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PAGE 4



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PAGE 11



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SECURITY FOR POLITICOS REDUCED

POLICE CONFINED TO THEIR DUTIES - Chamal Rajapaksa

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management Chamal Rajapaksa said that of the 84,000 policemen, almost 38,000 have been deployed for work which is outside their

legitimate duties such as providing security for parliamentarians, judges and other VIPs. We wish to deploy these policemen only for police duties such as apprehending those involved in criminal activities and other vices.

At present there is a shortage of policemen to perform police duties. The

police stations are understaffed. In such circumstances, it is difficult to fully combat illegal drug trafficking and check the increasing wave of crime and corruption. Unless those 38,000 trained police personnel revert to their legitimate police duties, it would be a grave situation we face in preventing crime,

the Minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

He said if the full force of the police is deployed for police duties, the increasing crime rate can be contained. It is also of serious concern that it is the taxpayers' money that has to bear the brunt of it. Minister Rajapaksa said after a po-

lice officer is trained for several years for police investigations and other relevant duties in the police service, it is a great loss to deploy four police officers to provide security to every parliamentarian. Therefore, a decision has been taken to deploy only two police officers for every parliamentarian.

RUSSIAN AIRLINE CREW CONTACTS

Eighty-four locals to be tested for Covid-19 today



By Aanya Wipulasena

Eighty-four people who came in contact with the Russian airline crew members will be tested for Covid-19 today (27) and released if the tests proved negative, Army Commander Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

▶ TO PAGE 2

FIRST VIRTUAL BILATERAL SUMMIT

India to expand defence partnership with Lanka

India will expand the defence partnership with Sri Lanka while pledging a grant assistance of US \$ 15 million to promote Buddhist ties with Sri Lanka, in the first virtual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday.



Among the topics discussed were maritime security and countering the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to Indian media, the development of the strategic Colombo East container terminal and the peace and reconciliation process also figured in the discussion. According to a statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs, the virtual bilateral summit was Prime Minister Modi's first such engagement with a neighbouring country.

It was also Premier Rajapaksa's first diplomatic engagement with a leader of a foreign country after he was sworn in as the Prime Minister on August 9, 2020.

"An opportunity has come to begin a new chapter in India-Sri Lanka ties after your party's electoral victory. People from both countries are looking at us with new hope and expectations," PM Modi said.

▶ TO PAGE 2

FIRE ON MT NEW DIAMOND

Owners agree to pay Rs 442m

By Aanya Wipulasena

The owners, Salvors of Crude Oil Tanker MT New Diamond have agreed to pay Rs. 442 million to government stakeholders, according to a media release from the Attorney General's Coordinating Officer State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne.



The owners initially agreed to pay Rs. 340 million but increased it following a request by Sri Lanka's Attorney General (AG) Dappula de Livera. This included the cost incurred by the gov-

ernment to douse the fire on the crude oil tanker. "Ship owners - Salvors of the crude oil tanker MT New Diamond..."

▶ TO PAGE 2



International day for elders falls on October 1 and Sri Lanka celebrates Children's Day and Elders' Day on the same day, October 1. Following the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the UN chief said it fears children and elders will be exposed to untold suffering but Sri Lanka has succeeded in controlling the Covid-19 pandemic with accolades from the UN and the WHO. The 30th anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons and the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child will also be celebrated. Pic: Hirantha Gunathilaka

Bollywood star Deepika Padukone questioned in drugs case



MUMBAI, Sep. 26 (BBC) - Bollywood star Deepika Padukone is being questioned by India's narcotics board in an investigation linked to the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

▶ TO PAGE 2

20A - Petitions in Supreme Court on Tuesday

Petitions filed against the 20th Amendment to the Constitution will be taken up for hearing in the Supreme Court on Tuesday, September 29.

The draft 20th Amendment Bill was tabled in Parliament last week.

▶ TO PAGE 2



Window of opportunity for FDIs - Jayamin Pelpola

Sri Lanka has a window of opportunity with resilience and potential to achieve world-class results in driving Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs), Jayamin Pelpola who was appointed to the Board of Investment (BoI) said on Friday.

Pelpola, a renowned banker turned tech entrepreneur was appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to the BOI board last week. Jayamin has over a decade of international investment banking and asset management experience



working for Goldman Sachs and Nomura USA.

▶ TO PAGE 2

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News

Probe into Easter Sunday attacks

Ex-IGP Pujith blames ex-President and SIS Chief for key lapses

BY MANESHA BORHAM

Former IGP Pujith Jayasundara together with former Secretary of Defence Hemasiri Fernando appearing before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on the Easter Sunday Attacks last week pointed fingers at former President Maithripala Sirisena and former SIS Chief Senior DIG Nilantha Jayawardena for key lapses which led to the Easter Sunday attacks.

Fernando told the Commission that only the President has the power to give directions to the National Security Council (NSC) and former President Maithripala Sirisena had never instructed those in the NSC to arrest terror mastermind Zahran Hashim during his tenure as the Defence Secretary between November 2018 and April 2019.

Fernando said that he took over the post of Defence Secretary in November 2018 and that no one had any idea where Zahran was hiding. If they could

have arrested Zahran in 2018, the attack could have been foiled, he said. He said that in 2018, the Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) was after Zahran, but this endeavour was intercepted. "If this didn't happen, the TID might have arrested him," he said.

Fernando said that Former President Sirisena had asked former IGP Pujith Jayasundara not to investigate National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ) Leader Zahran Hashim as he had handed over the investigation to the State Intelligence Service (SIS). Fernando said that the investigation into NTJ had been taken away from the TID and handed over to the SIS by former President in 2018.

Fernando said SIS Director Nilantha Jayawardena must take the responsibility for the Easter Sunday attacks as Jayawardena had failed to furnish accurate information and analyse it. Fernando said this in response to a question posed by a Commissioner as to who should be held responsible for the

attacks.

He said Jayawardena had informed of foreign information about a possible terrorist attack. Fernando said Jayawardena had failed to mention that the information came from India and was reluctant to discuss the foreign intelligence at the weekly intelligence review meeting held on April 9, 2019. He said that he didn't push the matter because former SIS Director and former President Sirisena had a strong bond.

Former IGP Pujith Jayasundara said that former President Sirisena instructed him not to carry out inquiries about Islamic extremists.

Jayasundara said that he became aware of the threat posed by Islamic extremists by late 2017 and that he attempted to coordinate the actions of various institutions under him and brief political leaders on the issue.

"I felt that reports of the TID, Special Branch and the CID were not coming to the Intelligence Coordinating

Meeting, and I tried to address this by telling the Defence Secretary. I also tried to inform the political leadership," Jayasundara said.

The witness added that when meeting relevant ministers, he raised the matter. During such a meeting, President Sirisena said that the situation in Sri Lanka wasn't grave and that there could not be issues from Muslim leaders, including ministers, Jayasundara said.

He said that towards the latter part of the previous government, there was confusion in many spheres, which prevented them from taking decisions on national security. Jayasundara said that he was asked not to take part in the National Security Council (NSC) in October 2018, and this led to serious issues and inconveniences.

The Commissioners also asked Jayasundara whether his being absent from the NSC, had an impact on national security. Jayasundara said that from

that time, he was not informed of what transpired at the NSC and that the fact that another senior officer of the Police was invited to the NSC was upsetting for me and him," he said.

Jayasundara also said that the standoff between President Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had become a serious concern and that when both of them gave contradictory orders, he followed the directives of the President.

Jayasundara added that he had received a call from the former President at around 9.15 am on the day of the attacks.

"President Sirisena told me that he was not apprised of prior warnings on the attacks and the IGP and the Defence Secretary had to bear responsibility for the disaster," Jayasundara said. He admitted that former President Sirisena had verbally instructed him not to conduct an inquiry openly on Islamic extremism, after he had instructed the

CID to conduct an inquiry on vandalising Buddha statues in Mawanela in December, 2018.

Given that the Easter Sunday attacks were well planned, President Sirisena must directly be held responsible, while his advisors must be partially blamed for the disaster, former IGP Pujith Jayasundara yesterday told Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCI) investigating the Easter Sunday attacks.

Meanwhile, the PCI probing into the Easter Sunday attacks last week, issued stern warning to former President Sirisena, his personal secretary Sameera de Silva and the three Auxiliary Bishops of Colombo.

They were warned to refrain from making statements to the media refusing remarks made by witnesses testifying before the Commission.

Former President Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe have been summoned before the Commission on October 5 and 6.



A poppy flower was pinned on Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena by Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen Association (SLESA) Poppy Committee Chairman, Group Captain (Retd) Kumar Kirinde in the Parliamentary premises on Tuesday. The Poppy campaign is part of the Security Forces Remembrance Day which falls on November 8. Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake, General Secretary of SLESA Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Ajith Siyambalapatiya and poppy committee members were also present.

World Tourism Day today

BY AANYA WIPULASENA

Sri Lanka will join the global community to celebrate the World Tourism Day amid the Covid-19 pandemic under the banner 'Tourism and Rural Development'.

The official event, organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and the Department of Trade Commerce and

Tourism of Central Provincial Council will be held at the Kandy City Center today at 9.00am.

"This is an important event. We will have to restart tourism during a pandemic. The main focus of the event will be to promote domestic tourism till international travel is restored," Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said.

It will be followed by the Tourism

Leaders' Summit (TLS) themed 'A Way Forward for Sustainable Tourism Development: Knowledge, Innovation, Policy, Synergy', and International Tourism Research Conference (ITRC) that will explore 'Crisis Management and Resilience Building for Sustainable Tourism Development'. Both events are organised by the Tourism Study Programs at the University of Colombo.

Police confined...

From page 1

The Minister said, "Today, crime is on the increase and there is a belief that the wave of increasing drug menace, illicit liquor and cannabis had posed a serious threat to the peace in the country due to criminal elements not being apprehended. The question is do we have enough police officers to track them?"

Minister Rajapaksa said some police officers prefer to work under parliamentarians as they are more comfortable. We should seriously consider as to why we should permit this ill-conceived practice? Policemen should be in the police force to maintain law and order and protect people. It is improper for police officers to be assigned duties such as carrying files and bags of parliamentarians. When citizens are protected it applies to parliamentarians as well. Peace will thrive if wrongdoings are nipped in the bud. Therefore, police officers should be present in every nook and corner.

Of the 38,000 policemen engaged in non-police duties, a large number is deployed to provide security to parliamentarians. If a parliamentarian visits a particular area, it is the principal duty of the local police to ensure his security. Failure to do so will result in the local police being held responsible. There is no point of policemen going behind politicians as it would amount to politicians losing their credibility and reputation in the eyes of the public, he said.

Minister Rajapaksa said when the security in the country is consolidated, we should convey it to the people. Else, people would think that there is still a war against terrorism, when policemen are seen escorting politicians armed with weapons. The result is that the people get distanced from politicians and it is not desirable. However, if any particular parliamentarian faces any security threat, we will detail special security for him.

20A - Petitions...

From page 1

A special five-judge bench has been appointed by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya to hear the 18 petitions. The petitioners have cited the Attorney General as the respondent. Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya will preside over the five-member Judge bench. The other four are Supreme Court Justices Buwaneka Aluwihare, Priyantha Jayawardena, Vijith Malalgoda and Sisira de Abrew.

The petitions were filed by the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), Tamil National Alliance (TNA) leader parliamentarian R. Sampanthan, Anil

Kariyawasam, public interest litigation activist Nagananda Kodituwakku, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Attorney-at-Law Indika Gallage, former Governor, Southern Province and former Executive Director, Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE) Ranjith Keerthi Tennakoon, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), human rights activist Abdul Sanun and three civilians, S.C.C. Illangavon, Lohini Fernando and Lakmal Jayakody.

India to expand...

From page 1

He thanked Prime Minister Rajapaksa for accepting his invitation for the virtual Bilateral Summit and congratulated him for being elected as Prime Minister and the victory of his party at the parliamentary elections.

The Prime Minister had also thanked India for the successful operation to douse the fire on the MT New Diamond saying it provided an opportunity for greater cooperation between the two countries. The grant will assist in deepening people-to-people linkage between the two

Window of opportunity...

From page 1

He is the only Sri Lankan to have worked in the Principal Strategies group at Goldman Sachs, an award-winning team recognised for its creative and highest yielding investment strategies on Wall Street. He said Sri Lanka needs to improve on fundamental and measurable aspects of ease of doing business and industry competitiveness.

"However, everything is relative, and I think Sri Lanka has a window of opportunity. We have proven that we have a lot of resilience and potential for excellence. Taking into account how we continue to handle the Covid-19 crisis, it's clear, with clear leadership, we can punch above our weight and achieve world class results," Pelpola said, adding that investors prefer countries which can punch above their weight. He said in our recent history, the conclusion of a 30-year battle against terrorism was our first opportunity to reach out to the world. This may be our second. Pelpola said in the short term, Sri Lanka could accelerate its investor outreach in select sectors,

while retaining sufficient flexibility to convince strategic investors. "Let's build on the stability the country has achieved in controlling the pandemic. We have to rally our resources and communication around this," he said, adding that in the medium term, his main goal is to promote what is made in Sri Lanka and help the BOI increase the number of sustainable industries within the nation. He said we have only a handful of such industries, while some others have deteriorated in terms of their value addition and world standing. To achieve this, some "basics" have to be in place. We have to focus on the right reforms, right industries, right investors and punch above our weight wherever we can. In doing so, we also need to capture most of the value-added for ourselves.

"I would be very happy to contribute to Sri Lanka in a way that increases the nation's competency and ambition. It is evident that Sri Lanka has space to improve in the areas of investment, finance and technology to accelerate the nation's recovery," Pelpola said.

Eighty-four locals.....

From page 1

A member of the airline crew was tested positive for Covid-19 on Thursday (24), but the second and third PCR tests were negative. He and his colleagues, who arrived in the country on September 13, were quarantined in a hotel in Polhena, Matara.

Officials initially contemplated a lockdown in Matara but it was ruled out later. Several families who came in contact with the airline crew were placed in Army-run quarantine centres.

Silva said that the crew member will be discharged from hospital. The other crew members have already left the country. Chief Epidemiologist, Ministry of Health, Dr. Sugath Samaraweera said that it was normal for a



Former Sunday Observer Design Editor is no more Rajitha's passion for colour and photography stood out

Mahil! Do you have any news picture for this week's page one? This was a frequently asked question by Rajitha on Saturday evening.

I still recall Rajitha walking briskly to my desk in the Sunday Observer Graphic Department and touch my shoulders and I show him the pictures on the computer screen. He walks several times to the Photo Department and if he couldn't select a good picture for page one, he approached me. He knew for certain that I would have newsworthy pictures for Sunday Observer page one.

A perfectionist, Design Editor, he never accepted any work that did not meet his expectations. His Graphic Department and the printing machines were at the far ends of the office, and I remember doing innumerable trips to and fro with printouts till he was satisfied with the tone and detail to make the final print of the paper.

As a graphic artist, I had to show him every graphic I had done and he would examine every detail minutely and give his expert comments, even if it had to be altered several times.

A far-sighted professional, he

saw the dominance of the visual media way back in the 1980s and wanted us to be prepared. At one point, he handed me an InDesign tutorial book and asked me to study it.

He was constantly in touch with our graphic designers and artists during his tenure as the

Design head of the Sunday Observer until he migrated to Australia, often commenting on them correcting their lapses after seeing our work.

His command on colour and photographic reproduction was unmatched. He was constantly updating his knowledge via the internet, passing on any interesting developments to the graphic artists and designers.

Rajitha was undoubtedly a source of inspiration to the Sunday Observer's Graphic Department staffers until he left our shores for Australia where he passed away. His demise has left a void, which can never be filled.

Rajitha Udawatte, the former Design Editor of the Sunday Observer who was domiciled in Australia passed away on Sunday, September 20. His funeral was held on Friday at Kempsey, New South Wales. He was a committed employee who won the hearts of his colleagues at Lake House. He leaves his wife Florence and four children.

Rajitha was a past student of Piliyandala Central College. *May he attain the supreme bliss of Nirwana!*
- Mahil and Sunday Observer staff

Owners agree to...

From page 1

... through their lawyers have informed the AG of their agreement to settle the government stakeholders' claim for Rs. 442 million promptly," Jayaratne told the media.

"The AG has also submitted an interim expert report by professors of five universities together with experts of National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) and Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) on marine pollution. The damage caused to the environment will be estimated," Jayaratne said in an audio released to

the media on Friday (25).

This claim for damages caused to the marine environment will also be sent to the owners of the vessel for settlement.

Jayarathne said MT New Diamond will be given a safe passage under the supervision of the Navy to exit from the exclusive economic zone of Sri Lanka. The New Diamond, with Kuwaiti oil, is currently 66 nautical miles (122 kilometres) away from Batticaloa in the East coast. The Panama flagged tanker was chartered by the Indian Oil Corporation.

Bollywood star...

From page 1

Padukone is among six people to be summoned - two other actresses were also being questioned on Saturday. Rajput's girlfriend, Rhea Chakraborty, was arrested earlier this

month for allegedly buying drugs for him - claims she has denied.

The case has fuelled months of media coverage and speculation in India.



