com **OB151161**

Bodu Govi/Catholic Durawa professional parents seek a loving and caring son between 28-33 years of age for their professionally qualified pretty daughter 5'2", 28 years old who studied in prestigious international schools Colombo and overseas. She is an Attorney-at-Law with both Bachelors and Masters from UK. She is working for a reputed company in Colombo. Pl. send the horoscope and a few recently taken photographs or FB link to: aishaw1926@gmail.com **OB151181**

Bodu Govi/Catholic Durawa professional parents seek a loving and caring son between 28-33 years of age for their professionally qualified pretty daughter 5'2", 28 years old who studied in prestigious international schools Colombo and overseas. She is an Attorney-at-Law with both Bachelors and Masters from the UK. She is working for a reputed Company in Colombo. Pl. send the horoscope and a few recently taken photographs or FB link to: aishaw1926@gmail.com **OB151154**

Bodu/Govi respectable parents from Gampaha District seek well-mannered educated partner for their pretty slim fair 5'1" height daughter, born 1991 January, qualified with BSc Management, working in a leading bank in executive grade. Reply with details to: proposalhps@gmail.com **OB151276**

Buddhist Govi family living in Piliyandala area, retired government parents seeking a suitable partner for their professionally qualified (Chartered Accountant) daughter working as an Accountant in a leading manufacturing company in Sri Lanka. Born in 1985, height 5'2". (8th position, Kuja, Budha, Ravi). **OB151333**

Buddhist Govi parents from a respectable family of Colombo suburbs seek an academically and professionally qualified, kind-hearted son for their elder daughter. She was born in 1993, 5'6", fair, pretty, educated at a leading girls' school in Colombo, is a foreign Graduate Engineer holding a Master's Degree. Please reply with full family details and a copy of horoscope to : marriageproposal487@gmail.com **OB151161**

**Continued on page 73**

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Buddhist Govi / Salagama parents seek a professionally and academically qualified son for doctor (MBBS) daughter. She is 32 years, born in 1988 (Nov.) 5'6", pretty slim and pleasant girl, presently She is following a PhD programme related to medicine, works as an academic in a Sri Lankan University. Reply with horoscope. Email: marrpr op2020@gmail.com OB151338

Buddhist parents living in Colombo suburb seek an educated son with sober habits for their young looking, slim and pleasant elder daughter born in 1980, University academic. Inherits substantial assets around Colombo. Caste immaterial. Email: desilvaj44@gmail.com OB151348

Buddhist parents seek educated well employed son from respectable family for our slim fair 02.09.1989 5'4" only daughter professionally qualified (AMSLIM) senior executive at reputed company divorced as plaintiff party. Reply with family details horoscope and contact number. OB151347

Buddhist respectable family from Colombo, mother seeks a suitable partner for her youngest daughter in her forties, height 5'7" company executive, gone to a private school in Colombo. Dowry worth over 150 million. She is smart slim pretty, looking for a partner less than 55 years (divorcees considered). Tel. 0112589420. OB151196

Buddhist Sinhala Govi mother and Tamil Hindu Jaffna Govi father residing Colombo seek an academically and professionally qualified Doctors Engineers or in the same field partner for their elder daughter who is 26 years, 5'4" grown up in Buddhist environment graduated in Deakin University, permanently employed in Melbourne with work visa. Those who are willing to mixed marriage please reply family details with horoscope. T.P. 0112522267. Email : pgpk2020@yahoo.com OB151042

Buddhist, Govi, respectable Sri Lankan family residing in USA since 1998 seeks an educated, handsome son for their well brought up educated, pretty daughter born in October 1984, 5'6" in height and presently drawing a six-figure salary. Sri Lankans who are residing in USA is more preferable. Please reply with a copy of horoscope to yugadi visarana@gmail.com All correspondence treated as confidential. OB151169

B/G Colombo suburbs parents seek partner for daughter born 1986/9, 5'6" tall slim tan complexion smart BSc., MBA PMP qualified Senior IT Project Manager. Email - we ddrop2018@gmail.com OB151194

B/G father retired SLAS Officer, mother Teacher seek academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter 1985 Sep. 5'4" BSc. MSc. Government English medium Teacher. She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with horoscope and family details. OB151185

B/G January 1990, 5'5" pretty slim only daughter presently employed Software Engineer Colombo. She holds degree (BSc Hons.) only brother Marine Engineer. Parent seeks educated respectable partner. proposal20gami@gmail.com OB151237

B/G mother from Colombo suburbs seeks academically / professionally qualified son age between 38 - 45 for her daughter born 1983 - 5'5" fair, slim and attractive with simple lifestyle with Buddhist values BSc / MSc qualified bio medical science working as a semi Government hospital in Colombo. She owns a 2 storey house & new car and other valuable assets. Reply with full family details with horoscope. No migration. email: proposals7923@gmail.com OB151350

B/G parents in Colombo District seek a suitable partner above 5'10" height for their pretty, slim, fair educated daughter born in September 1992 height 5'6" employed as an Assistant Manager for International company. Only elder sister married and lives in USA. She owns assets. Consider malefic horoscopes too. Email - proposal 199209@gmail.com OB151371



B/G parents in Gampaha seek an academically and professionally qualified partner for their daughter 1992 April 5'2" Business Management Graduate working in private sector. She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with horoscope and family details. OB151187

B/G parents looking for a qualified partner for management / MBA / CIMA qualified daughter Company Director, 36, 5'2" medium complexion, email: ange184\_2017@yahoo.com OB151099

B/G father retired SLAS Officer, mother Teacher seek academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter 1985 Sep. 5'4" BSc. MSc. Government English medium Teacher. She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with horoscope and family details. OB151185

B/G January 1990, 5'5" pretty slim only daughter presently employed Software Engineer Colombo. She holds degree (BSc Hons.) only brother Marine Engineer. Parent seeks educated respectable partner. proposal20gami@gmail.com OB151237

B/G mother from Colombo suburbs seeks academically / professionally qualified son age between 38 - 45 for her daughter born 1983 - 5'5" fair, slim and attractive with simple lifestyle with Buddhist values BSc / MSc qualified bio medical science working as a semi Government hospital in Colombo. She owns a 2 storey house & new car and other valuable assets. Reply with full family details with horoscope. No migration. email: proposals7923@gmail.com OB151350

B/G retired parents seek academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter 1992 April 5'2" Business Management Graduate working in private sector. She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with horoscope and family details. OB151187

B/G, Southern, retired parents seek suitable partner for State Bank IT Executive daughter 1984 August, non-malefic horoscope fair, 5' (BSc, MSc, PMP). Reply with horoscope. Email: mpkgs84@gmail.com OB151303

B/S retired parents seek a qualified son for their only daughter. Australian citizen, 35, 5'6" slim and fair. Well educated and working in a reputable finance company. Divorced with a child. Child (5) lives with the mother. Only consider who are residing in Australia. Email: mprop2022@gmail.com with horoscope and family details. OB151175

Christian entrepreneur parents seek a well brought up academically qualified smart Christian son for their pleasant American citizen daughter 26 years 5'4" brought up with Sri Lankan values. She is a Diploma holder in Bio Medical studies. Her interest is in baking. She is a talented girl in singing and music. She inherits substantial assets. sunethragunaratna@gmail.com OB151323

Colombo B/G retired parents seek well employed graduate partner for their eldest daughter 82 November born 5'3" B.H. M.A. graduate higher officer in a government department. OB151280

Colombo Salagama parents seek educated son for 5'2" kindhearted Civil Engineer 1991.12.31 from university of Moratuwa also in the final stage of CIMA. She inherits assets worth 2 millions. pr oposal2020@gmail.com OB151332

Colombo Sinhala Buddhist parents seek smart academically professionally qualified partner for their pretty daughter born 1992, 5'4" studied in a Colombo leading private school, holds CIMA, LLB, Att.-at-Law, specializing Law in Taxation, working in an Advisory Firm, inherits upstairs house in Colombo and other assets. Caste immaterial, Reply with horoscope family details and contact No. ssp1987@gmail.com OB151009

Colombo, B/D retired parents seek suitable son for their 1990 October born 5'5", slim pretty eldest daughter, LLB (Hons) Lawyer following MBA working at a reputed private firm. Caste immaterial. Email - p roposalsfourdau ghter@gmail.com OB151199

Doctor parent wanted professional son for their doctor daughter born in 1987. Gmail: damayanthidissan a124b@gmail.com OB151250

Educated in a leading convent school in Bambalapitiya. She is 36 years old 5'5" height and never married elder brother (married/abroad) mother seeks a son below 43 age who is loving, caring and responsible from a virtuous family. Kindly respond with full details and horoscope. OB151283

Galle Bodu Govi, 90 August born, second child of the family, graduated Pharmacist from a State University, currently working as a Govt. Pharmacist looking for a partner. Must be decent, educated gentleman with a good job. Please contact 0912232853. OB151374

Gampaha Bodu Deva 1991 February 5'5" Civil Engineer (foreign Degree) works at a leading Engineering Company in Colombo as a Civil Engineer fair pretty with a valuable dowry younger brother is an Executive in a reputed company, retired parents seek an educated virtuous son non malefic horoscope caste immaterial. Send full details of family horoscope and contact phone number in the first letter. bowlana123@gmail.com OB151006

Gampaha District B/G mother with respectable family background seeks suitable kind-hearted academically and professionally qualified son for only daughter. She is pretty 25 yrs, 5'6" excellent character. 3rd Year Business Management Student in a reputed academy. She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details and horoscope. OB151073

Government Senior Executive brother seeks a suitable academically and professionally qualified partner (Doctor, Judicial Officer/ State Counsel, Government Engineer, Chartered Accountant, Government Senior Executive, Lecturer) for his only sister, 1991 born Kandyan B/G, 5'4", pretty, well-mannered, educated in a leading girls' school in Kandy, Lawyer/Legal Researcher (LLB. Hons. SL, Dip.Forensic Medicine, LL.M, MPhil/PhD Student, Attorney-at-Law), reply with family details & horoscope, contact: drsanjayban7@gmail.com OB151274

Govi Buddhist respectable family from Moratuwa looking for a groom for their 22 years old 5'6" tall skinny fair athletic well-mannered daughter currently studying in Canada. Inherits values of assets. Please email with family details and a copy of horoscope to: proposal.316@gmail.com OB151247

G/B parents seek an educated well employed not previously married son with sober habits from a G/B family for their 1987 born pretty accomplished qualified and occupied daughter. Inherits substantial assets. Email: proposals1999@outlook.com OB151345

Hindu Catholic / Devvar, 27, 5'2", MBA, fair, pretty seeking professional, handsome groom. Willing to migrate. 0777880303 vivaha@soulmatevivaha.lk OB151386

Humble Kandyan Govi Buddhist pretty well mannered 5'2" unmarried masters qualified eligible for PhD award winning journalist ex-staffer of state media institution from a respectable family, music graduate, won awards as singer, musician, started her own music and media academy and creative work for own TV channel. Invites well mannered partner with good character (Age 40-47) able to assist for a bright future in music and media fields for early marriage. Those overseas are also considered. Please send genuine details to sri jayamini777@gmail.com OB151061

Govi R/C parents with a good family background seek a well brought up educated partner for daughter 28 (5'6") medium complexioned pretty and smart she is educated and employed in a leading bank. Please write with all details to email: gdtkperer a3561@gmail.com OB151107

Govi/Catholic parents around Negombo seek academically and professionally qualified caring, well-mannered son for their daughter. She is a permanent resident in Canada; born in 1986, MSc / B.Eng / PMP / NDES, 5'3", slim, attractive, fair in complexion and engineer by profession. Son, currently working in Canada / USA is preferred. She inherits substantial assets, differences immaterial. Please email family details and horoscope to: pr opcasl20@gmail.com OB151144

G/B parents seek an educated well employed not previously married son with sober habits from a G/B family for their 1987 born pretty accomplished qualified and occupied daughter. Inherits substantial assets. Email: proposals1999@outlook.com OB151345

Hindu Catholic / Devvar, 27, 5'2", MBA, fair, pretty seeking professional, handsome groom. Willing to migrate. 0777880303 vivaha@soulmatevivaha.lk OB151386

Humble Kandyan Govi Buddhist pretty well mannered 5'2" unmarried masters qualified eligible for PhD award winning journalist ex-staffer of state media institution from a respectable family, music graduate, won awards as singer, musician, started her own music and media academy and creative work for own TV channel. Invites well mannered partner with good character (Age 40-47) able to assist for a bright future in music and media fields for early marriage. Those overseas are also considered. Please send genuine details to sri jayamini777@gmail.com OB151061