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<p>20% off Rs. 240 Save Rs. 60 was Rs. 300 Coca Cola Pet 2l</p>	<p>Nexus 25% off Rs. 337 Save Rs. 48 was Rs. 385 Renuka Coconut Milk Powder 300g</p>	<p>Nexus 25% off Rs. 337 Save Rs. 113 was Rs. 450 Marina Refined Coconut Oil 675ml</p>	<p>Nexus 25% off Rs. 405 Save Rs. 135 was Rs. 540 Zesta Tea Foil Pack 400g</p>	<p>30% off Rs. 168 Save Rs. 72 was Rs. 240 Baby Cheramy Soap 5s 75g</p>

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By
Uditha
Kumarasinghe



Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management Chamal Rajapaksa said they could understand the difficulties faced by the then President, Prime Minister and Government officials under the 19A. It did not bring any benefit to the country or to the people. Therefore, we decided to introduce the 20A as we do not wish to undergo the same old experience anymore. The Minister in an interview with the *Sunday Observer* said that the Constitution has been amended 20 times that means it has numerous shortcomings, and we should formulate a new Constitution in collaboration with all political parties to fulfil the aspirations of the people and pave the way to solve burning issues and accelerate development.

Q: How do you view the protest by SJB MPs in the well of the House when the 20A was presented in Parliament on Tuesday (22) disrupting parliamentary proceedings?

A. After a Bill is presented to Parliament, there is an opportunity to express MPs' opposition to it. The SJB MPs should have expressed their opposition to the 20A without resorting to such unparliamentary behaviour. Whatever the protest it should be made at the appropriate time, if not the ultimate objective of conducting a protest would be lost. It was an unnecessary situation created by the SJB MPs in the House. If the uproar had continued, it could have ended up in fistcuffs. The SJB should understand why the people gave a mandate of 150 MPs to the SLPP and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa secured a resounding victory of over 6.9 million votes.

The President at the General Election campaign called upon the people to give a mandate to the Government to abolish the 19th Amendment and introduce the 20th Amendment. The people have fully endorsed the President's request. It will take some time to see the good and bad aspects of the 20A. We witnessed the obstacles faced by the then President, Prime Minister and Government officials when performing their duties under the 19A. It did not bring any benefit to the country or to the people. Hence, we decided to introduce the 20A as we do not wish to face the same old experience anymore.

If the Constitution has been amended 20 times that means it has numerous shortcomings. We should formulate a new Constitution in collaboration with all political parties to suit the present day needs. Peace has been restored in the country after the end of the 30-year battle against terrorism. Therefore, we should introduce a simple Constitution to fulfil the aspirations of the people and pave the way to solve the burning issues and accelerate development. There is no point in including complicated clauses in the Constitution which cannot be understood by the people. Everybody should be able to understand the content of the Constitution.

The sole objective of 19A was to target a particular person. Under the former Yahapalana Government, the President and the Prime Minister were from two different political parties. The UNP strategically used the former President Maithripala Sirisena to defeat his predecessor. The entire country is aware, that it were some external forces and NGOs that wanted to topple the previous Government, and not the people. The Yahapalana Government misled the then President to realise their narrow political objectives. However, the architect of that conspiracy knew the repercussions he would have to face so that he hurriedly introduced the 19A and had it passed in Parliament.

The 19A did not bring anything worthwhile to the then President or Prime Minister. The people realised that and gave an overwhelming majority to the SLPP Government to

19A sans any benefit to the country

- Minister Chamal Rajapaksa

change the adverse political situation. We should feel the pulse of the people. The Constitution making process should be done in collaboration with all political parties. It cannot be done in an arbitrary manner; as otherwise, those who have power would attempt to bulldoze it. The new Constitution should give priority to the people's burning issues, development and the future generation.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is different from all former Presidents. He visualises the use of modern technology and the type of education to suit present day needs. He has a broad understanding of information technology. The President makes genuine efforts to eliminate inefficiency and malpractices in State institutions. He has given full freedom to Cabinet Ministers to take policy decisions on behalf of the country while responsibilities have been cast on young State Ministers on various subjects to increase the country's production and employment opportunities.

Q: How do you respond to the Opposition's claim that the 20A would pave the way for dictatorship and authoritarian rule?

A. This is yet another baseless allegation levelled by the Opposition. The classic example is how the President acted during the past few months after he assumed office. Youth conducted several protests at Galle Face, and we saw how the President listened to their grievances in a humane manner. He even designated a special place to conduct protests so that the police will not use tear gas or baton charges. The President took these measures to resolve the grievances of the youth, not to be a dictator. Earlier when the youth conducted a protest or demonstration they were chased away by the police using tear gas and baton charges. They were never allowed to talk to the then Presidents. Now the President goes to the demonstrators and talks to them.

He has a good understanding of the issues, and looks at problems in a humane manner. The President has been directly involved in solving thousands of issues faced by the people. All these are done by the President with the genuine intention of providing solutions to the issues faced by the people. The SJB should reflect on how their present leader and former leader acted when they held portfolios in the Yahapalana Government.

Q: The main Opposition SJB says the 20A would curtail the powers of the Prime Minister so that their struggle is to safeguard his powers. Your comments?

A. The issue would have been complicated if we had a President and a Prime Minister like those in the Yahapalana Government. Now, we

have a President and a Prime Minister with a mutual understanding of each other. Therefore, such a thing will not happen.

Q: The Opposition is of the view that the 20A makes the Executive President so powerful that he is not bound by the law. What is your comment?

A. The President contested the Presidential Election and won to implement his own policy. The people voted for that policy. Hence, the President should have the power to implement his policy. If a person has dictatorial power, we can control it with the new Constitution. If a President acts in an arbitrary manner, Parliament has power to bring in an impeachment motion against him. We will not deprive that right.

Q: The SJB raised concern in Parliament for not giving the chairmanship of COPE and COPA to the Opposition. Your views?

A. It is more appropriate that a matured politician from the Government or the Opposition should be appointed as chairmen of COPE and COPA. He should not have any hidden agendas when performing his duties. The best COPE Chairman I ever witnessed was Bernard Zoysa. He was an LSSPer and a true leftist. He never held that portfolio with the vicious intention of grabbing power. He always took correct decisions for the benefit of the country. He was a classic example.

Some who hold the portfolios try to attack the

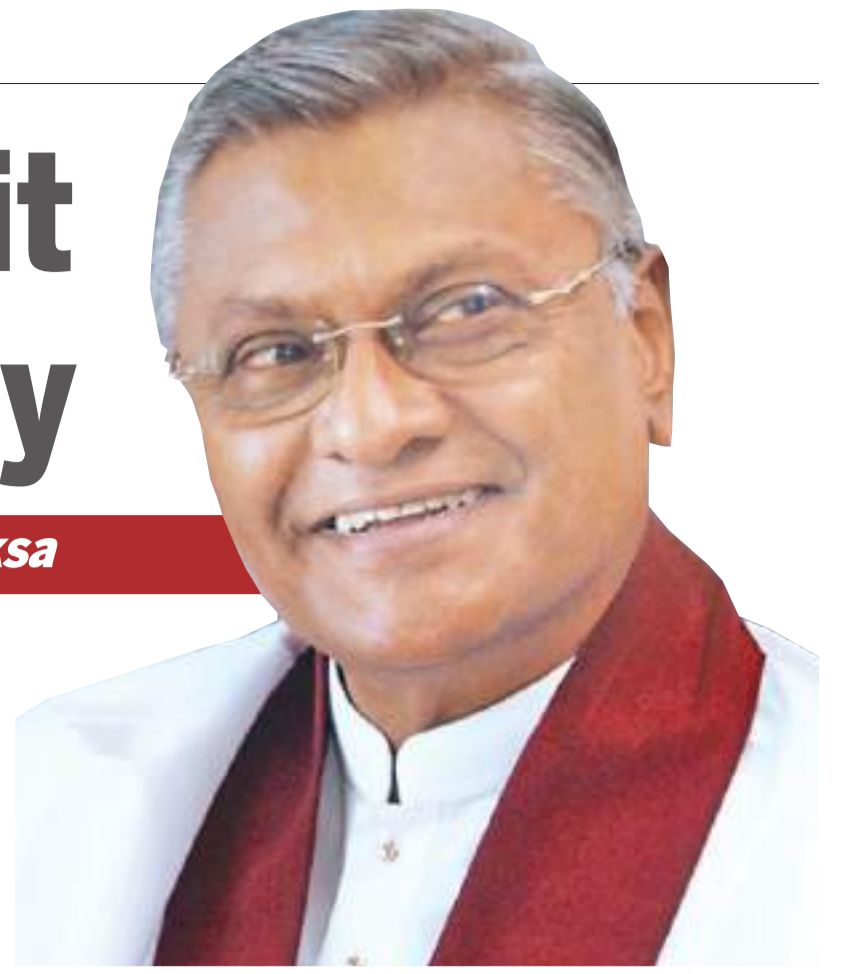
Government or his opponents. Such persons would not bring any justice. For justice to prevail, independent persons should be appointed as chairmen of COPE and COPA. It is not our duty to bring Government officials before COPE and embarrass them. We want to rectify the shortcomings in state institutions. Nobody can say all audit reports are hundred percent accurate. Sometimes, the officials may include their own versions in the reports. When one views the SJB MPs' conduct in Parliament on Tuesday, we have to rethink about giving such important positions to the Opposition.

Q: The Opposition also raised concern about not opening the COPE proceedings to the media. Your comments?

A. There is no precedent of always opening COPE proceedings to the media. It is more appropriate if there is a group who can act as observers to monitor the functions of COPE and other committees. Parliament is open to the media. If any false allegation is levelled against a Government official at COPE, he does not have the opportunity to argue or express his view to the country, so that is an injustice done to him. The summary of COPE and COPA proceedings should be made available to the media.

Q: Is there any justification to the issue raised by the SJB MPs of reducing their personal security?

A. I have a history on the conduct of MPs since the late 1940s. In my childhood, I went to watch Parliamentary sessions and witnessed how parliamentarians attended Parliament. Those days most of the MPs travelled by train. Even my father and some of my brothers were parliamentarians. I have seen W. Dahanayake as a parliamentarian and a Prime Minister who travelled by train. In 1960, the then Prime Minister Dahanayake



attended the final election rally in Galle and went back to Colombo in a Cadillac car. As a student, I saw after the counting of votes the following day he came by train and got down at the Richmond Hill station carrying a small suitcase.

A parliamentarian should have the confidence to travel alone and listen to the problems faced by the people. They are the genuine people's representatives. Even my father went to Parliament by the Ruhunu Kumari and stayed at the Shrawasthi building during the week of parliamentary sessions. At the end of the Parliamentary week on Friday evening, he would return home by the Ruhunu Kumari. On the other days, he would be with the people. A parliamentarian does not need special security.

I have seen Lakshman Rajapaksa, George Rajapaksa and D.A. Rajapaksa travel by train from Matara; and then Dahanayake and William Silva also joined them. They had a close rapport with the people in the train compartment and discussed their day-to-day issues. The politicians raised their issues in Parliament in a dignified manner. They never resorted to brawls or fistcuffs in Parliament. What I wish to point out is, parliamentarians do not always need security.

Security should be provided only where necessary. When the 1978 Constitution was formulated the MPs had been kept at hotels such as the Taj Samudra to get their votes by providing them security. There is no point in passing a Constitution in such a manner. The MPs needed special security during terror periods as in 1987-1989 where the people were brutally killed. It was also essential to provide security to parliamentarians during the LTTE terror. Now that peace has been restored, parliamentarians should be able to travel in an ordinary manner. However, if anyone is faced with a threat, we would provide special security arrangements for him or her.

Q: What steps have been taken to control the increasing wave of drug menace?

A. Fortunately, some officers who had been involved in these incidents have been arrested following the information received. At present, legal action has been taken against them. That situation was created due to the people reposing their confidence in the Government. It has created the impression among the people that the Government does not defend the wrongdoers. We should maintain that position as it would help to prevent the drug menace and other crimes.

Information on various underworld bigwigs and drug kingpins are now regularly flowing in and they are arrested daily. It would encourage the people to provide more and more information to the Police and the authorities. Earlier, people were reluctant to provide information due to the fear that some Police officers would feedback their information to the underworld characters. If such incidents occur today, the OIC and all

top Police officials in that Police division would be held responsible. We will not permit to pass the buck only to the policemen in lower ranks. We should join hands and do our duty on behalf of the country.

Q: Over 80 new MPs have been elected to the ninth Parliament. As the former Speaker, how do you view this new political development?

A. Among these newly elected MPs some had represented Provincial Councils and other Local Government institutions. The Government's National List has many professionals. We should seek their contribution when preparing the Budget and other important Bills. It is the parliamentarian who can feel the pulse of the people. Those who govern the country should acknowledge the contribution by these MPs. Irrespective of the political party, we should get the views of the MPs and implement them. Resorting to clashes or harbouring hatred towards them would not benefit the country. I think there is a good composition of MPs in Parliament which is a very positive development after so many years. This is an ideal forum for the new MPs to get a good political experience.

Q: What are the developments in the irrigation sector?

A. We have implemented several mega scale projects in the irrigation sector, and planned to commence several new projects. Still there is a large number of people who face severe hardship due to the lack of drinking water. When a reservoir is built, we should focus on the importance of drinking water, factories and agricultural needs. We have decided to bring all the machinery and equipment of the Irrigation Department to one particular district to develop the major irrigation projects in that district. We have done this in the Hambantota and Matara districts, and hope to introduce it to the Moneragala, Ampara and Batticaloa districts.

On a directive of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, we have commenced to renovate small scale tanks in the rural areas. There are nearly 60,000 tanks in the country. Under the *Wari Saubhagya*, our intention is to renovate all these tanks. We would also use the expertise, vehicles and labour of the Tri forces and other institutions which provide engineering consultancy services and agricultural expertise to make the project a success.

When a tank is renovated, the participation of all villagers will be sought. We hope to launch the *Wari Saubhagya* program on Independence Day next year to make the village and the country self sufficient by introducing the old irrigation culture.

We have targeted to renovate 5,000 tanks next year. There are only 14,022 Grama Niladhari divisions in the country. Therefore, a small scale tank will be built for each village within the next three years. The Ministry will also renovate tanks, canals and anicuts in the villages.



FACT-FILE Chamal Rajapaksa

► **1942:** Born in Palatuwa and raised in Medamulana, Hambantota. Hails from a well-known political family in Sri Lanka. Educated in Richmond College Galle, Chamal Jayantha Rajapaksa is the eldest son of the late D.A. Rajapaksa, a prominent politician, independence fighter, Member of Parliament, Deputy Speaker and Cabinet Minister of Agriculture and Land. He is the elder brother of former President and incumbent Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and former Minister Basil Rajapaksa. He is the father of Shasheendra Rajapaksa, Member of Parliament for Moneragala District and State Minister of Paddy and Cereals, Organic Food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onions and Potatoes, Seed Production and High Tech Agriculture.

► **1963:** Joined the Police Training Academy and passed out as a Sub Inspector of Police.



► **1972:** Entered Public Service and served the State Trading General Corporation as Asst. General Manager

► **1985:** Entered Politics. Contested the by-election for Mulkirigala electorate in Hambantota.

► **1989:** Member of Parliament of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), Hambantota District.

► **2000:** Deputy Minister of Ports Development and Southern Development.

► **2004:** Minister of Irrigation and Water Management

► **2010:** Speaker of Parliament of Sri Lanka

► **2019:** Minister of Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development, Minister of Internal Trade, Food Security, Consumer Welfare and State Minister of Defence

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

► **August 12, 2020:** Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management in the Cabinet of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Source: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

Environmentalists concerned over illegal trade in leopard parts

BY MANESHKA BORHAM

Environmentalists have now raised concern that an illegal trade of leopard parts may have continuously gone undetected by the authorities after the police nabbed three suspects on Friday, September 25, while transporting a butchered leopard in Ududumbara. According to the police, the suspects had intended to sell parts of the leopard to willing buyers.

The leopard had been killed and dismembered into parts by the suspects and its meat had also been prepared for sale. According to environmentalist and lawyer Jagath Gunawardana it is either this illegal trade may have lurked beneath the surface throughout or may have been revived recently after being stamped out many years ago. In the past nine months eight leopards have lost their lives due

to human activity. While a majority of them were killed after being trapped in illegal snares meant for other animals, the recent incident has revealed the flourishing trade of wildlife parts in Sri Lanka. The teeth and claws of animals such as leopards are often smuggled by poachers and bought by people to be used for amulets.

illegal sale

But to many, the illegal sale of leopard meat has been unheard of. However, according to Gunawardana there have been reports of people consuming leopard meat in the belief it has either aphrodisiac effects (libido boosting effects) or therapeutic value. It is said that in some villages people hold the belief that leopard meat can cure asthmatic patients. Some persons use the animal's parts for various other



shamanic rituals. "However these are all mere myths," he said, adding that similar incidents were reported many years ago but not in the recent past.

In fact, some time ago, the Department of Wildlife foiled a network in the hill country where leopard meat was

being sold illegally. To those involved it had been a thriving business till the authorities eventually clamped down on it. "The officials did a great job to put an end to it at the time," Gunawardana said, adding that however he now fears it may have continued undetected or

has either been revived by some persons recently.

According to Gunawardana, either way, the network should be dismantled and the suspects dealt with under the law.