Ja-ela parents seek educated Christian Catholic partner for their daughter born in 1982, 5'6" tall working in a bank as Assistant Manager. She was educated in a reputed school in Colombo. She has completed her banking exams, part-qualified in CIMA & holds an MBA. She also owns a land close to the main road and a motor vehicle. Divorcees may not reply. Email: shiranijus@gmail.com OB151150

Kandy B/G respectable family, Doctor father seeks qualified caring handsome well mannered son from a respectable family for very pretty fair 27 years, 5'7" daughter with smart personality and excellent character. She is final year medical student (Sri Lanka) holds a valuable assets and house in Kandy, only younger sister also a medical student. Please reply with family details, contact number and horoscope copy. email - marriaged93@gmail.com OB151308

Kandy living Gampola Bodu Govi 26 years 5'3" height fair professionally qualified daughter employed as an Occupational Therapist in Department of Health, parents seek suitable partner if similar profession most suitable, write all information with horoscope copy following email or C/o Sunday Observer. b andara\_rm@yahoo.com OB151063

Kandy living Gampola Bodu Govi 26 years 5'3" height fair professionally qualified daughter employed as an Occupational Therapist in Department of Health, parents seek suitable partner if similar profession most suitable, write all information with horoscope copy following email or C/o Sunday Observer. b andara\_rm@yahoo.com OB151063

Moor mother Malay father from Colombo seeking professionally qualified Moor partner below 37 years for their only daughter 32 years 5'6" pretty slim divorced after brief marriage. No encumbrances Asset house in Colombo. Email: n ikaahproposal5@gmail.com OB151318

Muslim educated family from Colombo seeks a professional partner for their 30 completed Chemical Engineering and working at Senior School Teacher. sharniproposal@gmail.com silmiyashajan@gmail.com OB151136

Muslim parents seek a religious and educated partner for their daughter aged 30 years working as a Software Engineer in a leading firm in Colombo. Contact: pro per771810@gmail.com OB151300

Muslim respectable family from Colombo District seeks well qualified partner for our beautiful English educated daughter 27 years. fatherf528@gmail.com OB149838

Panadura B/K mother seeks an academically & professionally qualified son with good moral values & sober habits for her elder daughter Lecturer in Government University, 1986, 5'4" slim & tan complexion. Reply with horoscope & family details. mari ageproposals333@gmail.com OB151230

Panadura 1995/11, B/G, 5'3" in height educated at an International School, graduated and employed as an Electrical Engineer in foreign country. We are looking for a similar educated foreign country employed son for our elder daughter in Kuja 2. Pls. reply with H/C and family details. pat hirageg1995@gmail.com OB151234

Parents hailing from a respectable Roman Catholic family Down South with assets for their good looking daughter a Layer 33 years 5'5" practising in Colombo, seek a partner of equal social status with a steady income. Saturn in the 7th house. 0912293770. OB151312

Professionally qualified G/B parents of good social standing seek a suitable partner for their daughter 30 years 5'5" slim smart medium complexion doing internship in a government hospital. Please reply with a copy of horoscope. Email: marriag eproposals1913@gmail.com OB151052

Professionally qualified son is sought by respectable G/B parents for their only daughter pretty, fair, 35+, 5'1", Shani in 1st house, with substantial assets. Reply with family details and horoscope. wed pro2020@gmail.com OB151260

Professional parents living in USA seek an academically and professionally qualified well-mannered handsome son from a respectable Sinhala / Buddhist family for their US born youngest daughter, a medical doctor working in East Coast USA raised with Sinhala Buddhist values. A medical doctor or a professional with similar educational background living in USA or Canada is preferred. She is 30, 5'6", beautiful, slim, fair, well-mannered, very pleasant and kind young lady with great qualities. She will inherit substantial assets. Please respond with family details. Email: lakvijaya20@gmail.com OB151171

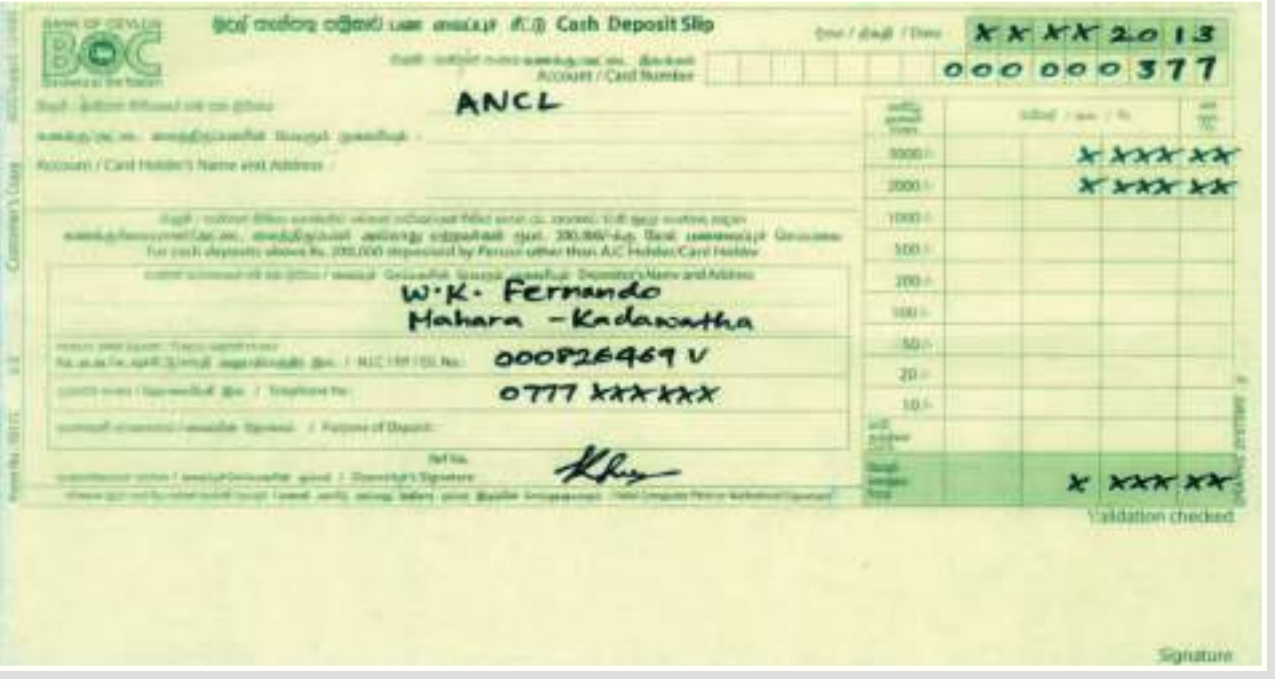
Reputed business family from Southern Province seeks an educated simple affectionate son for their only daughter 32 years, 5'3", Kuja 7, foreign educated entrepreneur owns substantial assets. Reply with horoscope and family details. E-mail: anilkoththagoda@gmail.com OB150947

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B/G business parents seek educated pretty daughter for son 32 yrs., 5'5 1/2" studied in a leading school Colombo. Business and Logistics Degree. Engaged in family owned business. Inherits residential and commercial properties. Kuja/Shani 5 Rahu 7. Reply with family details horoscope and Phone No. myh@sltnet.lk OG151129

B/G Colombo mother seeks an educated daughter below 40 years unmarried divorced without children for 45 years old young looking son. Height 5'4" divorced no encumbrances. Employed Executive Officer. Reply mproposal675@gmail.com OG151286

B/G mother seeks educated pretty daughter for businessman son born 1977, 5'9" studied university of London. 038-2232101. g77company@gmail.com OG151302

B/G professional, affluent parents from Colombo suburbs seek a suitable partner for their only son from a similar background. He was educated in a leading school in Colombo. Engineering graduate preparing for MBA. Currently employed in a top managerial position in a reputed company. Age 27 height 6' fair and very handsome. NS/TT. He owns a house in Colombo and a luxury vehicle other than the family assets. We seek academically / professionally qualified fair, slim, very beautiful, well-mannered, virtuous daughter (height above 5'5" preferred). Confidentiality assured. Please reply with family details and horoscope to: nuprop1030@gmail.com OG151140

B/G very respectable family from Western Province, mother seeks an educated fair, pretty daughter for her professional handsome son studied at leading Colombo school born in 1991/11, 5'7", working as Manager in leading private company. Owns substantial amount of assets including house, vehicle. Only brother overseas. E-mail: jna tha222@gmail.com OG151334

B/G, established, up-country parents living in a Colombo suburb seek a professionally qualified slim, pretty, fair, kind-hearted daughter for their 5'9", NS/TT, September 1989 born, smart, Graduate Software Engineering Team Leader son with an unblemished character, considerable assets and a non-malefic horoscope. Please write with complete family details, FB and a copy of a non-malefic horoscope. E-Mail: marrprop20@gmail.com OG151363

B/V, our younger son 30, 5'10" in height permanently employed in New Zealand (Government Institution), studied in Colombo (AL) and NZ (Bachelors). Parents now retired live in Colombo. Only brother lives in Australia. Please communicate with contact details. mpropnz@gmail.com OG150989

Catholic / Govi 34, 5'9", BSc, Banker, AUS/NZ citizen seeking pretty, qualified bride willing to migrate. 0777880303 vi vaha@soulmatevivah.a.lk OG151381

Colombo Buddhist parents seek pretty educated daughter for their son 5'8" height, born 1982, BSc graduated from Australian University, working as Senior Software Engineer in reputed Company. He owns house in Colombo and car, divorced after short (3 months) incompatible marriage, no encumbrances. Reply with family details, horoscope and contact numbers. Email: mproposal2082@gmail.com OG151101

Colombo - I have my valuable property / income and doing own business. I am 40 years fun loving, caring, handsome, healthy person looking a kind, independent pretty, nice shape of body figure with business lady partner (or non-business) age above 25 years for joyfull marriage life from Western Province. She should be modern attitude. Widower / divorcees welcome self reply please, horoscope no need. Call - 0117906624. Email - happycloud796@gmail.com OG151364

Colombo, Buddhist, Govi, age 26 years, height 5'7", handsome, studied leading Colombo school, completed Management Degree, having one brother in family, parents are reputed businessmen, he is functioning as the Managing Director of the business while having his own reputed business, owns houses, vehicles, etc. Very religious, sober habits, differences immaterial, compatible to Kuja - Ravi 8 will be more suitable. OG151074

Gampaha B/G 5'4", 31 years, handsome son employed as executive abroad, teetotaler, owns a valuable house. Engineer/Teacher parents look for an educated, fair and thin daughter. E-mail: victory2860@gmail.com OG150968

Govi Buddhist Kandyan family seeks professional partner for Medical Lecturer son 1980, 5'7" fair & free of all vices. Email: proposalky@gmail.com OG151301

Govi Buddhist parents residing in Canada seek an academically qualified kind pretty bride for their eldest son 5'11" born in 1995, employed as an Electrical Engineer. Please email with family details and copy of horoscope. (Matches with Rahu 7) to: tbmpmaya@gmail.com 0112857436. OG151245

Govi Buddhist parents seek educated pretty bride for their son born 1986 April height 6 feet bank executive educated in a leading Colombo School only sister married reply with horoscope and contact number. upananda55@gmail.com 0117322455. OG151356

G/B European citizen, 5'6", 48 y., educated handsome & down to earth son seeks bride less than 40 y for early marriage. She should be down to earth & educated, horoscope not essential. (Shani 7). s uba33mangalam76@yahoo.com OG151065

G/B parents seek an educated pretty and accomplished daughter for their educated handsome NS/TT established businessman son born in 1988, height 5'11" respects Buddhist teachings. Email: proposals1999@outlook.com OG151343

G/B respectable business parents from Colombo seek a pretty, fair, slim, fluent in English, professionally & academically qualified from a foreign university who is already settled overseas or planning to migrate with similar family background, caste immaterial, for Civil Engineer Son (B Eng, MSc, from Universities abroad) working as a Research Associate in a reputed university Singapore, 5'4" 32+ handsome, fair, hobbies travelling. Inherits valuable assets in Sri Lanka. Kuja 8. Horoscope with malefics in 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 would be suitable. Reply with full family details horoscope. Email: proposalg@hotmail.com OG150867

Kandyan Govi Buddhist 53 yrs. MSc Civil Engineer Company Director pretty educated bride below 40 yrs. seeks from same caste mixed religion. Details and horoscope needed. OG151055