The leopard is a strictly protected animal under S. 30 (2) of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance. "Accordingly, it is an offence to either kill, injure, be in possession of a leopard's carcass or parts or display for sale or sell these," he said. Also, according to Section 67A of the Act, suspects can be arrested without a warrant. These powers are vested in the Police and the Forest Department under Section 66 of the Act enacted in 1947.

"However, when public officials act on a crime, they have been empowered by a number of other acts as well," he said. "However, for them to function properly, the organisational structure

and manpower must be provided" he added.

Organised wildlife crimes

Gunawardana said most wildlife crimes in Sri Lanka are organised and suspects be revealed through investigations. "In such cases, it is common for suspects to plead guilty and the court has often imposed severe punishment on such offenders in the past" he noted. According to the environmentalist organised wildlife crimes cannot be prevented merely by getting the suspects to admit guilt and sentencing them. "To stop organised wildlife crimes, further investigations must be conducted into those crimes and suspects" he said. In the light of the recent incident, Gunawardana said it is important to find out if this is a one-off incident or a larger network instead.



Port City Colombo wins Global Best Project Award at 8th ENR Annual Awards

Port City Colombo was awarded the Global Best Project by International Engineering and Construction News magazine, Engineering News-Record (ENR) at their 8th Annual Global Best Projects competition. This is the first time that a Sri Lankan project has been awarded and recognised at the highest level in the field of engineering and construction in the recent years. The submission for the award was made by China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd., (CHEC Ltd.) and presented to Colombo Port City Development Project Phase 1.

The award comes as a landmark achievement for Port City Colombo following their win of the Silver Award for Master Planning at the Singapore Landscape Architecture Awards 2017, the Gold Award at the Yuan Ye Urban Design Awards 2018, and an honourable mention at the International Federation of Landscape Architects AAPME Awards 2018 in the category of Analysis and Master Planning. Global Best Projects identifies and honours the project teams behind outstanding design and construction efforts of the year 2020.

This accolade has strengthened this ambitious project's position as a marvel of modern engineering.



INTERNATIONAL ISLAND



ISLAND LIVING



FINANCIAL DISTRICT



MARINA



CENTRAL PARK



PORT CITY COLOMBO



Feature

S amagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Parliamentarians made their first futile attempt in Parliament on Tuesday, September 22 enacting a big drama protesting against the 20th Amendment to the Constitution.

No sooner Justice Minister Ali Sabry presented the 20A Bill to the House, SJB Parliamentarians who began protesting against the Bill later came to the well of the House wearing black armbands and badges shouting 'No to 20'.

The SJB MPs' unparliamentary behaviour created a tense situation in the House and Government lawmakers also came down to the well and shouted 'Yes, we want 20'. Amidst the protest, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena continued proceedings and Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena moved a number of Orders under the Special Commodity Levy Act for debate.

Seconding the motion moved by Minister Gunawardena, State Minister of Samur-dhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self Employment, Business Development and Underutilised State Resources Development, Shehan Sema-singhe said that the Opposition should have raised their concerns elsewhere. "They can go before court and point out these concerns. They have another option and that is to secure a two-third majority in Parliament and defeat the Bill. Without doing that they come here and disrupt sittings by shouting and thereby wasting public funds."

SJB parliamentarian Kabir Hashim said, "Today we are staging this protest to save the powers of the Prime Minister and not for our sake. Do you remember the Subhasaha Yasa story, Hashim asked. A palace guard and the king exchanged their places as a joke. But the guard did not give back the throne to the king. He remained in the position and eventually had the King executed. The very same will happen here too when the 20th Amendment is passed," he said.

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa pointed out that the TV camera was not focused on MP Hashim. Then SJB MPs shouted, demanding the camera be focussed on MP Hashim. Raising a Point of Order, Industries Minister Wimal Weerawansa said that MPs cannot demand that the camera be focussed on them. "Whenever there is a protest in the House, the camera should focus either on the Speaker or the Mace. That is the procedure. It was introduced by the former Speaker W.J.M. Lokubandara. Now the MPs are demanding the camera focus. That is only to put up a show."

Amidst the uproar in the Well of the House, Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage who spoke aggressively, said this is a Government of people and we would not bring anything against the people's aspirations.

Minister Aluthgamage said there are many MPs in the Opposition who wished to join the Government. Of the SJB MPs holding placards, 17 have already expressed their desire to join the Government. However, we will get 20 MPs from the Opposition to get this Bill passed.

He said, "You do not have to worry about saving the powers of the Prime Minister. We will see to that. You had passed the 19th Amendment to prevent the Rajapaksa coming to power. The Opposition paints a picture of a devil and names it as the 20th Amendment."



Coconut prices

The Minister said, "SJB MP Kabir Hashim laments about the prices of commodities. Tell me the price of a coconut. You cannot because you do not know. You do not know because you are living in luxury away from the people. Today, a coconut is Rs. 70 in the market. You are not with people and that is why you lost the election."

National Congress Leader MP A.L.M. Athaullah had to leave the Chamber on Tuesday, September 22 owing to protests by SJB MPs against Athaullah coming to the Chamber wearing an Afghan Pashtun vest over his dress.

Soon after the rumpus created by SJB MPs over the presenting of the 20th Amendment to the House, Athaullah arrived in the Chamber. Raising a Point of Order, Colombo District SJB MP S.M. Marikkar said that there is a dress code for MPs but Athaullah had come in wearing Afghan dress and the latter should be removed from the chamber.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said that MP Athaullah had come in a dress according to his communal identity. SJB Parliamentarian Harin Fernando threatened to remove his shirt in protest. "If Athaullah is not removed from the chamber, we will remove our shirts. We will get all our MPs to do that," MP Fernando said. Government MPs were seen going to MP Athaullah and discussing with him. After a couple of minutes, MP Athaullah left the chamber.

President visits NHDA office

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa made a sudden visit to the Narahenpita Office of the National Housing Development Authority following a complaint by a member of the public on Wednesday, September 23.

According to the complaint, the officers had failed to perform their duties on a number of occasions while saying that the staff was not adequate. President Rajapaksa who visited the office observed that there was sufficient staff to fulfil their duties properly. The President noticed a differently-abled person waiting in great distress and inquired about his background and his needs. The



Twenty Opposition MPs to support 20A



University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

President who met the staff emphasised that the primary responsibility of public servants was to fulfil the public needs efficiently and without hesitation.

Minister of Monkeys

SLPP Parliamentarian Dilan Perera claiming that it was essential to find a solution to the persisting issues surrounding wild monkeys in the country, said he was willing to accept the post of Minister of Monkeys.

MP Perera told reporters that wild monkeys have destroyed nearly 60 percent of the crops in various areas, including the Badulla district.

"Do not think that only the Badulla district is affected by wild monkeys. The animals can be seen in Colombo as well. He said if we do not address this issue, wild monkeys might even enter Parliament," he said.

MP Perera pointed out that the President appointed Ministers to address issues pertaining to the human-elephant conflict, clay, batik and handlooms and the Ministers have commenced work. "If the President hands over the post of Minister to address issues surrounding wild monkeys, I

WHENEVER THERE IS A PROTEST IN THE HOUSE, THE CAMERA SHOULD FOCUS EITHER ON THE SPEAKER OR THE MACE. THAT IS THE PROCEDURE. IT WAS INTRODUCED BY THE FORMER SPEAKER W.J.M. LOKUBANDARA. NOW THE MPS ARE DEMANDING CAMERA FOCUS. THAT IS ONLY TO PUT UP A SHOW

too will take measures in this regard," he said.

Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith says that he is happy with a process of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry probing the 2019 Easter Sunday terror attacks.

The Cardinal told the media at the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress in Colombo that he is confident that justice will be delivered through this process. He added that it is evident to him that the Presidential Commission is sin-

cerely looking into the matter. However, the Cardinal said that they will not issue a statement regarding the Commission until the final report of the Commission was released.

No conflict

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has not made any comment against the draft 20th Amendment to Constitution, adding that the Prime Minister and the President are of the same opinion in this regard.

The Minister made this observation speaking to reporters after attending the Cabinet meeting on September 21. The Minister also said that the Prime Minister has also expressed his opinion on the draft.

Minister Amaraweera said the Prime Minister has not made any comment against the draft and said the President and the Prime Minister are of the same opinion. He said that the Justice Minister said that the Committee's opinions have been presented to the President.

"We never felt any disappointment from the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and the President were of the same opinion on this affair. Therefore, no objections were raised from Parliamentarians or the Ministers. They worked with much understanding. No conflict was ever felt. He said, "The 20A will be passed in Parliament with a two-thirds majority,

suggesting that some of those within the Opposition would also vote in favour.

Security

Irrigation Minister and Internal security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management State Minister Chamal Rajapaksa told Parliament on Wednesday, September 23 that police officers will be assigned to provide security for Parliamentarians and the public alike and the officers would not be assigned to carry the files and bags of Parliamentarians.

He made this observation in response to a request made by SJB Parliamentarian Buddhika Pathirana demanding additional police security for Parliamentarians. MP Pathirana made the request during the round of questions for oral answers.

Minister Rajapaksa said, "We will not provide police officers to MPs to carry their files and bags."

He queried as to why Parliamentarians need additional security if they have the trust of the people. He said that two police officers have been deployed for each Parliamentarian. There are only 85,000 personnel in the Police Service. If Parliamentarians need more police security, more personnel will have to be recruited to the service.

Not afraid of threats

SJB Parliamentarian Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka said that he has enough strength to take on all Government members in the front row numbering 25 together single handedly in case they try to surround the Opposition MPs.

Participating in a debate at the time of the Adjournment of the House on the progress report of the Election Commission on Wednesday, Field Marshal Fonseka referring to a statement made on Tuesday by Agriculture Minister Aluthgamage that the Government had a two-thirds majority in the House and the Government MPs could outnumber their Opposition counterparts to one, said, "His figures are wrong. To have that ratio you need a three-fourths majority not two-thirds. I tell the Government members not to dare think of surrounding us just because you have more numbers. I can single handedly take all those in your front row."

"To take on your second row, we'll send someone of the calibre of our fellow MP Chaminda Wijesiri. We know that there are some among you who have had the experience of tasting the power of his blows. For your second row, which has Daya-siri Jayasekera, who knows karate, we can send someone such as MP Diana Gamage, because she is a black-belt holder in karate. So, do not speak of taking us on that easily. Remember we are not afraid of threats simply because you have a two-thirds majority."

A heated debate ensued in Parliament on Friday, September 25 over Justice Minister Ali Sabry's attire. The heated exchange of words began when SJB MP Chaminda Wijesiri asked Justice Minister Sabry about the allegations against Dr. Shafi performing sterilisation surgery on women, at the Kurunegala Teaching Hospital.

Minister Sabry stated that such information could not be disclosed by him, as this was not within the purview of the Ministry of Justice. The Minister said MP Wijesiri should know that the Justice Minister does not give phone calls to anyone and neither have we established special courts for selected cases. "As the Justice Ministry, we work within the perimeters of our subject assigned to us. We have no intention of getting involved in cases, we will not interfere in court cases and there is no possibility for us to get involved either."

Several party leaders of the SJB such as SLMC Leader Rauff Hakeem, the APMC Leader Rishad Bathiudeen and the JHU Leader Patali Champika Ranawaka did not participate in the 20A protest in Parliament on Tuesday. Although the said trio

commented about Minister Sabry's attire, saying it should be seen how 'tie-coat' officials would perform. However, the comment received a heated response from the Minister who heatedly asked MP Wijesiri if he was expected to dress like him, adding that he was wearing attire appropriate to Parliament. Sabry then alleged that Wijesiri was making a racist reference in criticising his attire and said that it had no relevance to the matter at hand. SJB MPs Thushara Indunil Amaraseena, Dr. Harsha de Silva and Chief Government Whip Minister Johnston Fernando also joined the 'tie-coat' debate, which ensued for a full six minutes.

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SLPP PARLIAMENTARIAN DILAN PERERA CLAIMING THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PERSISTING ISSUES SURROUNDING WILD MONKEYS IN THE COUNTRY, SAID HE WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE POST OF MINISTER OF MONKEYS

is noted to occupy front row seats in Parliament in the Opposition ranks, they were not to be seen when the SJB protest was staged in the House. Though MP Hakeem was present at the time of the commencement of the Parliament session on Tuesday, he was not seen in his seat when the protest against the 20th Amendment was launched by the SJB. Political sources have confirmed that some MPs of the SLMC and APMC are discussing about joining the Government.



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Senior DIG Dr. Roshan Fernando to Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces

Former Royal College athletic captain and Public Schools meet record holder, Senior DIG Roshan Fernando has been appointed Senior DIG Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces from September 20, 2020 by the National Police Commission.

He is the longest serving officer among all the Senior DIGs in service and has completed more than 38 years as a Field Officer with the Sri Lanka Police. He has been awarded seven IG's Commendations and two Special Increments for his unblemished career.

Doctorate

Recently, Roshan Fernando was also awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Honouris Causa in Law and Criminology by the British American University of Florida, USA at the Special Graduation and Award of Honorary Doctoral Degrees at the BMICH, Colombo.

Senior DIG Fernando was a versatile sportsman, accounting for many athletic records during his school career at Royal College, Colombo 7.

Besides his record breaking career in track and field, Fernando has represented Royal in four other sports - cricket, rugby, volleyball and boxing.

As the captain of Royal's champion athletic team in 1979, he guided the Reid Avenue school to emerge champions in all three major schools championships held that year - the Junior John Tarbet meet, Senior Tarbet meet and the Relay Carnival. In winning the Senior John Tarbet Championship under his dynamic leadership, Royal set a new record of 249 points to win the title with a convincing margin.

Besides Royal colours in athletics, Fernando was awarded the Public Schools colours in athletics for his outstanding feats which included anchoring Royal to two Public Schools records in the 4 x 100m Relay and Medley Relay in the Under-19 age group. He ended his brilliant school career at Royal as a Senior College Prefect and the Head Prefect of the Royal College Hostel, at which he was better known as 'ERL' after his initials. At the 1980 annual prize-giving of Royal, he was awarded the Best All Round Hosteller Award.

Athletic records

Senior DIG Fernando had his primary education at St. Mary's College, Ne-



Senior DIG Roshan Fernando

gombo before he joined Royal College

His Under 11 Long Jump record in athletics for the Marians still remain unbroken for 49 years. As an Under 16 athlete at Royal, he had accounted for five records, including the Long Jump which still remains intact after 44 years.

After an illustrious school career as an outstanding sportsman, young Fernando joined the Sri Lanka Police in April 1982 as a sub inspector. Since then, he has served the Police Department in various ranks in all parts of the country.

A pioneer member of elite Special Task Force (STF) in 1984, Senior DIG Fernando has made a notable contribution during the nation's battle against terrorism.

Promotions

He was promoted as ASP in 1994. During his 38-year unblemished and exemplary career in the Police, Senior DIG Fernando has also served as the Commandant of the Police Marine Division and as the Director of the Thambuththegama and Pahalagama Police Training Schools.

During three decades of terrorism, he had served mostly in operational areas and was in charge of the Jaffna Division at the time the country was liberated in 2009.

For his fearless service extended during the last phase of the battle against terrorism, Fernando was awarded the Northern Humanitar-

ian Operations Medal. He was also awarded the 'Singapore Excellency Award' in 2007.

He was promoted to the rank of SSP in 2005, DIG in 2013 and Senior DIG in 2017.

He had executed his duties in Chilaw, Puttalam, Gampola, Nugegoda and Jaffna Divisions as SSP

and Badulla, Moneragala, Kurunegala and Special Protection Range as DIG and Northern, Southern, Sabaragamuwa and Central Provinces as Senior DIG.

During the Covid-19 outbreak, he was appointed on a special assignment on the Prevention of the Spread of Covid-19 at Police Head-

quarters and was responsible for curbing the spread of the new pandemic island-wide.

He is one of the highly trained officers in the Sri Lanka Police with special training in Israel, Japan, Singapore, Nepal and Iran on anti-terrorist combatting, community policing and cyber crimes.

SENIOR DIG ROSHAN FERNANDO IS ONE OF THE HIGHLY TRAINED OFFICERS IN THE SRI LANKA POLICE WITH SPECIAL TRAINING IN ISRAEL, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, NEPAL AND IRAN ON ANTI-TERRORIST COMBATING, COMMUNITY POLICING AND CYBER CRIMES

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03 Months	6.58%	6.78%	-	-	6.78%	6.95%	6.58%	6.78%	-	-	6.78%	6.95%
06 Months	6.81%	7.03%	-	-	7.03%	7.15%	6.81%	7.03%	-	-	7.03%	7.15%
12 Months	8.21%	8.53%	-	-	8.53%	8.53%	8.68%	9.03%	-	-	9.03%	9.03%
13 Months	8.21%	8.53%	-	-	8.53%	8.50%	8.68%	9.03%	-	-	9.03%	9.00%
18 Months	8.21%	8.53%	-	-	8.53%	8.36%	8.68%	9.03%	-	-	9.03%	8.84%
24 Months	8.91%	9.28%	9.28%	9.28%	9.28%	8.89%	9.37%	9.78%	9.78%	9.78%	9.78%	9.34%
36 Months	9.37%	9.78%	9.78%	9.78%	9.78%	8.95%	9.82%	10.27%	10.28%	10.28%	10.28%	9.37%
48 Months	9.37%	9.78%	9.78%	9.78%	9.78%	8.60%	9.82%	10.27%	10.28%	10.28%	10.28%	8.99%
60 Months	9.82%	10.27%	10.28%	10.28%	10.28%	8.65%	10.28%	10.78%	10.78%	10.78%	10.78%	9.01%

*Senior Citizens Fixed Deposits (Depositors who are 60 years of age or over on the date of deposit)

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SUNDAY OBSERVER

Placards don't cover Opposition's embarrassing reality

The very elements that undermined the security of the state and brought the nation to the brink of failure are seen carrying placards into Parliament claiming that the 20th Amendment is illegitimate (*avajathaka*) or bastardised.

It's not a cause for concern; rather, it is a cause for the Government to be bemused at how tone deaf the current Opposition ranks are. This Opposition has collectively not a single self-effacing thought for self scrutiny and correction in the face of the massive defeat it suffered just very recently at the hands of the people.

The devastating impact of bad governance during the Yahapalana — good governance — regime is seen from the absurdly pathetic nature of the events that transpired before the Commission to investigate the Easter Sunday attacks.

Something ailed the system very badly for a grotesque outcome of the nature that's revealed daily before the Commission, and that something was ironically the lack of democracy and good governance.

Democracy was replaced by a kakistocracy and a quasi-state during the former regime. Officialdom was replaced by petty actors ruling over their own little fiefdoms, such as the then Defence Secretary and the IGP, and the then high-command which ended up demolishing and diminishing each other like some circular firing squad.

It was the mandate of the newly elected Government to put this state of affairs right. The Government decided to deliver on that front and bring in legislation to reimpose order in a chaotic quasi-state.

The Government is setting about that task with calm confidence as the new leadership has a responsibility to deliver on the mandate that was granted.

That two-thirds affirmation by the voter, was to restore the dignity of those that felt insecure, threatened and abandoned due to the colossal governance failure that led to events such as the Easter Sunday attacks. Each separate day's proceedings of the Commission probing those attacks offers a separate testimony on why constitutional change such as the 20th Amendment is needed.

When there are daily recriminations and finger pointing involving the then leadership, and the then Defence establishment, that's a regular reminder of how grotesquely we were governed — and why the people granted such a decisive mandate to put that state of affairs right.

In this context, the placard carrying in Parliament against the 20th Amendment seems like adding insult to the injury of the people's predicament during the UNP government.

If the Opposition had genuine concerns about the 20th Amendment, legal recourse would have been enough. But these people chose the farce of carrying boards in funeral black in the House, and made their failures in power even more conspicuous as a result.

This Opposition's national list MPs of all people, are going around making outrageous allegations that Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith may have known about the plans for the Easter Sunday attack before it happened.

Obviously, governance was in the hands of these dangerous almost deranged people. Nobody in their right senses would make a claim of that sort about the Cardinal who was at the time of the attack and its immediate aftermath the only national figure that could manage to pacify a hurt, shocked and outraged people.

It is a well known fact that the main opposition parties of today do not see eye to eye with the Cardinal for his very blunt statements about the failure of the then administration, and its responsibility towards allowing the Easter Sunday attacks to happen.

For the Cardinal's forthrightness in laying the blame squarely on the previous government, he was disliked — even hated — by the then government, now in opposition, as it saw whatever was left of its political capital disappear in the face of the blunt words of the local Head of the Catholic Church about that government's culpability.

Basically, that's politically motivated hate. The Cardinal has no politics, but the Harin Fernando types in the erstwhile government developed an intense dislike for the sage but dogged Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, based purely on a political calculation.

That's the reality about that reaction, but to take that hatred so far as to allege at the hearings of the very Commission probing the attacks, that the Cardinal knew of the planned carnage before it happened, is to take raw political vengeance to a level of surreal and insane rage.

There is a footnote to that story. The same MP who made these outrageous allegations against the Cardinal was not very long ago taken to meet His Holiness Ranjith by his party leader after similarly incendiary statements, and the latter forgave him. So this repeated bad conduct by the MP, must surely be out of a sense of spite that his target never let up on the quest to unearth the truth about the Easter Sunday attacks.

The Opposition was fixated on power and self-preservation when in government, and is fixated on self-preservation and power now, after a drubbing at the elections — a complete shellacking, to use the terminology reserved for such things by the former US President Barack Obama.

But to completely refuse to see the truth of their failure, and to neglect the need to correct that state of affairs is completely unfathomable.

The people are not likely to be impressed about the crocodile tears for democracy now being shed in the Opposition ranks, because the failure of that Opposition's democratic experiment is too clearly etched in people's memory for them to forget what misery and carnage it brought about.

The Easter Sunday Commission sittings are for the voters, a daily reminder about why they would rather have the 20th Amendment, and not the 'democratic' alternative touted by the Opposition.

What's behind a legal-eagle's lament against 20 A?

by
Rajpal Abeynayake



That Colombo campus legal luminary by reputation, Savithri Gunasekera made a legal argument not many months back about Parliament being required to convene without lapse of no longer than three months. She stated in an article in the public domain that such a provision is constitutionally mandated. The Supreme Court in a manner of speaking at least, laughed that contention out of Court. She also said that the proclamation made by the President dissolving Parliament is voided as a result of Parliament not convening in three months.

The seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court did not agree, and also disagreed that the old parliament had to be convened, or that any election held under terms of the President's proclamation in March is illegal. The rest is history. The election that Savithri Gunasekera deemed illegal from her ivory tower was held, the people voted in large numbers despite the pandemic, and gave the President's party a two-thirds majority.

That majority is the very best indication why fellow travellers with the aforementioned 'luminary' went to Court to have the elections postponed in the first place. They wanted their favourite party in power at all costs, even if it would deprive the people of their right to elect a government of their choice.

Legally

When Savithri Gunasekera now sheds tears for democracy, the reader would not forget the brand of democracy sans elections she touted. This alleged fan of democracy now criticises the 20th Amendment on several counts, such as the removal of the provision brought in by the 19th Amendment to disallow a Referendum on draft law, if two-thirds in Parliament have voted against it. She is also against the 20th Amendment's removal of the provision for a fixed term Parliament i.e the bar to dissolution of Parliament until four and a half years have lapsed in its term.

It's extremely curious that all this is said in the name of protecting democracy. So let's examine how that works out. If Parliament cannot be dissolved for four and a half years, that's democratic writes this luminary. But if Parliament could be dissolved after one year which obviously gives the people the right to vote again, that's deemed undemocratic. So this curious case for democracy, is to stave off or avoid elections i.e. going before the people, at any and all costs.

The rationale is that early dissolution of Parliament gives the incumbent Government an advantage. If that is so, it's



what democracy is all about. There is a paradox in this because a fixed-term Parliament means one that cannot be voted out even when it's unpopular. Which version of democracy would you rather prefer — the one in which a popular government seeks to democratically increase its representation aiming at doing more good work, or the one sustaining an unpopular government, that clings onto power simply because it legally can?

Savithri Gunasekera must not be allowed to live in her fool's paradise. No, but on the other hand she knows only too well what exactly happened in 2018.

The incumbent UNP would have certainly lost if there was an election in that year without it being averted by the four-and-a-half year bar to dissolving Parliament. She cannot deny that now, especially in retrospect after the scale of the then government's defeat in November 2019 and recently this year. Nobody can say things changed later or anything of that sort, because the writing was on the wall. The Government had lost a local government election colossally in February, 2018 — one that was fought as a Referendum on the party in power, by the then Opposition.

Deconstructed

None other than the fellow traveller of the so called liberal forces, Victor Ivan lamented that it cannot be a democracy that enacts legislation barring the dissolution of Parliament for four and a half years. It's obvious that an unpopular parliament having a lock on itself is not the cause celebre of democratic governance, but for Gunasekera who bleats about democracy, it is pristine democracy — but the Amendment that removes such an abomination is autocratic.

Whom to tell, *kaata kiyyannada* would be the facepalm response that you could be excused for at this point. The 'luminary' who writes about the bulath hurulla and kiri and peni should be able to relate to that Sinhala idiom.

All of the above in the preceding paragraphs of this article — about Gunasekera's disdain for elections particularly

in the recent past when the Opposition went to court to suspend the pending national poll, would ascertain what her real project is — it's not about democracy that she says she is wedded to, but is about keeping her favourite liberal democrats in power. If she had her 'democratic' way, that's exactly what would have happened this year. It bears repetition that she opined that the recent election which ushered in a government with a two-thirds majority would be illegal; it was the courts that interpreted what true democracy was and enabled the people the choice of their own government by one person one vote, which is of course what democracy is all about.

So once we have deconstructed those so called 'democratic' credentials of this person, we'd have a better idea about why she advocates what she does about the 20th Amendment. She is not coming from a place of restoring democracy.

She merely comes from a place of salvaging her partisan interests, which are coterminous with those of the right-wing liberals so called, now in Opposition.

More proof of this is provided when she trots out the Grundnorm theory to justify her stand on the 20th and 19th Amendments. She says that when the

19th Amendment was enacted the Grundnorm of the Constitution changed and for those not familiar — the Grundnorm derives from the legal theory that there is a fundamental 'norm' or system that undergirds a Constitution. Such a Grundnorm change that came with the 19th Amendment and its pruning of presidential powers was not challenged by anyone, she alleges, along with the view that there was a 'consensus' which is why 19A wasn't challenged.

But where does consensus come from? Is it from Parliament, or from the 'professionals' she goes on about, or from the people? Vox populi should be the measure of consensus especially under a constitutional regime that vests sovereignty in the people.

So let's take her argument. With the 19th Amendment the Grundnorm changed because there was consensus and nobody protested about the Amendment at the time it was enacted, she says. But what of the Parliament and the Government under which this alleged consensus had formed?

Overwhelming

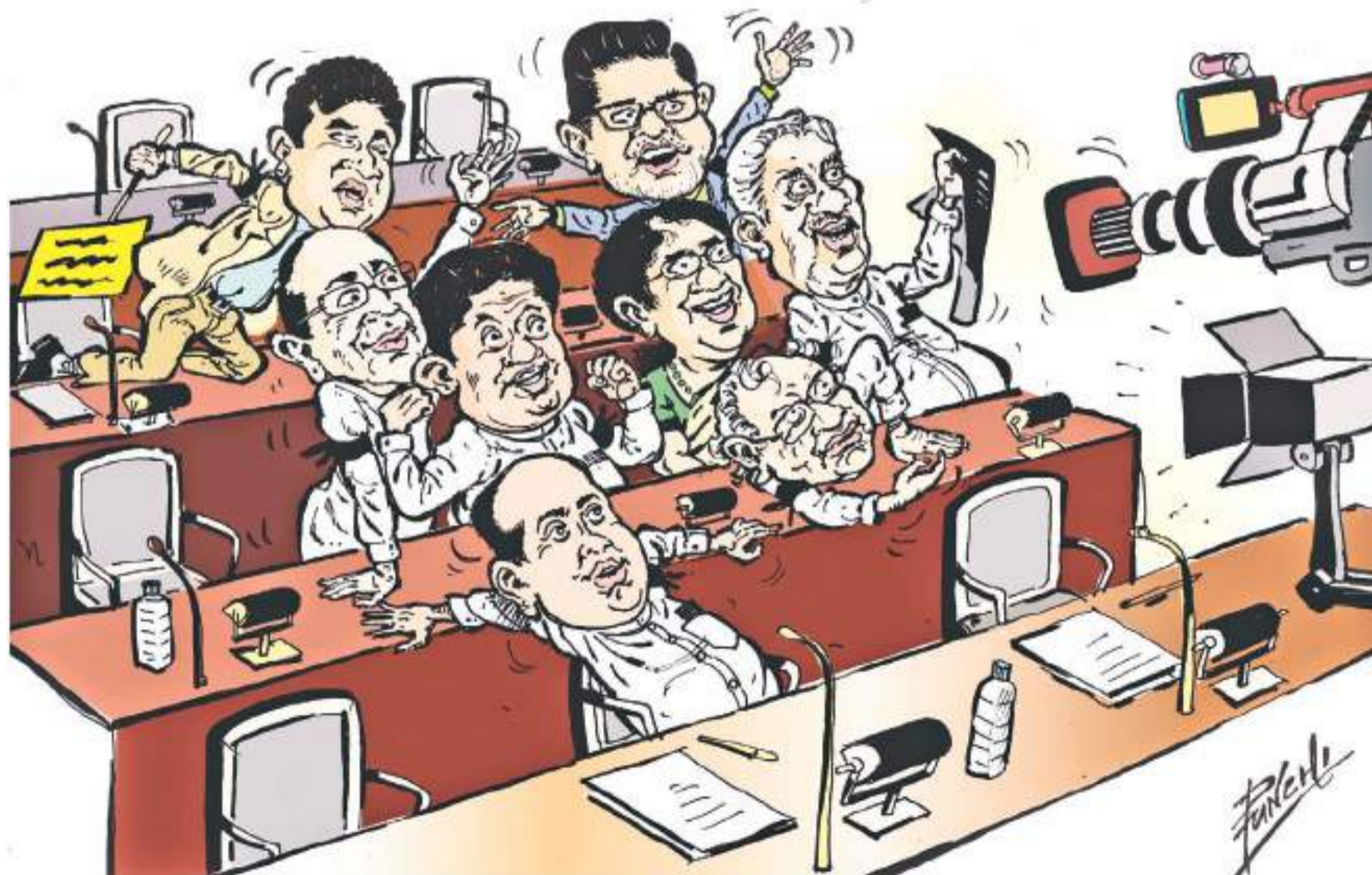
The President in 2015 had just squeaked through to the Presidency, and many of the UPFA politicians at that time had become turncoats and joined the government that was formed with an appointed Prime Minister. That 'government' didn't have a mandate of any sort for constitutional change, but there was a cobbled together two-thirds enabling the 19th Amendment, and that's called a consensus by Gunasekera.

But a parliament elected by the people with a two-thirds majority for the governing party, we are made to understand, does not offer that kind of consensus. So — to be clear — according to our luminary, the consensus formed out of an overwhelming majority vote by the people as in 2020 cannot change the Grundnorm. It's the consensus formed by professionals and MPs in a questionable parliament that has a corralled together if not commandeered two-thirds majority that can change the Grundnorm. How is that for democracy?

It's been the stamp of her democratic credentials. The people's voice is always inferior to the voice of those who are MPs in the parliament that has a majority of her preferred choice of MPs. That's why she said the Constitution does not allow the kind of election that was held this year in August. Her Grundnorm theory says a 'consensus' of civil society, professionals etc and a parliament with an artificially put together two-thirds majority is what can change the Grundnorm.

A real two-thirds majority obtained under the tough rule book of the PR system that reflects the overwhelming choice of the people, doesn't change the Grundnorm, or at least cannot legitimately change it, we are made to understand. How is that for democracy courtesy the luminary? Jolly good, she is sure to say, when she tucks into her *kiri peni*.

But where does consensus come from? Is it from Parliament, or from the 'professionals' she goes on about, or from the people? Vox populi should be the measure of consensus especially under a constitutional regime that vests sovereignty in the people



SWIFT REVIVAL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY NEEDED

by
Hemantha Kulatunga



The fastest possible revival of the temporarily ailing economic situation is a foremost national issue that should be addressed by the entire citizenry. It is common knowledge that two recent factors hastened the downward trend of the economy, firstly, the sharp decline due to the mismanagement of finances by the previous government where the growth has come to a near standstill and subsequently the global recession created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ironically, the World Bank has downgraded Sri Lanka from the upper-middle-income classification that prevailed in 2019 to a lower-middle-income country in 2020/2021. The distressing situation is that the World Bank has downgraded only three countries in the world. The other two are Algeria and Sudan. This drop can be harmful in many ways including attracting investors for development projects.

Economic challenges

The revival of the economy primarily will depend on the response of the private sector to the changing economic challenges, locally and internationally. The authorities will have to step up reforms to boost overall productivity to restore the current situation.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's pledge to upgrade Sri Lanka to a high-income country was somewhat shattered by Covid-19 which compelled to slow down his original plans, although he continued to be alert and responsive to economic affairs even during the lockdown period. It was during the height of curfew that he formed the

presidential task force for economic revival.

The global uncertainties are still looming even after many months from the first outbreak, causing dire consequences to all three main foreign exchange-earners, namely, foreign employment, apparel and tourism. The Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kristalina Georgieva told a recent interview that the recovery of the global economy is uneven and a full recovery is unlikely until a vaccine is discovered. Hence, among other things, the Government must continue to stand by the stringent measures taken to restrict imports of many non-essential goods to control foreign exchange outflow.

The high-powered presidential task force headed by the versatile taskmaster Basil Rajapaksa is at present the most important key group in re-establishing the troubled situation.

Though inconspicuous to a certain extent, the PTF seems to be working round the clock on this essential issue. In support of the task assigned, Citra Lab, the first social innovation lab established as a joint initiative between the State Ministry of Skills Development and the UNDP, facilitated the PTF and its principal teams to introduce avenues of engagement and building strategies, at a recent workshop. The PTF on economic revival is said to be working on many development projects behind the scenes.