Malay parents seek a Malay or Moor girl age 30-34 educated fair, tall no Abaya in Colombo, for son abroad, educated, no smoking, good job. Contact after 10 am. 0112334035 OG149740

Medical Specialist Doctor father and mother of Govi / Vishwa (caste immaterial) Buddhist family seeks a pretty daughter from a respectable professional or business family for their non-smoking, teetotaler, handsome son 30 yrs working as an MBBS Doctor (Medical Officer of Health). He inherits substantial assets. Email - propoalsr@yahoo.com OG151368

Moor family from Colombo looks for a bride for their youngest sibling, divorced (innocent party) 42 year looks much younger and smart, religious and working as an Assistant Manager in MNC in Colombo looking for a religious, educated girl. Pls. mail with details and photograph to propop1997@gmail.com OG151156

Moor parents looking for a bride for their son, age is 32, height 5'8" fair and well educated. Reply to: islamproposals@gmail.com or zavar.ca sim1941@gmail.com OG151014

Mother seeks for her 41 year old Buddhist Govi son height 5'7" who is a permanent resident of Australia and employed in a well reputed car company, an educated and well grounded Bodu Govi daughter. He has a fully furnished house with 10 acres of Coconut land in Gampaha. His horoscope is Mars 12. Please send horoscope notes with all family details. OG150998

Negombo, Karawa Roman Catholic, ordinary family, born 1993, possessing foreign degree and Masters degree, height 5'10", handsome elder lawyer son, parents seek educated, pretty daughter below 24 years, firm an ordinary family who can help son in his future education activities. Differences immaterial. Reply with family details and contact number. 011-2257111. OG151296

Parents seek an attractive educated English speaking virtuous daughter for their only son from a respectable family. Born 1991, 6 ft. dark, good looking, educated abroad, now Director in family businesses. Religion immaterial. (Ravi and Kuja in 01). Correspond only if horoscopes match as above. rosyferna ndoad@gmail.com OG151145

Parents seek an educated, pretty, well mannered partner living in the UK for elder son born 1982 in London. Graduate BSc/MSc in Economics and well brought up with Sri Lankan culture and values. Dual national British / Sri Lankan inherits substantial assets and wealth in both countries. luckshan01@hotmail.co.uk OG151382

Piliyandala Roman Catholic born in 1993 August height 5'5" only son working in Commercial Bank, parents seek a kind partner. Write with horoscope. OG151387

Ratnapura B/Govi, born 1982, multi media designer, graduated Appiit Campus Angila Ruskin University, NIBM and some more, he is old Thoman, height 5'8" lives in Doha Qatar, working as a Group Designer, only sister married Karawa also considered. Reply with horoscope with family details & contact details. Reply to decoone001@gmail.com OG151090

Respectable Buddhist parents seeking a kind hearted pretty slim, academically, and professionally qualified daughter brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values who lives overseas for their son never married, 28 years 5'7" handsome with brown skin tone and maintains a healthy lifestyle He graduated in human kinetics from a Canadian University and currently working as an active Rehab Therapist at a clinic in Canada. Those residing in Canada, USA and the UK are preferred. Please reply to warapemasiri@gmail.com with family details and horoscope. OG151353

Retired parents seek educated pretty partner for their academically qualified son born 1981 Feb. attached to the Govt. Sector in England, reply with H/C, family details and contact number. Email : prcristi508@gmail.com OG151023

Sinhala Buddhist parents with respectable family background in Colombo suburb seek educated partner with very good character for their well brought-up professionally and academically qualified son in acceptable professional practice, born in 1977, fair, 5'10" with excellent character, educated entirely in a leading Colombo School and University of Peradeniya obtaining the degree B.V.S. with assets. Reply with horoscope and full details. OG151012

Sinhala Karawa Catholic parents from Colombo suburbs, seek an educated, employed, caring and loving pretty daughter, for their son, smart, handsome, 31, 5'7", educated in a leading Catholic Private School, and well employed in foreign country, and back here, doing his own successful business, and getting six figure income. Having assets with house and car worth over 50 million. Reply with full details. E-Mail : matriad2020@gmail.com OG151003

S/G/B respectable family holding dual citizenship in Sri Lanka and Pacific Island seeking a professionally qualified pretty daughter for a relationship leading to marriage. He is 26 years, 5'10" graduated in Australia, good looking with great qualities and engaged in managerial position of Semi Government statutory organization in a pacific country. Please reply who is willing to reside in pacific region, family details including a copy of horoscope. Email: maljini@yahoo.com OG151016

Udarata Bodu Govi mother seeks an academically and professionally qualified pretty slim daughter for her only child son USA citizen 1987, 5'10" well brought up with Buddhist values working as a Medical Research Coordinator in a reputed company. Please reply with all details and phone number. Email: ctprop87@gmail.com OG150604

Western, Buddhist, Govi, age 41 years, height 5'6", very handsome, sober habits, religious, working as Supervisor at a reputed private company. Parents are deceased, owns valuable land, sought religious honest partner. Caste immaterial. Past forgiven. OG151079

We, Buddhist, Sinhalese parents residing in Colombo, looking for an educated, pretty, slim below 30 daughter for our son, Australian PR holder working in Singapore as a lead Software Engineer getting a good remuneration. He is 34, 5-7 height, truly fair, handsome and caring. He has an elder sister married and two younger brothers living in Australia. He owns an apartment in Colombo. Father, retired state sector professional, now working as a Project Management Consultant in private sector. Mother a University Graduate. Pls reply to: pradep18852@gmail.com OG151142

W/P B/G wealthy well-mannered divorced non-attached son (looks 38) seeking virtuous non-working daughter 42 from respectable background. Dowry immaterial. (52 yrs./5'4"). OG151204

1990 5'8" B/G respectable family mother seeks a same caste daughter for her son in Australia. He has educated at a leading school in Colombo. Currently studying for Masters in Business Research. He has coconut estate and assets send horoscope and family details. shantharajapak sha312@gmail.com OG151277

1991 professionally qualified, fair pretty daughter preferably (Engineer/Doctor) is sought by S/B parents from Gampaha District for their elder son, 29 yrs, 5'9" height N/S, MBBS Doctor graduated from foreign University presently working as Lecturer only brother held in Managerial Position. Reply with full details of family, copy of horoscope & contact information to: darshanisam2@gmail.com OG151268

**Marriage Broker**  
Services of an efficient Marriage broker having good contacts in Colombo and it's suburbs wanted.  
Contact: 077 4536070

**GROOM**

Parents living in Colombo seek for their son, handsome 42 year old Royalist holding a very good job in USA graduated with a Masters in Computer Science, academically qualified pretty daughter from a decent family age below 35 years height around 5'4" our son is a Green Card Holder

He owns house in USA and valuable property in Colombo.