Five-year plan

Addressing a meeting with the State Ministers recently, President Rajapaksa not only emphasised the importance of planning but also instructed them in no uncertain terms to come up with a five-year plan in their subject areas.

The scope of most of the State Ministers is directly related to economic development aligned with a 'people-centric economy' pledged through the 'Vistas of Prosperity'.

If the State Ministers, most of them



relatively young, individually accept the challenge posed to them, Sri Lanka will have a lucrative national economy, independent of foreign resources. It is encouraging to observe that some of the State Ministers promptly took on the task optimistically and initiated action. The irony, however, is that some of the more senior and seasoned Ministers are already displaying signs that they are more interested in petty politics and preferential votes in their districts.

An area the Government is heavily concentrating on at present is export-oriented industrialisation. Private sector stalwarts and specialists keep emphasising that Sri Lanka has a tremendous amount of potential in entering overseas markets with numerous original products.

Pursuing economic realism by promoting export-oriented industries is a key requirement at this crucial juncture. Apart from the apparel that is the dominant product, and the cash-crop exports, many other new indigenous export-potential products were identified by the Government. A huge motivational effort for these products is being carried out by the Govern-

ment at the grassroots level to encourage more people to get into export-related self-employment.

Having realised the impact of Covid-19 on the economy and to build a sustainable indigenous economy, President Rajapaksa has appointed several young State Ministers to manage these newly recognised export-oriented domestic industries such as handlooms and batiks, red-clay products, cane, brass, and several others. An export market for all these products is possible with an effective and efficient integrated marketing campaign targeting overseas markets.

The Government has already imposed many restrictions on imports to protect local industrialists. This can be the biggest incentive for industrial growth in Sri Lanka.

However, these restrictions are imposed temporarily and a firm decision on this is not yet announced by the Government.

In this writer's opinion, the absence of a solid policy can discourage new entrants to these industries. If the restrictions are lifted, they fear that arbitrary imports can hamper their industries and lead to financial losses.

The Government should pay attention to this salient fact.

Agriculture sector

The Government is also concentrating on developing the agriculture sector that makes a relatively low contribution of approximately seven per cent to the national GDP. The State is taking various steps to increase agricultural productivity. The major drawback, the lack of mechanisation and technology should be addressed promptly.

By strengthening this sector, the country can reduce the import of food and related products to save valuable foreign exchange. In a praiseworthy move, the World Bank has reallocated US\$ 56 million to protect the agriculture sector and a few other areas.

However, Sri Lanka still imports a large variety of agricultural and food products including wheat, lentils, sugar, fruits, milk, and milk products, and many others. Most of these items can be fully or partly produced in the country. According to available figures, the importation of food and beverages accounts for over seven per cent of the

total imports. The goal must be to reduce this figure as much as possible by encouraging farmers to grow these items and impose strict regulations to protect them. Even though public life is fast returning to normalcy, the more pressing economic shrink will take time to recover.

The Government has offered various stimulus packages to assist the commercial sector to get to its best possible capacity. However, the fact remains that the general economic situation is hanging in the balance and requires rigorous and swift action. Apart from the efforts taken by the Government to encourage local agriculture and industry, concentrating on the benefits that can be derived from the strategic investments also must be on the cards.

With the strict approach of President Rajapaksa, state-owned enterprises with billions of assets must be made to perform better to help the challenge of economic revival. Despite the President's instructions to these SOEs to prove their performance within a specified time, the public at large is yet to witness a good performance, except a few.

Strengthening the MSME sector which contributes a substantial slice to the GDP is being done to some extent by the Government. However, the question is whether the assistance to this sector is adequately looked into by the authorities. Many of them complain that the financial assistance provided by most Banks and financial institutions is not up to the expected level.

Despite the Government's instructions these financial institutions still apply stringent procedures. More involvement of the Government in this sector can produce a speedy result at this critical time. The unpredictable recovery of the global economy and the uncertain situation of the complete eradication of Covid-19 can prolong the economic revival of many countries including Sri Lanka. Therefore, collective focus of the Government, the presidential task force, the private and public sectors as well as the public is important to overcome the prevailing challenges.

Points to ponder in the post Covid-19 world

By
Dr. Thilan U. Hewage



As we have experienced, the novel Coronavirus has changed the life of each and every human being on this planet, one way or another. Phrases such as 'social distancing' or 'hygienic social practices' have become familiar in our daily conversations and our daily doses of information we eagerly gather from various sources. By looking at the progression of the number of people tested positive and the number of deaths with time, in countries such as USA, Italy, Spain and India, one can safely assume that they could have had a better control of the numbers and saved much more lives had they started practising 'social distancing' much earlier than they did.

Of course, that by itself may not have had a significant effect if large scale testing, immediate isolation of infected people and contact tracing were not implemented from the very beginning. On the contrary, countries such as South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam, despite many frequent travellers to and from China, have managed to keep numbers low from the beginning.

Though we are not in the same proximity to China as these countries, we have been having a multitude of Chinese nationals travelling to and from Sri Lanka due to increased numbers of pre-Covid-19 tourists and also due to all the construction projects handled by Chinese companies. Nevertheless, Sri Lanka also managed to keep the numbers at a very low level with a minimum number of deaths due to the swift and appropriate actions taken by the Government, the unwavering commitment by the Security Forces and healthcare professionals and also a near perfect compliance by the citizens.

Vietnam detected its first Covid-19 case in January 2020 and managed to keep the rate of infection at a very low number with zero deaths till August, 2020. An interesting fact about Tai-



Nevertheless, Sri Lanka also managed to keep the numbers at a very low level with a minimum number of deaths due to the swift and appropriate actions taken by the Government, the unwavering commitment by the Security Forces and healthcare professionals and also a near perfect compliance by the citizens

wanese fight against Covid-19 is that it was led by the Vice-President Chen Chien-jen who happens to be an epidemiologist graduated and trained at Johns Hopkins University in the USA. Most of the professionals in the front-line against Covid-19 in these Asian countries graduated and/or trained in Western countries, mainly in the USA and UK.

Therefore, it is safe to assume that the knowledge, ability and the commitment, or lack thereof, of the healthcare professionals cannot be the reasons for the higher numbers of infections and deaths in those countries. It must be other factors such as lack of commitment, will and support by the respective governments and the people's opposition to strict lockdown, tracing, testing and quarantine measures that the professionals suggested.

One other important factor common to almost all Asian countries is that they had to fight SARS in 2003 and learn the hard way that they were not prepared and equipped to fight an epidemic of that nature. Therefore, the

governments decided to invest more in their public health systems focusing, especially, on preventive measures against similar epidemics.

Things to learn

There certainly are a lot of things to learn from it not only for Sri Lanka but also for developed countries. Vietnam implemented a targeted approach to testing and quarantining infected people immediately. Hot spots with community transmission were locked down immediately and the government communicated frequently with citizens to keep them informed and involved in the public health response.

Preventive measures

After their encounter with SARS in 2003, they invested heavily in preventive measures such as establishing a national public health emergency operations centre and a surveillance system.

Continued on page 15

Atrocities by LTTE terrorists SEPTEMBER



The world's most ruthless terrorist outfit – the LTTE, had launched hundreds of terror attacks, massive bomb explosions targeting innocent civilians and brutal killings for almost three decades until they were crushed militarily on May 18, 2009 with the killing of LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran in Vellamullavaikkal.

In the guise of the liberation of Tamils, they inflicted untold misery on hundreds of thousands of Sinhala civilians, including member of their own community.

The *Sunday Observer* highlighted these attacks as a graphic series in the past. Today, we take a look at the key incidents of the month of August.

► **Sept. 10, 1988:** LTTE cadres shot dead seven Sinhalese and four Tamils in the 16th Colony, Central Camp in Ampara

► **Sept. 17, 1986:** The village of Wadigewewa was attacked by the LTTE cadres who killed 12 villagers including women and children

► **Sept. 9, 1990:** LTTE Terrorists killed 23 Sinhalese and set fire to 11 houses in the fishing village of Vellamundal, Puttalam

► **Sept. 13, 1990:** LTTE hacked to death seven Muslim civilians and injured one in Poonani, Batticaloa

► **Sept. 10, 1992:** LTTE terrorists blasted a ferry across Allai Tank and killed 22 soldiers and seven civilians, and injured one soldier and two civilians in Kiliveddi Point Trincomalee



► **Sept. 20, 1994:** NS Sagarawardena (P-602) was an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) of the Sri Lanka Navy. It was the second ship of the locally built *Jayasagara* class. The ship was sunk in 1994 when it was hit by two suicide crafts of the LTTE while on routine patrol off the coast of Mannar, killing onboard 25 crew.

► **Sept. 29, 1998:** Lionair Flight 602 was an Antonov An-24RV which fell into the sea off the north-western coast of Mannar after being shot down by LTTE terrorists. The aircraft departed Jaffna Airport with 48 passengers and a crew of seven; it disappeared from radar screens ten minutes into the flight. All aboard were presumed dead.

► **Sept. 18, 1999:** LTTE terrorists struck at three villages of Punci Sigiya, Kalpengala and Bedirekka of Ampara. During the attack, at least 58 Sinhala villagers, including 17 women, two pregnant women and 14 children, were hacked to death with machetes and knives by LTTE terrorists.

► **Sept. 27, 2001:** At least two civilians were killed and about 15 were injured, including two policemen when LTTE cadres had triggered a roadside bomb targeting a Police patrol vehicle at Chunnakam in Jaffna

► **Sept. 22, 2007:** An LTTE cadre detonated a mine targeting a bus carrying civilians in Trincomalee killing the driver of the bus and wounding five others



The freedom enjoyed by one and all today has been achieved due to the supreme sacrifices by the Security Forces, the political sagacity of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the military strategies of former Defence Secretary and Incumbent President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Source: Lake House Archives, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

Bid to tap Russian tourism market

Udayanga unveils blueprint

By
Aanya Wipulasena



Tourism industry leaders, especially in the Russian market, welcomed a new proposal forwarded to the Cabinet in a bid to revive the industry by attracting visitors from the Slavic nation to the Southern beaches.

"Russian tourists are ready to travel abroad, and tour operators are waiting for approval from the Government to start travelling to destinations, such as ours," former Sri Lankan Ambassador to Russia Udayanga Weeratunga, who pioneered the proposal, told the *Sunday Observer*.

Last year, about 45 million Russians travelled across the globe. Weeratunga said that 44,000 of these

travellers would visit Sri Lanka if the country took steps to accommodate them.

If his proposal gets the green light, he added, Russia will send 144 charter flights from six airlines on a weekly basis from next month. "This will generate an income of around USD 26 million to Sri Lanka," he said.

Russians have started travelling to their chosen destinations, including the Dominican Republic and Turkey. However, during the winter season that starts next month, they prefer to travel to warmer countries, such as Thailand, the Maldives, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

"The winter season will continue till around next April. There is a tremendous opportunity to field Sri Lanka to this emerging slot," Weeratunga said, adding that initiatives should be made to woo this market.

Weeratunga's proposal, which will be taken up by the Cabinet of Minis-

ters tomorrow, also needs approval by the health authorities.

Reserved areas

He has taken into consideration the possibility of Sri Lankans contracting coronavirus from tourists, and has outlined a plan, which he says, is flexible for alterations. The general plan is to select beachfront hotels in the Southern Province, block off the beach area from locals, and also not allow hotel staff to leave the hotel till the tourism season is over.

"This is to protect Sri Lankans from contracting Covid-19 from these tourists.

Our main objective is to protect the locals, while accommodating tourists," Weeratunga said.

He said that tourists will be brought to the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA), and many airlines other than Russia's flag car-

rier Aeroflot have agreed to fly to Mattala.

Tourists will have to produce a Covid-19 negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) report 72 hours prior to arriving in the country. On their arrival, they will be taken to their hotels where another PCR test will be conducted.

Weeratunga said the test, that will take at least three hours for the results, can be done at the airport too, but taking tourists to their hotels will make the process hassle free. The hotel staff will also undergo a special training initiated by the health authorities to meet and greet the tourists.

"We will have to live with coronavirus. Other destinations have already started to welcome tourists," the former Russian Ambassador said, adding that this is the best opportunity Sri Lanka has to bring down tourists who are eager to travel but has no options.

In 2018, Sri Lanka earned USD 4.38 billion from tourism, and this dropped to USD 3.61 billion in 2019 as a result of the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks. Since March this year, there has been no tourist arrivals to the country as the Government closed all airports and seaports for international tourists to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

Sri Lanka reported 13 deaths and nearly 3,300 Covid-19 cases. Russia reported around 20,000 deaths and 1.14 million cases.

But with the winter season approaching, Russians are looking forward to travelling to destinations, especially by the sea, to spend their holidays. The age group of this segment is between 30-40 years.

Emerging market

Tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka from



Udayanga Weeratunga

TOURISTS WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE A COVID-19 NEGATIVE POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR) REPORT 72 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN THE COUNTRY. ON THEIR ARRIVAL, THEY WILL BE TAKEN TO THEIR HOTELS WHERE ANOTHER PCR TEST WILL BE CONDUCTED

Russia, aided by Aeroflot's expansion of services to Colombo, reached around 86,549 last year. The previous highest arrivals were recorded in 2014- 69,718. This year started well for the industry. The Russian market showed an 86 percent growth from the year before, until coronavirus put global tourism into a standstill.

To move forward, Weeratunga proposes to establish more all-inclusive hotels and to engage more Russian speaking staff as most Russians converse only in their mother tongue.

He said small and medium enterprises, such as gem shops, souvenir sellers, can be set up in the selected hotels, adding that he expects to create a dialog around making this proposal a reality.

"Over two million are employed in the tourism sector in Sri Lanka.

I feel that this initiative can give 'breathing space' for them," he said.

The proposal has been hailed by tourism operators. General Manager Tangerine Tourism, a key destination management company specialising in the Russian market, Charith de Alwis said, "The Russian market is promising. Even after the Easter Sunday attacks last year, this segment increased. Even with the Covid-19 pandemic, Russian tourists have shown an eagerness to travel, but they have limited options.

"The countries that have opened borders and are welcoming Russian tourists, have shown a growth in tourism arrivals.

If the Government and health authorities approve these protocols, the ideal market for us to approach now is Russia, Weeratunga said.



Find quick solutions to people's woes, President tells officials



A bhikkhu presents a document to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa



The President addressing people



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in conversation with the people at Velanwita, Haldummulla

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has directed officials to treat all verbal orders issued for the common good of the people as circulars to be implemented. "Those who neglect this will face stern action," President said.

The President gave these directives at the "Discussion with Villagers" forum at Velanwita, Haldummulla, Badulla on Friday.

"I expect public officials to comprehend the problems of the people and provide solutions.

I will always stand by officials who make the right and unwavering decisions on behalf of the peo-

ple. State institutions take a long time to address people's issues.

If a written inquiry from an institution does not receive a reply from another institution within 14 days, consider it as approved," the President told officials.

Haldummulla is considered the most backward Divisional Secretariat Division in Badulla and Velanwita is considered the most backward village in the Haldummulla Divisional Secretariat Division.

Commencing the first discussion forum *Janapathi Gama Samaga Pilisadara* at Kumarathenna

Vidyalaya, Welanwita, Haputale, the President listened to the grievances of the people in the area. People told the President that they had abandoned villages due to the lack of basic facilities, such as roads, electricity and drinking water.

They cited that Kumarathenna Vidyalaya has only 16 students.

The President directed the authorities to carpet the road from the village 100 acres to Velanwita, to identify water sources to meet drinking water requirements and to provide electricity to the area in three months.

CCPSL Annual Academic Sessions focus on food

BY NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

The "Silver Jubilee", Annual Academic Sessions of the College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka (CCPSL), was held at Hotel Shangri-La recently.

The CCPSL explored different dimensions of Sri Lankan food from farm to plate at the sessions. The theme "Safe and Nutritious food: Everyone's business" highlighted the need for actions to enable people to remain free of Non-Communicable Diseases and live a healthy life.

Prof Vajira Dissanayake, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, delivered the oration of the college of CCPSL on "Looking into the future - should we rethink

the way we approach health and wellbeing of our people in the post Covid-19 era".

The guest of honour, Foreign Affairs Ministry Secretary, Admiral Prof Jayanath Colombage, spoke on the success of government efforts in combating Covid-19.

This year's annual scientific sessions were enriched with pre-congress sessions, symposia, plenaries and sessions of original research paper presentations under a wide spectrum of thematic areas.

The speakers focused on the innovations and applications of biotechnology in food production and risk-based decision making to manage food safety.

A session was held on Sri Lan-

ka's experience in combating Covid-19 "whole government approach" and missing link "whole society approach" with the participation of different sectors.

A panel of experts discussed the "Economic impact of Covid-19: global, regional and country perspective and its impact on SDGs".

The program also covered maternal and child health, improving mental wellbeing, sexual and reproductive health, elderly health and wellbeing and innovations in infection control. The apex professional body of public health specialists said that the outcome of their scientific sessions would foster the health system and research in Sri Lanka into new heights.



Participants at the Annual Academic Sessions of the College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka

New Malian President and Vice President appointed

BY CHANNA SANJEEWA

Former Minister of Defence Ba N'Daou and the President of the National Committee for the Salvation of the people, Col.Goita have been appointed President and Vice President to lead the transition to civil administration.