Email: mayoshi17@hotmail.com

0151327, C/o Sunday Observer, Lake House, Colombo.

**BRIDE**

Kandyan, Sinhala, Govi Buddhist, Medical specialist parents seek for their only daughter, 1994 born, fair, attractive medical student attending a local Medical Faculty, a professionally qualified partner from a similar respectable background. She has only one sibling, a brother who is an engineering undergraduate attending Moratuwa University. Please reply with family details and a copy of the horoscope.

0151059, C/o Sunday Observer, Lake House, Colombo 10.

**Repeat Your ad For Better Offers**

**TENDER NOTICE**

The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites quotations from registered and previous sources for following items for open market sales and tenders will be closed at 1.15 p.m. on the dates given below. (E.mail /Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable)

Item	Quantity	Tender No.	Closing on
Item Code No : 170207C17 Promethazine Hydrochloride Tablets BP/USP 25mg in 1000 Tablets	3,600 Packs	RES/29/09/A/2020	29.09.2020
Item Code No : 240101D16 Fluoxetine Capsules BP/USP 20mg In 10 x 10 Capsules (Blister)	36,000 Packs	RES/29/09/B/2020	29.09.2020
Item Code No : 180503C08 Glimepiride Tablets 2mg In 10 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	48,000 Packs	RES/29/09/C/2020	29.09.2020
Item Code No : 050101C17 Topiramate Tablets 25mg (Film Coated) In 60 Tablets	14,000 Packs	RES/29/09/D/2020	29.09.2020
Item Code No : 210108A99 Fusidic Acid Eye Drops BP 1% w/v In 5g tube. Packed individually	18,000 Packs	RES/29/09/E/2020	29.09.2020
Item Code No : 180502C18 Gliclazide Modified Release Tablets 30mg In 10 x 10 Tablets(Blister)	48,000 Packs	RES/29/09/F/2020	29.09.2020
Item Code No : 060508D30 Cloxacillin Capsules BP 250mg <b>OR</b> Cloxacillin Sodium Capsules USP 250mg In 10 x 10 Capsules (Blister)	18,000 Packs	RES/29/09/G/2020	29.09.2020
Item Code No : 130309J99 Betamethasone Dipropionate Cream USP 0.05% w/w in 10g tube . Packed individually	3,000 Tubes	RES/29/09/H/2020	29.09.2020
Item Code No : 310117V99 Absorbent Cotton BP 200g <b>OR</b> Purified Cotton USP 200g <b>OR</b> Absorbent Cotton Wool SLS 285 : 1998 (1 <sup>st</sup> Revision)in 200g. Packed in brown paper and wrapped again in blue colour paper.	4,000 Packs	RES/02/10/A/2020	02.10.2020
Item Code No : 100302C14 Simvastatin Tablets BP/USP 10mg In 5 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	9,000 Packs	RES/02/10/B/2020	02.10.2020
Item Code No : 020102J99 Ketoprofen Gel BP 2.5% w/w In 20g Tube. Packed individually	36,000 Tubes/Packs	RES/02/10/C/2020	02.10.2020
Item Code No : 130101L43 Clotrimazole Topical Powder USP 1% In 30g plastic bottle. Packed individually	42,000 Packs	RES/02/10/D/2020	02.10.2020
Item Code No : 060607G99 Gentamicin Injection BP/USP 80mg/2ml In 10 ampoules in a pack. Packed individually	108,000 Ampoules	RES/02/10/E/2020	02.10.2020
Item Code No : 170701D08 Loperamide Capsules BP 2mg <b>OR</b> Loperamide Hydrochloride Capsules USP 2mg in 10 x 10 Capsules (Blister)	20,000 Packs	RES/02/10/F/2020	02.10.2020
Item Code No : 060301C20 Diethylcarbamazine Tablets BP 50mg <b>OR</b> Diethylcarbamazine Citrate Tablets USP 50mg in 1000 Tablets	2,400 Packs	RES/02/10/G/2020	02.10.2020
Item Code No : 060603C34 Cefuroxime Axetil Tablets BP/USP 500mg (Film coated) In 30 Tablets	54,000 Packs	RES/05/10/A/2020	05.10.2020
Item Code No : 240106C20 Chlorpromazine Tablets BP 50mg <b>OR</b> Chlorpromazine Hydrochloride Tablets USP 50mg in 1000 Tablets	2,500 Packs	RES/05/10/B/2020	05.10.2020
Item Code No : 020102C24 Prolonged-Release Diclofenac Tablets BP 100mg <b>OR</b> Diclofenac Sodium Delayed-Release Tablets USP 100mg in 10 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	30,000 Packs	RES/08/10/A/2020	08.10.2020

These tenders are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987" and therefore, in the event bidder is to retain an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of tenderer shall register himself and such Public Contract in accordance with Section 10 of the Public Contract Act and produce such valid Certificate of Registration in the course of any transaction relating to the tender or Act any stage in the duration of the tender.

Tenders will be closed at the office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at 1.15 p.m. on the dates indicated against each tender and will be opened immediately thereafter. Tenderers or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Tender.

**The Chairman – Procurement Committee**  
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka  
75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha,  
Colombo 01.  
Phone : 00 94 11 2 320 356 – 9

# Oracle revenue up in 1Q

Oracle Corporation (NYSE: ORCL) today announced fiscal 2021 Q1 results. Total quarterly revenues were up 2% year-over-year in USD and in constant currency to \$9.4 billion compared to Q1 last year. Cloud services and license support revenues were up 2% in USD and in constant currency to \$6.9 billion. Cloud license and on-premise license revenues were up 9% in USD and 8% in constant currency to \$886 million.

Q1 GAAP operating income was up 12% to \$3.2 billion and GAAP operating margin was 34%. Non-GAAP operating income was up 9% to \$4.2 billion and non-GAAP operating margin was 45%. GAAP net income was up 5%

to \$2.3 billion, and non-GAAP net income was up 4% to \$2.9 billion. GAAP earnings per share was up 16% to \$0.72, while non-GAAP earnings per share was up 15% to \$0.93. Short-term deferred revenues were \$9.9 billion. Operating cash flow was \$13.1 billion during the trailing twelve months.

"Q1 was fantastic with total revenue beating guidance by more than \$150 million, and non-GAAP earnings per share beating guidance by \$0.07," said Oracle CEO, Safra Catz. "Our cloud applications businesses continued their rapid revenue growth with Fusion ERP up 33% and NetSuite ERP up 23%. We now have 7,300 Fusion ERP customers and 23,000 NetSuite

ERP customers in the Oracle Cloud. Our infrastructure businesses are also growing rapidly as revenue from Zoom more than doubled from Q4 last year to Q1 in this year. I have a high level of confidence that our revenue will accelerate as we move on past COVID-19."

"I believe that the Oracle Cloud offers better Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) technology than any other cloud vendor," said Oracle Chairman and CEO, Larry Ellison. "The really good news here is that I'm not the only one who thinks that's true. Here is an approved quote from IDC."

In the 2020 Industry CloudPath survey that IDC recently released

where it surveyed 935 IaaS customers on their satisfaction with top IaaS vendors including Oracle, Amazon Web Services, Microsoft, IBM, Google Cloud.... Oracle IaaS (OCI) received the highest satisfaction score AND the biggest year-over-year score increase of all IaaS vendors. In addition, 86% of those surveyed said they expect their spend on Oracle IaaS (OCI) to increase in the future.

The board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.24 per share of outstanding common stock. This dividend will be paid to stockholders of record as of the close of business on October 8, 2020, with a payment date of October 22, 2020.

## Exchange Rates (Week ended September 18, 2020)

In the Forex market, the Rupee on its spot contacts was seen depreciating during the week to close the week at Rs.185.45/55 against its previous weeks closing level of Rs.184.45/55, subsequent to trading within the range of Rs.184.10 to Rs.185.50.

The daily USD/LKR average traded volume for the first four days of the week stood at US \$ 84.74 million.

Government Securities Market  
The sentiment in the secondary bond market turned sluggish to bearish during the week ending 18th September 2020 as activity dried up considerably, bearing a few sporadic trades. The sentiment was

further supported by the outcome of the weekly Treasury bill auction, where the total accepted amount was seen falling short of the total offered amount.

The limited trades seen during the week saw yields fluctuate within a narrow range mainly on the maturities of 2022's (i.e. 15.11.22 & 15.12.22), 2023's (i.e. 15.05.23, 01.09.23 & 01.10.23), 2024's (i.e. 15.06.24 & 15.09.24), 01.05.25, 01.02.26, 15.08.27 and 01.07.28 at levels of 5.53% to 5.57%, 5.70% to 5.75%, 6.08% to 6.10%, 6.37%, 6.56% to 6.59%, 6.88% to 6.95% and 7.05% respectively. This intern reflected a marginal shift up-

wards of the overall yield curve. In secondary bills, October to December 2020, March 2021 and August 2021 maturities traded at level of 4.52% to 4.57%, 4.65% and 4.80% respectively. The primary Treasury bond auctions conducted on Friday recorded steady outcomes as the 01.10.2023, 01.02.2026 and 01.07.2028 maturities recorded weighted average rates of 5.72%, 6.57% and 7.07% respectively, marginally below its stipulated cut off rates of 5.75%, 6.60% and 7.08%.

In the money market, the standing Lending Facility Rate (SLFR) of Central Bank or discount window at 5.50% was accessed during the week

for the first time since 18th August 2020. This was despite the average net overnight surplus liquidity in the system registering at Rs.172.24 billion for the week, below its previous week's average of Rs. 194.12 billion. However, the weighted average rates on overnight call money and repos remained broadly steady at 4.52% and 4.59% respectively for the week.

(References: Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Bloomberg E-Bond trading platform, Money broking companies)

Courtesy: Wealth Trust Securities Ltd

## HS SELECT showroom at Nawala

HS SELECT, a leading fabric collection company opened a state of the art showroom and launched the HS SELECT at a ceremony graced by Army Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Shavendra Silva on September 4 at Nawala.

HS Fabric Collection Co., Ltd was set up in 1991 and over the past 29 years has earned its reputation to be the 'go to' place for your upholstery fabric need.

Having its forte in sofa materials with a variety of designs and textures, HS fabric ventures out into the product area of curtains and drapery material.

HS Fabric launches a new brand, 'HS SELECT' along with its new flagship store situated at No 61A, Nara-

henpita Road, Nawala which is designed to cater for the curtaining and drapery needs of our customers.

Along with a variety of curtain types, ranging from translucent sheer curtains, to textures dim-outs, elegant design motifs and light cutting blackouts, HS SELECT has it all, ignorer to cater for any customer need.

HS SELECT flagship showroom comprises a range of designs to suit the living space.

R.G. Pamaratne is the Founder Chairman of Nawala Cushion Works Pvt Ltd, H.S Fabric collection company Ltd Mr. Lahiru Gamage - Managing Director Mrs. Jinali Hettiarachchi - General Manager



## First minister from Chartered Accountants fraternity felicitated



Past Presidents of CA Sri Lanka gathered to felicitate the first-ever Minister from the Chartered Accountants fraternity in Sri Lanka, Ajith Nivard Cabraal at the Kingsbury Hotel recently.

The incumbent CA President Manil Jayasinghe and Vice President Sanjay Bandara were also present. Standing (from left): Aside Talwatte, Sujeewa Rajapaksha, Sanjaya Bandara, Nishan Fernando, Yohan Perera, Arjuna Herath, Indrajith Fernando, Jagath Perera, Lasantha Wickramasinghe, Sujeewa Mudalige, Ranel Wijesinha. Seated (from left): Manil Jayasinghe, Lal Nanayakkara, Lakshman Watawala, Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Uditha Palihakkara, Mohan Abenaik, Reyaz Mihular.

## Oceanpick donates fingerlings to smallholder fishing communities

Oceanpick (Pvt) Ltd., an oceanic farm operator, recently distributed fingerlings free to small-scale fish farmers across the island to bolster national fish production and to improve their livelihoods and food security.

Officials of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) were also present.

Head of Operations at Oceanpick, Dan Richardson said, "Over the years our facility has played a significant role in responsible farming that produces all-natural, nutrient-rich, and superior quality seafood, underscoring the sustainability of our facility and overall operations."