However, the ECOWAS pressed for the appointment of a civilian President and Prime Minister to lead the transition.

Vice President Goita said that several reforms to security, education and the social and economic fabric would be effected to ensure a better future for the Malians at the 60th Independence Day celebrations recently. The Human Rights groups in Mali blamed the Junta for arrest-



New Interim President and Vice President of Mali during swearing-in ceremony

ing senior military brass and civilian officials. Meanwhile former colonial power, France, which led the international military efforts against armed groups in Mali has also called

for a swift transition. French President Emmanuel Macron told the UN General Assembly that the Malian Junta should return to civilian rule hold elections soon.

NBRO report on collapsed Kandy house due tomorrow

By **Aanya Wipulasena**



The National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) officials will hand over their report tomorrow (28) on the quality of the raw material used to construct the five story building which collapsed and killed a young family in Sangamitta Mawatha in Buwelikada, Kandy early this week.

A team from the NBRO collected samples of the raw materials used including metal coils to ascertain if the raw materials which were used were safe. The house collapsed during the wee hours on Sunday (20) morning.

Approval

Central Province Governor Lalith U. Gamage said that approval was given only to construct four stories but a fifth floor had been added illegally. The Kandy police has launched an investigation into the incident.

Gamage has also appointed a 21-member committee to identify other buildings that are at risk of collapse in the Kandy district. The committee includes officers of the Department of Civil Engineering, Kandy Municipal Council, Urban Development Authority and geologists. After their observations, people living in high-risk areas will be given free consultation. The report is due in a week.

Residents in Sangamitta Mawatha said that the house was built obstruct-

ing a waste water passage. An official of the NBRO told the media that there were several water passages in the area where the house was built, and that this could have weakened the foundation of the house.

The Kandy District geologist for the National Building Research Organisation, Samantha Egodapitiya told the media that the house was not built on stable land, and that the constructors have not used the concrete and steel bars properly. He also said that the construction of the house was not suited for the land it was built on.

"They should have researched these factors before the construction," he said.

The owner of the house and former Basnayake Nilame of the Dodanwala Devalaya, Anura Lewke, said that the construction of his house was legal, but couldn't produce the documents as they were covered with debris. Recalling the event, soon after the collapse, Lewke refuted the allegations levelled against him.

"My daughter is sitting for the A/L examination this year. She was studying till 1.30 a.m. We went to sleep after that. It was around 4.00-4.15 a.m. when we heard strange sounds. I went out to see what it was, and our neighbour Samarasinghe said, 'Lewke, your house is cracking'. He also said that they managed to get out of the house to get into their vehicle and escape.

His son recalled the incident differently. He said he woke up due to strange noises and dogs barking.

"When I called out for my mother she said she heard the noises too. She went to the balcony to check. That was



The house after collapse

when Samarasinghe told her that the house was cracking. She then woke my sister and father," he said.

Collapse

He also said that he called the Kandy police to warn them about the incident but within minutes their house had collapsed.

"We built this house in 2006. We got approval for the construction. They are stored in a safe. Now, we cannot access any of them because of the debris," he added.

Lewke's wife expressed her sympathy about their neighbours who died as a result of the incident.

Kandy SSP, Sudath Masinghe said the house was constructed on a steep slope and when it collapsed, its debris

fell on two buildings that were below it, killing the family of three who were sleeping in one of the rooms.

The deceased were identified as businessman Chamila Prasad (35), his wife Achala Ekanayake (32), a lawyer and lecturer at the Open University, and their 49-day old infant. The other two members of the family managed to escape. Achala's mother who was sleeping in another room when the house collapsed said, "I was sleeping in the room adjacent to the one where my daughter, her husband and the child were sleeping.

The girl who was working at the hotel was sleeping in my room. Around five in the morning, there was an earth tremor and a deafening sound.

"One of the walls in our room had collapsed near my bed. I could not see anything. Somehow, I stumbled upon the mobile phone. I dialed 119 and informed them that the house had collapsed. Then the police rescued us. The room where my daughter, her husband and the child were in was completely destroyed."

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) in a letter addressed to the Acting Inspector General of Police Chandana Wickramaratne called on him to



The Ekanayake family

take action if any criminal offence is discovered.

"The woman who had succumbed to her death is Mrs. Achala Ekanayake AAL, a member of our Association. Irrespective of the fact that she is a member of the BASL there are several issues that would arise at this point. You would recall that a few years ago a building collapsed in a similar fashion in Wellawatte near the Savoy Theatre.

"Unfortunately and strangely there appears to be a trend that no further

action is taken by the State bodies after the initial investigations are done.

The matter appears to be forgotten until another incident takes place," the letter signed by the President of BASL Kalanga Indatissa stated. The letter added that in the past, when incidents of this nature take place there have been instances where it is alleged that the investigations are not properly or adequately conducted.

"The BASL will definitely be involved in any pending proceedings," it said adding that the police have a duty to conduct a 'proper and adequate investigation' into the incident.

Police Media Spokesman, SSP Jaliya Senarathne said legal action will be taken against those involved in the construction of the house if the investigations prove that it was not built adhering to legal standards. He also said that the house owners had the moral duty to warn others who were at risk from the collapsing house.

Echoing these sentiments Central Province Governor, Gamage said that the law should be enforced against those who are found guilty of building a substandard building.

Additional reporting by Asela Kuruluwansa.

THE NATIONAL BUILDING RESEARCH ORGANISATION (NBRO) OFFICERS WILL HAND OVER THEIR REPORT TOMORROW (28) ON THE QUALITY OF THE RAW MATERIAL WHICH WAS USED TO CONSTRUCT THE FIVE STORY BUILDING THAT COLLAPSED AND KILLED A YOUNG FAMILY IN SANGAMITTA MAWATHA IN BUWELIKADA, KANDY, EARLY THIS WEEK.



The house before collapse

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THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF SRI LANKA OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SELECTING A CONSULTANT FOR INTERIOR WORK

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka), is a globally recognised professional accounting body, which was established in 1959 by an Act of Parliament (No.23 of 1959). The School of Accounting & Business of CA Sri Lanka conducts the BSc. Applied Accounting degree for undergraduate students under the approval of the Ministry of Higher Education. At present, over 1800 students are following the degree programme.

Objective of the Consultancy
CA Sri Lanka seeks Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Project Consultant/s and Service Provider/s to provide consultancy services for interior related work to be carried out at the rented building to be used for the School of Accounting & Business of CA Sri Lanka situated at No. 411, 411/25 and 411/2, Galle Road, Bambalapitiya, Colombo 4.

Project location details;

1. Building consist with a basement and four (04) floors of approximately 20000 square feet.
2. Approximately 30 perch land adjoining to the building to be completed with landscaping for recreational activities.

Eligibility Criteria
EOI can be forwarded by a consultancy firm or company and the consultant should have the following capacities to be an eligible consultant.

- Should be a qualified Chartered Architect.
- More than ten (10) years' experience in the interior industry
- Consultant should be a registered firm or a Company in Sri Lanka.

Procedure for submitting expression of interest
Interested consultant firm or company can obtain the documents from CA Sri Lanka at No. 30A, Malalasekara Mawatha, Colombo 7 during office hours between 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or the documents can be downloaded from CA Sri Lanka website posted under the 'Press Room' tab. The available document contains all required information relevant to this project. Two proposals must be submitted namely; **Technical proposal** and the **Financial proposal** in two separate envelopes. The completed EOI with two separate proposals in two separate sealed envelopes should be delivered to the Finance Department of CA Sri Lanka (below address) **by 3 p.m. on or before 7th October 2020.**

Director - School of Accounting & Business
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka
No. 30A, Malalasekara Mawatha
Colombo 07.

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News/Obituaries

Private sector inputs vital to revise school curriculum - Education Minister



Education Minister G.L. Peiris has a word with the students of Samayawardena Vidyalaya.

The best option to bridge the gap between education, higher education and the job market is to revise the school curriculum with inputs from the private sector, Minister of Education G.L. Peiris said.

The Minister was speaking at an inspection tour of the smart classroom at Samayawardena Vidyalaya in Colombo on Thursday, September 24.

The Ministry has already invited the private sector to send written proposals in this regard, he said.

Minister Peiris said there are sufficient openings for jobs in Sri Lanka but the issue is the shortage of qualified people to fill these

positions. He commended the project implemented by Brandix to set up smart classrooms in all schools across the island with a target of training one million students by next year.

The project has already covered schools in remote areas in the North, Sabaragamuwa, Uva and the Central Provinces.

Brandix Directors Ajit Johnpillai, Senthil Eswaran (Director, Eastern Province), Omar Asad, Lawrence Vincent and Principal of Samayawardena Vidyalaya, W. A. Kapila Weerasuriya, Media Secretary to the Minister, Buddhika Wickramadara and other officials were also present.

New laws for NGOs on the cards

BY THARAKA WICKREMASEKERA

It has been reported that of Rs. 50,000 million received by local NGOs, a large amount has been spent on anti-national activities and disseminating extremism in the country. The largest slice of foreign

largesse has been channelled into the country via 280 NGOs. Of over 1,644 NGOs, only 669 are functioning, while the rest remain defunct. The CID has discovered that an illegal body operating in Qatar had remitted Rs.13 million to lawyer Hijas Hisbulla's 'Save the Pearl' NGO.

NGO National Secretariat Director Raja Gunaratne when contacted

said there are 38,019 locally registered NGOs in the country. Of the 1,649 NGOs receiving foreign aid, 980 are defunct at present.

Gunaratne said there is no proper mechanism to deal with defunct NGOs and there is a lack of laws to supervise the activities of NGOs.

Of the funds received only 20 percent is spent on projects leaving

the remaining 80 percent for their personal budgets, he said.

Although some NGOs contribute to national development, other NGOs pose a serious threat to national security, spreading extremist ideologies.

Discussions are underway to draft a new Act to overcome these drawbacks.

Health camp in Nuwaragala

A health camp was held for low income families in the Nuwaragala Divisional Secretariat area in the Mahaweli C Zone under the patronage of Dr. Lakshman Weerasekera. Over 2,000 pairs of spectacles were donated and free blood and urine tests were also conducted before prescribing medicine to the villagers.

Parallel to the health camp, children were presented school bags, shoes and books. The camp was sponsored by the DSI Group and Ceylon Biscuits. The camp was organised under the direction of the Adikarana Sangha Nayaka and Chief Incumbent of the Kelegama Temple, Dehiattakandiya, Ven. Makuruppe Pannasekera Thera. Dehiattakandiya group cor.



The health camp in progress

Beach clean-up in Kalmunai



The Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) functioning under the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing with the other organisations carried out a beach cleaning campaign at Kalmunai recently to commemorate 'International Coastal Clean-up Day and National Marine Resources Conservation Week -2020'.

(Pic: Mohamed Rizan, Addalaichenai Central Cor.)

"Fumigate examination centres"

S.M.WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Commissioner General of Examinations B. Sanath Pujitha, in a circular, has asked the Provincial Directors of Education, Ministry of Health and the National Dengue

Control Unit to take steps to fumigate GCE(AL) and the Year Five Scholarship Examination centres to prevent the spread of dengue fever.

The Year Five Scholarship Examination will be held on October 11 in 2936 centres.

The GCE (AL) Examination

will commence at 2,648 centres on October 12 and will end on November 6.

About 362,824 candidates will sit the GCE (AL) examination and about 331,694 candidates will sit the Grade Five Scholarship Examination.

Tallest building in Southern Province



The administrative building of the Hambantota International Port, the tallest building in the Southern Province, has brought all operations of the seaport under one roof. The 15-storeyed building is within 500 metres of the docks. Pic: Raja Waidyasekera, Tissamaharama special cor.

OBITUARY



DR DAYA HEWAPATHIRANE

Dr Daya Hewapathirane, dearly beloved husband of Damayanthi, loving father of Apsara and Sesath, son of late Mr & Mrs Edwin Hewapathirane (Matale) and brother of late Chitra, late Iranganie, late Jayasena, Sarath, late Jeeva, Ivy, Neil, Ranjith and Janaki, passed away peacefully, on September 11, 2020, at the age of 84 years, in Vancouver, Canada, where he last resided.

An accomplished academic, being both a Commonwealth (MA, England) and Fulbright (PhD, USA) scholar, specializing in environmental stewardship, he engaged in a variety of professional activities including lecturing at Vidyalaya (Sri Jayawardenepura) University (Sri Lanka), Fourah Bay University, (Sierra Leone), University of Zambia and Kenyatta University, Kenya, and leading international development research projects in Kenya and Sri Lanka. He also worked for the Government of Alberta and the Canadian Federal Government in senior policy positions. Finally, he completed his professional career serving his motherland as Advisor to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka.

Outside of his many academic and professional accomplishments, he was a proud beacon of Sri Lankan culture internationally, founding Sri Lankan Buddhist associations in various countries where he resided. Integrating his affinity for the arts and his passion for Sri Lankan culture, he spearheaded an international initiative to promote Sri Lankan Buddhist Art, which included a number of well-attended international exhibitions (including one at the UN headquarters in New York, USA), produced and directed an award-winning documentary film screened in several countries, established an art gallery of Buddhist Art in Sri Lanka and authored a comprehensive book of Sri Lankan Buddhist Temple Paintings. Beyond his varied accomplishments and endeavors, he will be remembered as someone who was immensely creative, kind and generous, optimistic and unflinchingly warm and energetic. He was a pillar not only to his extended family, but also to the many communities in which he resided. He will be dearly missed, but his memory and legacy will live on, proudly, within the countless people that he touched and influenced.

MAY HE ATTAIN THE SUPREME BLISS OF NIRVANA. Please contact +1-604-241-0515 or 1-604-341-8013 or dayahewafuneral@gmail.com for details of Cremation Ceremony.

Knife attack near ex-Charlie Hebdo offices

PARIS, Sept. 26 (BBC) - Seven people have been detained in connection with an attack outside the former offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris, officials say. A man armed with a meat cleaver wounded two people in the attack on Friday.

The main suspect, identified as an 18-year-old man of Pakistani origin, was arrested near the scene.

Police said six others were in custody and being questioned.

The attack is being treated as a terrorist incident. Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin said it was "clearly an act of Islamist terrorism". He said police had underestimated the threat level in the area.

OBITUARY



LAWRENCE, MALCOLM SENATHIRAJAH

(formerly of St. Blane, Glenfall Road, Nuwara Eliya)

At Rest with Jesus on September 20, 2020 in Canada. Beloved son of the late Anton Saravanamuttu and Catherine Annamal Lawrence.

Devoted husband of late Crissy (Felicja Emmanuel) adored father of Blossom (Rennie Augustine), Selva (Nilakshini Benedict) and Christine, Cherished grandfather of Alfred and Andrew Augustine, Amila and Alisha Lawrence, Alexander and Aidan Gomes, loving brother of Philomene and the late Gene (Photo Center Nuwara Eliya). Remains laid to rest on Friday, September 25th, 2020. Assumption Catholic Cemetery Mississauga Canada.

Condolences can be sent to: memories.malcolm@gmail.com

Cycling path to reduce traffic congestion

Plans are under way to construct a cycling path connecting the Colombo Port City to the Diyatha Uyana in Battaramulla, the government said on Friday.

In a press release, Director, Western Province, Urban Development Authority, Y.A.G.K. Gunatilleke said the project will be beneficial to schoolchildren, employees, tourists and professional cyclists and will create a safe environment for those who travel on bicycles.

A 23km-long bikeway is being designed to reduce traffic congestion and to promote eco-friendly modes of transport by limiting the number of

vehicles entering main roads.

The cycling path will be of a minimum width of 1.5 metres and a maximum of 2.5 metres.

Under phase one, 11 stations will be set up for renting bicycles. The rented bicycles can be returned to any of the 11 stations.

Based on the assumption that most people would use bicycles early in the morning, lighting and colouring in accordance with international standards are to be put in place.

The construction of this bikeway, due to commence at the end of this year, is expected to be completed by next year.

Susan George Pulimood memorial oration

The 30th annual Susan George Pulimood Memorial Oration of Visakha Vidyalaya, will be held on Tuesday, October 6 at 5 pm. at the Jeremias Dias Hall, Visakha Vidyalaya, Vajira Road, Colombo 5.

The event which was scheduled for July was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

This year, the oration will be delivered by Dr. Champa Priyadarsini Banagala (nee Kaluarachi), Consultant

Ophthalmologist, National Eye Hospital (1989-2013).

The subject of the oration is 'Novel Era of Eye Care: Marvels and Concerns' Due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic special safety guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health will be followed.

All participants are advised to wear a mask and wash their hands before entering the premise.

Seating will be arranged as per the guidelines of the health authorities.

St. Thomas' College, Matale - '85 Group AGM

The Annual General Meeting and get-together of the Old Boys' Association ('85 Group) of St. Thomas' College, Matale will be held at the Spring View Hotel, Thotagamuwa,

Matale, on October 3 at 10.00 a.m. Family members are also welcome.

Vajira Dambadeniya, Palitha Aluthdunna and Neranjan Ellepola are the organisers.