"However, smallholder fish farmers are as crucial for the future growth of the fisheries sector. We felt the need to step in to strengthen connections by combining our resources, with the aim to both boost production as well as help restore livelihoods," he said.

At the Oceanpick facility, Sea Bass fingerlings are first allowed to hatch out and grow in the company's on-shore nursery located close to the sea sites, and are then transferred to sea cages anchored to the

## TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO.36 SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2020

■ This week's auction (Sale No. 36) was conducted on September 15 - 16 (Tue/Wed) and the offer quantity was down to 5.8 m/kgs which was 0.4 m/kgs lower when compared to the previous sale. The Low Grown Leafy/ Semi Leafy/ Tippy and Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totalled 2.7 m/kgs, while Main Sale High and Medium category amounted to 0.6 m/kgs. The Ex-Estate catalogue had 0.7 m/kgs; a further drop over the earlier auction.

■ Ex-Estate teas met with Good demand. Select best western BOP's/BOPF's were firm to irregularly dearer while below-best BOP's were a little easier and their corresponding BOPF's in sharp contrast, were Rs. 10 to 20 dearer. Nuwara Eliya BOP's were sharply dearer, but there were zero BOPF on offer. A small range of selected Uva's was much dearer with buyers closely following quality. CTC PF1's again saw subdued interest at mostly lower prices, while BPI/BPS grades too were easier. There was fair demand from Hong Kong and China, while Japan and Europe were active though selective. 'Tea Bag' buyers for Russia were more active.

■ Low grown leafy teas met with fair demand. Stylish OP1's were irregular, but cleaner below-best teas ruled firm to dearer. Better made OP/OPA's received strong enquiry and consequently were fully firm to dearer. In the 'Semi Leafy' segment, the very best BOP1's were a little irregular although others were firm to dearer. Best Pek/Pek1's were about firm with balance sorts ruling fully firm to dearer. In the Tippy Catalogue, select best FBOP's met with good demand and were mostly dearer while cleaner below-best teas too were dearer. Better FBOPF1's were irregular but bottom level teas were dearer. There was strong demand from Germany for well twisted leafy BOP1's and selected OP1's along with the usual demand from Saudi Arabia for leafy teas. Other Middle Eastern buyers from Iran, Syria, Jordan and the UAE were also active together with Russia, the CIS and Turkey.

■ This week's auction comprised 10,597 lots totalling of 5,860,118 kgs.

■ The catalogue-wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	2,041	887,007
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,598	785,684
Low Grown Tippy	1,867	1,013,043
High and Medium	1,410	676,840
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,195	1,235,744
Dust	469	455,908
Premium Flowery	383	74,942
Ex-Estate	634	730,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,597</b>	<b>5,860,118</b>

### Crop and weather from September 7 - 13, 2020

■ **Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions:** The Western and Nuwara Eliya regions reported dull and rainy weather throughout the week. Isolated showers and strong winds are expected in both regions during the week ahead according to the Department of Meteorology. **Uva/Udapussellawa Regions:** Both Regions reported gloomy weather with isolated showers, while a few sub-districts in both regions experienced bright weather. **Low Grown:** Dull and rainy weather was reported in the Low Grown Region. The Department of Meteorology forecasts isolated showers in the Sabaragamuwa and Ruhuna regions in the week ahead.

■ **Crop Intake:** The Western Region showed a decrease in the crop intake, while the Nuwara Eliya, Uva and Udapussellawa regions maintained. The Low Grown Region experienced a slight increase in the crop intake.

Source: Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd

### Tribute

## Kumar: A versatile entrepreneur

"Beautiful Memories silently kept of one that we loved and will never forget" is what's inscribed in Kumar's tombstone by his family.

September 12, 2020 marked one year since my good friend Kumar Fernando left us to go to his creator. Even though he is no more with us, his memory and influence will always live on, in the lives of those who knew him, and were touched by his generosity and kindness. Kumar's life has left an indelible imprint in the life of his close family and friends and this void can never be filled.

I got to know Kumar in 1972

while we were in school, but it was much later that we entered the same profession as planters and worked in the same area and thus became close friends.

This culminated in him inviting me to be his 'best man' at his wedding in 1976, a moment I still cherish.

Several years later after excelling in his chosen career as a planter in Sri Lanka, he had the good fortune of being selected to work in Transkei, South Africa, where he worked with distinction for the Magwa Tea Corporation for 14 years, rising to the position of General Manager - Op-

erations before he decided to leave Transkei for Melbourne, Australia at the pinnacle of his career.

His new home, Melbourne Australia offered Kumar many opportunities. Due to his versatility, entrepreneurial competence, and dedication he set up a successful restaurant business with his wife Nelu in a very short space of time. As always Kumar worked tirelessly to set it up, and the business flourished even in a highly competitive environment like Melbourne, purely because of Kumar's commitment, perseverance, and hard work.

Kumar unhesitatingly shared his



success with others by unselfishly sharing his time and advice special-



Head of Operations, Dan Richardson, Manager, Hatchery and Nursery Operations, Aslam Pathiri and Manager, Special Projects, Fayas Buhary present sea bass fingerlings to a farmer.

ocean floor, where strict biosecurity standards are maintained and the waters constantly monitored for temperature and salinity. Last year, Oceanpick facilitated the growth of

over a million fingerlings, and as a result, were able to produce a surplus that is now able to benefit the growth of the fisheries sector in more ways than one.

ly with many Sri Lankans who were learning the nitty gritty of business in Melbourne. I have had personal knowledge of some people whom he has helped, and these were some of his very endearing qualities that are rare in today's world.

Another quality that I found in Kumar as the years went by is that he could easily forgive those who wronged him and even go to the extent of helping such people and encouraged others to do so too.

By this quality he was practicing the biblical principles of 'forgiveness' which many find hard to do. Forgiving and caring for people and

assisting them came very naturally to Kumar. During my few visits to Melbourne, we used to discuss the subject of forgiveness and spirituality in detail.

Nelu and his children Tehani, Ayesha and Sudesh and the extended family will miss Kumar immensely.

Visiting Melbourne will never be the same for me, I will miss Kumar and the special times we shared. I will always hold dear the fond memories I have of him and I am proud to have been his close friend for this many years.

Rohan M. Fernando