Security dragnet along Northern coastline

The Defence Ministry has thrown a security dragnet to prevent organised criminals escaping to foreign countries and also illegal entry to the country by criminal elements and seizing contraband.

The Tri-Forces, STF and police will be deployed enlisting the support of the Northern Fisherman's Security Committees. Military Spokesman Brig. Chandana Wickremesinghe said steps have been taken to ensure National Security by the Tri-Forces. Navy Spokesman Capt. Indika Silva said patrolling along the Mannar coastal belt has been intensified to check illegal entry to the country. The Air Force too has increased its areal service. - TW

Obituaries

ABEYARATNE - MR CYRIL FRANK - Formerly at People's Bank, son of late Cyril & Esther, beloved husband of Winitha, loving father of Iresha (Aus), Primali (Aus) and Deepal, grandfather of Ranmali & Piotr Lorenc, Shavin, Inoshi and Thilina, great grandfather of baby Logan, father-in-law of Chandana Madakumbura, brother of late John, Edith, Greta, Donald & Oliver taken to Lord on 26 Sep 2020. The remains lie at residence from Sunday 27th Sept 2020 at 25/15 Laxapathiya Road, Rawatawatte, Moratuwa - Leaves residence on Monday 28th September at 3.00 p.m. for service at Holy Emmanuel Church Moratuwa followed by burial at 4 p.m. 058937

BERNADETTE - EMELDA (BERNIE) JOSEPH (Retired Teacher - Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya) passed away in France on 22nd September instant - Beloved wife of late Anthonpillai Joseph (Retired - Dept. of Labour) loving mother of late Anjelo, mother-in-law of Kusala (UK), grandmother of Francesca (UK), daughter of late Mr & Mrs. Simon Ariyanayagam, loving sister of late Lawrence, Victorine (Canada), Antoinette Joseph (Retired Teacher - Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya), Jacintha, Helen, late Elmo, late Carmelita, Concy (Canada), Sherrine (Suvi - Germany), Subashini (Subo - France) sister-in-law of Mary (UK), Suren (Canada), Joseph, Rajasekeran, Rani (France), Gunadasa (Canada), Pearl (Germany) Yogani (France), late Emmanuel, late Ponmani. Funeral service will be held in France on Tuesday 29th September at 3 p.m. (France Time). Informant: Christina Subashini Packiyannathar (France), Land Line: 0033143338695, Mobile: 0033651492231, Antoinette Joseph - Land Line: 0114710205, 0777333529. 058285

ILANGAKOON - PATHMA ELIKEWALA - Beloved wife of late Lyn Ilangakoon, mother of Anoma, Cyraine and Michael, mother-in-law of Indra Obeysekere, Perttu Laako and Shivane, grandmother of Deshan, Gamini, Yasara and Milja, passed away on the 1st of September 2020. A private funeral was held according to her wishes. 057593

WIJERATNE - MERVYN (Former Director CISIR and Chairman Tyre Corporation) - Beloved husband of late Malinie Wijeratne, father of Tamara, Anura and Lalith, father-in-law of Ian, Janaki and Samudra, grandfather of Philip, Peter, Thilan, Roshelle and Amal, loving brother of late Neville, late Vernon, late Herbert, late Sirima, Susima, Padma and Nalinie. Cortege leaves residence 35, Inner Fairline Road, Dehiwala at 1.00 p.m. on Sunday Sep 27th, 2020 for cremation at the General Cemetery, Mt. Lavinia at 2.00 p.m. 058935

MACKIE - ZACKIYA FIROUZE with deepest sorrow, the family announces the passing away of ZACKIYA FIROUZE MACKIE, on the 23rd of September, 2020. "Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raajoon!" Loving daughter of the late Mr & Mrs Buhary, ever-loving wife of Mr. M.H.M. Samsudeen Mackie, adoring mother of Mizli and Fazrin, beloved mother-in-law of Fahim Gaffoor and Fikri Fauz, grandmother of Ilma, Aaqil and Maryam, grandmother-in-law Omar Alif, great-grandmother of Abdullah and Sakeenah, daughter-in-law of the late Mr. & Mrs. Samsudeen Hameed, beloved sister of Rameez, Zamer, Zareefa, Ziyanel Fouz, Fareeza and Zeeniya, much loved sister-in-law of the late Rally, late Hussein, late Kaeel, late Azeza, Raleena, late Sahila, late Khairunnisa, late Raliyatulbadriya, late Alavi-Anis, late Safwan Arif, late Ifthikhar, Wazeer, Wahab, Nazli, Nazeera and Shihab. Janaza rituals were performed after Maghreb, at the Dehiwala Grand Jumah Masjid, on the 23rd of September 2020. The family deeply appreciates the love, prayers and support extended to them during the period of grief. 3, Arethus Lane, Colombo 06. 058939

Over 41,000 expat workers await early return

BY MANJULA FERNANDO

The first batch of migrant workers bound for South Korea left Sri Lanka last Wednesday, after a lapse of nearly one year due to Covid 19 and border restrictions.

While the government put an extra effort to repatriate thousands of stranded migrant workers who were rendered jobless due to the global pandemic and whose job contracts expired the news of South Korea, reviving the job scheme was a silver lining in a dark sky.

The latest batch of employees to South Korea consisted of only 22 members and the second batch of about 30 is expected to leave the country in mid October, spokesperson for the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Mangala Randeniya said. South Korea is also affected

by the deadly pandemic. Their readiness to welcome Lankan workers so early is a goodwill gesture that should be appreciated, he told the Sunday Observer.

None of the Lankan expatriate workers in South Korea has lost his job due to Covid 19 ramifications but a few whose job contracts had expired which are usually four years and 10 months, are waiting to come home, he said.

The Covid-19 National Task Force has appointed a sub-committee to look into the migrant workers' woes. The subcommittee includes officials from the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau and the Foreign Ministry.

"The situation is complex," said Randeniya referring to the issues they had to face in repatriating the affected workers. Our staff in overseas missions are trying to re-employ the stranded Lankans since it is

more viable than repatriation, however, most employees are worried and prefer to return home, he said.

So far 40,000 Lankans, the majority of whom migrant workers have been repatriated include migrant workers, students and short term travelers such as pilgrims, travelers on medical purposes and those who visited relatives.

"We have to keep track of testing facilities, hospital beds and quarantine centres and regulate repatriations accordingly." A special team is working round the clock to assess and recommend the numbers to be returned in keeping with the facilities at hand.

A number of times flights were suspended briefly when a large number of returnees tested positive for Covid 19, and the officials feared the new cases would overwhelm the local quarantine facilities. "But currently repatriations are continuing unhindered."

By mid September 57, 251 had registered to return. Of them over 41,000 are migrant workers with 31, 500 of them stranded in the Middle East.

According to the Foreign Ministry 1.5 million Lankan expatriate workers are currently employed in the Middle East.

The Foreign Employment Bureau statistics show nearly 40 percent of the people awaiting repatriation in the Middle East are illegal economic migrants or those who have expired visas.

Most of the stranded workers are on their own- they are either with a friend or in hostels provided by the



Lankan expatriates in Kuwait awaiting return

BY MID SEPTEMBER 57, 251 HAD REGISTERED TO RETURN. OF THEM OVER 41,000 ARE MIGRANT WORKERS WITH 31, 500 OF THEM STRANDED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY 1.5 MILLION LANKAN EXPATRIATE WORKERS ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN THE MIDDLE EAST

former employer. According to SLBFE the plight of the stranded workers is grim and they are hopeful of an early return. The Lankan missions have helped some who are in dire-straits to find accommodation and some were reportedly paid a stipend.

In late July Jordanian security forces reportedly used tear gas on a

group of Sri Lankan migrant workers, stranded in the Middle East.

The workers had been unemployed since the factory they worked closed down five months ago, due to Covid 19.

According to reports a tense situation ensued after the Lankan embassy officials visited them in the city of Al-Karak, and the jobless

workers accused the officials of trying to wash their hands off responsibility. The workers claimed that there were 500 employees stranded and they were forced to survive on two meals a day because the factory owner failed to compensate them.

At present flights operate at a frequency of one flight a day with 200-280 passengers arriving daily. Randeniya said the flights will be grounded and quarantined with the staff, if 3-4 passengers arriving in the particular plane tests positive for coronavirus and it was part of the ground realities.

The Foreign Ministry sources said the Lankans registered to be repatriated by mid this month include 1,231 from Africa, 6,890 from East Asia, 4765 from Europe, 55 from Latin America, 36,663 from the Middle East, 871 from North America, 4,817 from South Asia and 1,959 from South East Asia.



Expatriates return

The rise and fall of The Finance Company

BY T.R. KELLY

The Finance Company (TFC) was one of the premier financial institutes in Sri Lanka which was incorporated in 1940 and was managed by a Board of Directors appointed by the shareholders of TFC. In 2008 the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) took control of TFC and entrusted its administration to Lankaputhra Development Bank Ltd., as the management agent of all affairs of TFC by the Monetary Board of CBSL under the advice of the Expert Group appointed by the Monetary Board of Sri Lanka on March 6, 2009.

The reason for taking over of TFC by the CBSL was attributed to the fact that TFC had severely been impacted by the failure of a number of financial institutions within the Ceylinco Group in 2008. While the CBSL talks of companies under the Ceylinco Group being financially unstable in 2008 it did not see any financial instability with TFC.

It is questionable as to why the CBSL had to take over TFC when in 2008 TFC was financially stable, had a sound client base of depositors who had confidence in TFC, high value of TFC shares, considerable assets. Up to the time of take over there wasn't a single complaint by a depositor against TFC as TFC made payment of their interest on their deposits in time and on a regular basis.

TFC was a company that was registered as a PQ1 company in 1940 and possessed a proud history of 79 years and was the first finance company to be set up in Sri Lanka. Since the establishment the company has played a major role in providing financial and other assistance and sustaining the livelihood of Sri Lankans and has also been a useful partner in uplifting the economic stability of Sri Lanka.

A large number of persons have placed deposits with TFC. The majority of those who have deposited monies with TFC according to the statistics provided by TFC officials are

elderly persons in retirement and others who would have placed their deposits with plenty of expectations for the future such as for their medications, surgical operations, children's education, to purchase properties commence a business and/or for several other important reasons. It is estimated that a large number of dependents of the depositors who had hopes for their future with the monies saved by their parents or relatives is not in a position to reap the benefits that would have been available to them.

TFC depositors recognised and had the confidence to place their deposits with TFC given the stability of TFC which possessed a large number of assets and was the premier financial institution in Sri Lanka.

In 2009 the administration of TFC was vested with the government to be administered under the CBSL. The CBSL appointed Directors to manage and operate the business of TFC from time to time.

TFC is the only financial institution to which a Board of Directors was appointed by the CBSL. Consequently the takeover of TFC by CBSL, depositors of TFC did not panic and did not rush to withdraw their deposits similar to the situation when Golden Key Credit Card collapsed.

In fact depositors were happy that the CBSL had intervened and were confident that their deposits were secure. However, since the takeover of TFC by CBSL there was a steady decline in the financial stability of TFC except for the period September 2014 to August 2015 during which period the Board of Directors at the time took appropriate action and made correct decisions that were conducive to the revival of TFC. For unknown reasons the Directors who were appointed and who were responsible for bringing about stability of TFC were removed.

Depositors are of the view that has transpired at TFC since the appointment of Directors by CBSL are attributed to bad management, wrong decisions, no plans or sugges-

tions to revive TFC. It was apparent that the Directors of TFC had no intention of reviving TFC by providing funds. Instead during discussions between officials of TFC, CBSL it was stated by CBSL that they are looking for an investor.

On May 24, 2020 the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka said that 93% of the local depositors of TFC will be compensated via the Central Bank's Deposit Insurance Scheme and the remaining depositors will be settled after the liquidation of the company's assets.

While the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank is happy that 93% of the local depositors have been settled which is not the precise position regarding TFC deposits. The table set out below shows the accurate position regarding TFC depositors as at January 2020.

Liquidity Support Insurance Fund

According to the figures available with TFC out of the 145,172 depositors, 135,100 hold deposits less than Rs.600,000 equivalent to Rs.4,693,690,017.

The remaining 10,072 depositors hold deposits amounting to Rs. 22,567,744,770. The 93% of depositors totaling 135,100 depositors whose problems have been solved as stated by the Deputy Governor amounts to only 17.22% of the Deposits.

The remaining 10,072 depositors hold 82.78% of the deposits amounting to an amount in excess of Rs. 22 billion.

In terms of the payments made by the CBSL under the Liquidity Support Insurance Fund 39% of the deposits have been settled by the payment of the sum of Rs.600,000 according to CBSL which leaves a balance of 61% totaling deposits of Rs. 16 billion to be settled.

The Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka decided to cancel the license issued to The Fi-



nance Company in terms of the Finance Act no: 42 of 2011 with effect from d May 22, 2020. According to the Deputy Governor said that TFC is not permitted to engage in finance business under the FBA with effect from such date.

The Deputy Governor states that currently TFC has 145,000 depositors with a deposit value of Rs.26 billion. The Deposit Insurance Scheme is allowing to pay Rs.600,000 per person and therefore can settle Rs 11 billion of the total Rs.27 billion. He further states that people will ask what will happen to the balance. He states that the balance would be settled using the liquidated funds.

The Deputy Governor states that the asset base of TFC has a book value of approximately Rs. 20 billion which its recoverable value is estimated to be around Rs.10 billion which would be used to settle the remaining depositors.

If even under a process of liquidation of TFC assets according to the Deputy Governor only Rs.10 billion could be recovered whereas the 6.1% or 7% of the remaining deposits amount to a number in excess of Rs.16 billion. The CBSL should clarify

how it is going to meet this shortfall to settle the amounts due to the balance seven percent high deposit customers.

Compensation payment will be made through the People's Bank as the agent bank appointed by CBSL for this purpose. The first phase of the compensation payment for individual depositors having a single payment commenced on June 7 at People's Bank branches in locations where TFC was previously operating.

In 2008 CBSL stated that the administration of TFC had to be taken over by the CBSL as a result of TFC being severely impacted by the failure of a number of financial institutions within the Ceylinco Group - not TFC. If that was the decision of the Directors appointed to TFC by the CBSL in 2008 they were aware that TFC could not be revived basically the Directors did not have a plan to revive TFC and the only feasible task and option that was available to the Directors was to perform the last rights on behalf of TFC i.e. closure. Having comprehensive knowledge of the situation regarding TFC no alarm bells rang of any unhealthy situation at TFC so there was no need for the depositors to panic the reason being the Directors did not portray the true position at the time. In a way one would consider that the silence of the Directors of TFC in not highlighting the true facts regarding TFC saved the country from a calamity because if the depositors were made aware of what was happening at TFC they would have panicked and rushed to withdraw their deposits which would have been a disaster for the government.

Notwithstanding the actual situation that prevailed at TFC, TFC with the approval of CBSL commenced a promotion from January 1, 2019 to mobilize one billion rupees in one month with the promotion period starting on January 1, 2019 and ending January 31, 2019.

A detail of the scheme was circulated to all branches and staff of TFC on December 31, 2018 under the signatures of Kosala Wimalasiri and Nimal B. Mamaduwa - ED/CEO.

The scheme entailed the objective of providing value additions to depositors of TFC and offered gift vouchers to the deposits under six deposit slabs. Branch Managers were given the responsibility of handling

the gift vouchers and were authorized to purchase the gift vouchers from the nearest Cargill's outlet.

This scheme by TFC with the approval of CBSL was called "Special Deposit Campaign to collect 1 Billion in one month".

In terms of this scheme which was promoted by TFC a total of 2,474 depositors placed deposits amounting to Rs.947 million from January 1-31 2019 deposits breakdown as set out in Table 3.

However, to the surprise and dismay of these 2,474 depositors and other depositors on February 15, 2019 the CBSL sent a letter to the Chairman of TFC. Wasantha Kumarasiri under the signature of . Ranaweera Director CBSL informing TFC to take steps under the Regulatory Actions submitted by the CBSL as follows:

- TFC refrain from granting or making any further disbursements of loans, credit facilities or other types of financial accommodation except with the written approval of the Director Department of Supervision - Non Banking Financial Institution.
- Refrain from investing money whatsoever of the company.
- Refrain from distributing profits retained overseas except with the approval of the Monetary Board.
- Refrain from entering into any transactions for consideration or otherwise.

Financial crisis

Consequent to the Regulatory Actions of the CBSL depositors who placed their deposits under the Special Deposit Scheme were informed that their deposits have been frozen and will not be permitted to withdraw their deposits on maturity. The depositors are of the view that the promotion of the Speed Deposit Scheme by the Board of Directors of TFC with the blessings of CBSL is a fraud perpetrated by the TFC and CBSL.

Having achieved its target of collecting Rs. 1 billion in one month, 15 days later the CBSL issues an order under the Regulatory Actions on 15th February 2019 freezing all deposits of TFC. The question that is being posed by the depositors is why the TFC and CBSL had to promote a scheme of this nature bearing in mind the financial crisis of TFC if there was a crisis since 2008 which prompted CBSL to take over the administration of TFC. Having collected 1 billion at the end of January 2019 what did TFC do with this money?

Several transactions perpetrated by certain Directors have taken place particularly assets belonging to TFC have been sold. Large amounts of TFC money have been invested in entities to which certain Director were affiliated to.

These illegal transactions perpetrated by certain Directors does not seem to have drawn the attention of CBSL may be for some very good reason. Whatever the cause may be these illegal transactions have all contributed to the downfall of TFC.

(Written on behalf of People's Forum to Protect Financial Stability in Sri Lanka)

(To be continued next week)

Customer wise Deposit Liability - TFC

(With Shares) As at January 2020

Value of the Deposit	Number of Depositors	Cumulative number of Depositors	Amount (Rs)	Cumulative Amount of Deposits
0**-25,000	109,690	109,690	257,793,405	257,793,405
25,001-100,000	12,143	121,833	689,759,781	947,553,186
100,001-300,000	8,237	130,070	1,514,469,895	2,462,023,081
300,001-600,000	5,030	135,100	2,231,666,895	4,693,690,017
600,001-800,000	1,850	136,950	1,295,438,624	5,989,128,641
801,000-1,000,000	1,463	138,413	1,352,470,302	7,341,598,942
1,000,001-1,500,000	2,207	140,620	2,729,136,337	10,070,735,280
1,500,001-5,000,000	3,756	144,376	9,868,936,292	19,939,671,572
Above 5,000,000	796	145,172	7,321,763,215	27,261,434,787
Total	145,172		27,261,434,787	

Feature



Coming of the New Age

—By—
H. L. D. Mahindapala



When in two successive silent revolutions the Sinhala-Buddhist voters conformed, with pencilled crosses, their commitment to regain their lost hopes and heritage and usher in a new age, the stunned political scientists and other assorted pundits, mainly in the media, did not know what hit them. What threw them off balance, in the first place, was the sheer magnitude and the force of the Sinhala-Buddhist wave that swept the nation.

Second, the two silent revolutions debunked their fictitious theories about the power of the minorities to sit in the middle and dictate terms to both major parties. Third, they were aghast at the sudden collapse of the cardboard edifice they constructed under the Yahapalana regime with the minorities and NGOs. Fourth, the Right-wingers allied to the minorities and NGOs were all swept aside and thrown into a black hole from which no light emerged to guide them out of it.

The fifth also stands out as a key factor: the violence and the arrogance of the minorities, particularly the burst of Muslim terrorism combined with Wahabist extremism and Middle-Eastern money, threw the Christian Sinhalese into the arms of the Buddhist Sinhalese. Together they formed a formidable monolith for the first time. Here ethnicity overtook religion. To a great extent the arrogance and the violence of the aggressive minorities galvanised the majority to form a defensive coalition against them.

The minorities dug their own grave with their overblown identitarian politics. Sixth, the West-oriented NGOs, undermining the traditional roots with imported neo-Liberalism, threatened the security of the majority who reacted decisively by cutting them down to size. Decades of investments in anti-Sinhala-Buddhist campaigns – billions in rupees – went down the drain. These unselected interventionists were playing a key role as self-appointed stakeholders and leading the Yahapalanaya away from the promised Ven. Sobitha-way into betrayals in Geneva.

Last but not the least, the political theorists and pundits have no theory to explain or counter the new phenomenon empowered by the people to dismantle the anti-national structures, including the debilitating provisions in the Constitution, and find constructive ways to a new age.

Multiple forces

Whacked by these multiple forces the disoriented political scientists fell off their theoretical perch. Their paralytic reaction has been two-fold. First is to demean the historic victory with abuse. For instance, the best that Dayan Jayatilaka, who never fails to remind that he is a political scientist, could do was to declare that “armed Anagarika Dharmapala” has returned to power. Not many moons ago he was there with the ‘Armed Dharmapalas’ reading their messages that fanned the ‘Mahinda sulanga’ at Nugegoda. He backed the ‘Eliya’ to the hilt to bring the ‘Armed Dharmapalas’ to power.

In fact, he discarded his favourite Gramsci, Althusser, Marx and Lenin for the ‘Dharmapalas’. He was one of the leading hurrah-boys of the ‘Dharmapalas’. But after he sold his soul for a diplomatic post he did his usual somersault and turned against the ‘Dharmapalas’ accusing them of being ‘armed’ villains organised to destroy democracy. So, don’t be surprised if he now comes up with his next cock-and-bull theory that Mao came into power either through Buddhist meditations or ‘Armed Dharmapala-ism’!

The new and the promising

Then there is Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu who used his Ground View, to

attack the elected President. Defeated ‘Paki’ is now uttering obscenities as political alternatives for good governance from his Centre for Policy Alternatives. The new political phenomenon has sent him and his ‘catchers’ reeling not knowing how to respond to it. We are in a period of adjustment transiting from the decadent and the antiquated to the new and the promising. And the clueless Quadripeds are struggling to figure out why all their theories, structures, and strategies have left them in the middle of nowhere. Unable to come to terms with the new realities their response so far has been to throw abusive filth at it.

The second response is fear-mongering. The anti-Sinhala-Buddhists are screaming their heads off saying that there is a dictator waiting in the corner somewhere to take over the state and destroy democracy. These are the phantasmagorical fears of infantile nincompoops in NGOs crying about a ‘goni billa’ stalking them to gobble them up in time. Ever since J. R. Jayewardene (JR) changed the Westminster model into a de Gaulleist Presidential system the fear-mongers in the Left – e.g., Dr. N. M. Perera, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva etc., – have been crying from rooftops about a dictator waiting to come out of JR’s Constitution like a genie locked inside a corked bottle. But it has been like waiting for Godot – there is a great deal of talk with no one sighting this ghost.

Nevertheless, it is worth pausing to consider whether the lurking fears have some grounds to worry about. Yes, there is on the surface. To understand their fears let’s imagine the following scenario:

One fine day, in November 2019, a retired Lt. Colonel sweeps into power in an island called See Long. Overnight the Lt. Colonel becomes the Commander-in-Chief. He is in total command. He has no parliament to check his powers. So, he has no need to restrain himself in any way. It’s open sesame for him. He has no Prime Minister

THE CHANCES OF DEMOCRACY CRUMBLING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF 20A IS A FAR-FETCHED BOGEY. IF SRI LANKAN COULD COME OUT OF PRABHAKARAN’S TAMIL FASCISM, RIDING IT LIKE A ROLLER-COASTER, THEN THERE IS ALL THE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN OVERCOME THE NEXT ECONOMIC CRISIS WAITING TO HAPPEN

to snipe at him and push him around demanding, for instance, more powers to import from Singapore a foreign banker when there are absolutely competent and distinguished bankers in See Long to do the job.

He has no Cabinet either to curtail his power either in framing policies or in implementing them. In fact, he has no rival political force to oppose him with any formidable clout. There is no Left, no Right, nor is the usually aggressive North there to take on the dynamic Centre that is command. He is the Lord of all he surveys. He even appoints his trusted lieutenants in the Army to key positions.

They have been disciplined and trained to carry out his orders to the last letter and spirit of the law dictated by him. There are no checks and balances. He is the unwritten Constitution making the laws as he goes along to meet the needs of the battles he needs to fight. He fights the biggest threat of our time, Covid-19, with a fine-tuned military force behind him. He runs the administration with military precision. He goes right down to the basement to examine the root causes for corrective action. And he delivers. He and his military loyalists are marching into the New Age in civvies.

The Executive

Without any Parliament he is, indeed, immune from the restraints of the Constitution. All key institutions are at his beck and call. The Executive is way above the Legislature which, in reality, is non-existent. The wings of the civil society are clipped and kept out of governing structures. He doesn’t have to violate the principle of the separation of powers because he combines in his person all the powers he needs to act. The decision-making powers are concentrated in his hands with no one having the wherewithal to object or oppose.

According to the principles of classical political science these are all hallmarks of a pure and simple military junta the likes of which are found in plenty in S. America. But if we come down from our imaginary See Long to reality the reader would have concluded, quite correctly, that I was describing no other place but Sri Lanka. I was portraying the rise of Lt. Col. Gotabaya Rajapaksa to be the Commander-in-Chief and his subsequent consolidation of political power.

But the features I have highlighted are all surface features. There is no military junta beneath it running a dictatorship. To this day no one has called it a military dictatorship, nor an authoritarian regime. Not the American Ambassador. Not the British High Commissioner. Not the New York Times. Not the London Times. In fact, ex-Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda another political scientist with a Ph.D. says he will not call it a dictatorship. If he could he would have been the first to damn the Rajapaksa regime. All what he can say is that if their favoured 19 A is amended it would lead to an authoritarian regime.

According to all signifiers we should be living under a military junta with jackboots throttling our throats. All the classical features of a military junta are operative and yet it has not turned the state into a dictatorship. I cannot think of another viable political entity like that of the Rajapaksas which is functioning successfully within the defined domains of democracy though it is armed to the teeth with all the powers to turn into a military junta. Faced with this new phenomenon the baffled political scientists with Ph. Ds (Phoney Doctorates) have resorted to fear-mongering. They are crying their heads off about a bogeyman rising in

WITH MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA WINNING 145 SEATS THE TWO BROTHERS HAVE GATHERED UNFETTERED POWERS IN THEIR HANDS. WITH POWER CONCENTRATED ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE IN THEIR HANDS THE RAJAPAKSA BROTHERS ARE IN A POSITION TO MAKE OR BREAK THE NATION

the shape of 20 A to hijack democracy.

With Mahinda Rajapaksa winning 145 seats the two brothers have gathered unfettered powers in their hands. With power concentrated on an unprecedented scale in their hands the Rajapaksa brothers are in a position to make or break the nation. And yet they have acted so far with great restraint and only within the limits of the prevailing democratic norms. They are seasoned enough to know that the power given to them is a responsibility and not a licence to violate the will of the people. They have witnessed the horrendous follies of our time to know the disastrous consequences of Ranil Wickremesinghe signing the CFA with Vellupillai Prabhakaran without the consent of the President, Parliament, party or the people. If this isn’t a dictatorial act what is?

They also know what happened through 30/1 in Geneva selling the nation without telling his Prime Minister, the Parliament, the Party or the people. These are blunt and naked acts of dictators and not those of elected representatives of the people fulfilling the democratic will. Both are dictatorial acts under any definition. In abusing the hallowed precedents and practices of the Westminster system Ranil has demonstrated that it is possible to use democratic procedures and powers to act dictatorially dismissing all recognised checks and balances. Ranil’s unpardonable act was to legalise and reinforce the fascist dictatorship in the North, though it was done in the name of peace which never happened. His signing the CFA with Prabhakaran was not only dictatorial but also treacherous. Fortunately, the invisible hand that guides this nation shot it to pieces.

Democracy used to kill democracy

The cry now is that democracy is being used to kill democracy. They fear that the Rajapaksas have the numbers to re-do 19A – one of the failed experiments of the Sirisena-Ranil regime – and introduce 20A with adequate powers to serve the impending challenges facing the new age. If the Courts clear the path and dismiss the objections it will be merely a matter of time for it to go through.

The nation is faced with issues far greater than 20A. It is, for instance, the challenging economic issues in the post-Covid-19 period that makes 20A a vital necessity. Tough times need tough responses and 20A will be a necessary aid to clear the way through obstacles until the nation arrives at a steady state. It is clear that 19A did not raise the nation to new heights. It brought down the nation to rock bottom. An alternative is necessary and 20A should

be considered as a viable alternative.

What is objectionable, however, is not so much the exploitation of circumstances for political gain but the hypocritical role of those who have lined up as the saviours of constitutional propriety.

Take the case of ex-Prof. Jayadeva. He is crying that 20A “could spell the end of democracy in Sri Lanka.” He added: “There should be a limit to political power. 20A seems to have followed the model of the colonial state we had in Sri Lanka before 1931.”

Vellupillai Prabhakaran

Here’s a cracker from him: “This is a Government by a single leader or small group who have absolute power. I don’t know whether people have really understood what this means to them. Unfortunately, they will realise it after a couple of years, when they suffer the consequences of such a political change. It would be a very costly learning process,” he warned. (Daily Mirror – 18/9/2020).

Now let’s get back to the time when Vellupillai Prabhakaran gave him an audience in the Vanni. He went on this pilgrimage with Bishop Kenneth Fernando and Charlie Abeysekera, another NGO activist whose sympathies were with the Tamil fascist state. The three of them returned, glowing with pride, as if they had been at the Second Coming of Jesus.

They ate a few biscuits and drank the orange barley given to them by the cruellest and the biggest killer of Tamils and held a joint press conference in Colombo parading as the privileged and chosen Three Kings of the Orient at the crib in Bethlehem on the first day of Christmas. They white-washed

IT IS, FOR INSTANCE, THE CHALLENGING ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE POST-COVID-19 PERIOD THAT MAKES 20A A VITAL NECESSITY. TOUGH TIMES NEED TOUGH RESPONSES AND 20A WILL BE A NECESSARY AID TO CLEAR THE WAY THROUGH OBSTACLES UNTIL THE NATION ARRIVES AT A STEADY STATE

the ‘Surya Devan’s’ image and painted him as the living Prince of Peace. Tamil fascism had fascinated them. They took upon themselves the mission of polishing Prabhakaran’s image and they gave him a clean certificate as a man committed to serve peace and not war.

This ex-Professor, who is now so deeply involved in constitutional issues and preaching high morality to the Sinhala state. He is worried that the Government is run by ‘a single leader’. How many leaders did Prabhakaran have in his government? He is also worried that “there should be a limit to political power”. He argues that “20A seems to have followed the model of the colonial state we had in Sri Lanka before 1931.” By any chance, did he advise Prabhakaran that he should limit his political power as too much power can lead to a colonial state like the one we had in Sri Lanka before 1931?

And, OMG, did he warn Prabhakaran that his powers “could spell the end of democracy” in the North and the

East? Besides, he is sharp enough as a political scientist to ask some relevant questions. Did he raise one single constitutional issue with Prabhakaran? Or ask him why he abducts Tamil children to fill his depleted cadres? Or whether his brutal violence can pave the path to his Evil-lam? No. Not at all. They were there at the press conference to give a gloss to Tamil fascism. They were willing to go along with Prabhakaran and back him to the hilt in his demand for more devolved power without any constitutional guarantees.

Daily Mirror (DM) asked him “if national security concerns had given rise to 20A, Prof. Uyangoda said both internal and external security was important to a country. It is not that 19A compromised national security. It is the people who headed the government who failed when the Easter Sunday attacks occurred,” he opined.” Compare this to his condemnation of Sinhala-Buddhism and praising S. J. Tambiah’s book Buddhism Betrayed? Why didn’t he use the same logic and condemn Tambiah and say that it is not Buddhism that failed but the people who headed it?

He was joined in the DM by “Paki” Saravanamuttu, a vexatious litigant who goes to Court against the ‘Sinhala state’, posing on the steps of the Hulftsdorp either taking his dark glasses out or putting them on. But he never once took Prabhakaran to court for crimes against humanity and war crimes. After all Prabhakaran had courts and he could have at least fought on behalf of the Tamil children abducted by the Tamil oppressor in the courts in Vanni. He wouldn’t do that.

To save the Tamils

Instead he went jumping from one Western capital to another trying his level best to save Prabhakaran from impending death in the last days of the battle against terrorism. He was bent on making the world believe that his intention was to save the Tamils trapped inside the war zone. But he knew jolly well that his main motive was to save Prabhakaran and make him live to fight another day. Stopping the advance of the Sri Lankan Security Forces was the only way to save Prabhakaran. He failed and when the ‘Sinhala state triumphed’ he accused them of ‘triumphalism’. He blamed the ‘Sinhala state’ for saving democracy and peace.

Both examples prove that our partisan intellectuals are, at best, mediocre pygmies who will not be able to see the wider horizons even if they are made to stand on ladders. Their opposition to 20A is predictable. Their prediction that 20A will lead to dictatorship is as remote as Ranil’s chances of becoming the next President. However, it may strengthen the hands of the Rajapaksas to guide the nation out of the economic tsunamis that are likely to hit the nation sooner or later.

The post-Covid-19 crisis is waiting to happen, according to informed market sources. If the crisis comes the best of strategies will need power to steer the nation out of it. The doom-and-gloom criers predicting the end of the world will exploit 20A for political gain. That is inevitable.

On the brighter side, Sri Lanka has come out of many crises without deviating from parliamentary democracy. The chances of democracy crumbling under the weight of 20A is a far-fetched bogey. If Sri Lankan could come out of Prabhakaran’s Tamil fascism, riding it like a roller-coaster, then there is all the reason to believe that we can overcome the next economic crisis waiting to happen. Crises never ceased to lash the nation. But the power to overcome has always been greater.

Points to ponder.. Continued from page 9

Hospitals are required to report diseases that seem to be spreading fast and/or different from the ones they have seen before so that the ministry of health can track epidemiological developments across the country in real-time. Event-based surveillance empowered the public including teachers, traditional healers, religious leaders and other community leaders to report any public health events so that any sign of emerging outbreak can be detected at the earliest possible time and take necessary actions.

It is clear that if the governments act early, diligently and intelligently then the damage done by an outbreak of an epidemic can be minimized. Countries usually are prepared to defend their geographical territories and even their information and communication network against viral attacks but not so much against viral invasions of the

health of their citizens. It is time to consider medical and bio-defence programs as priorities in their national security programs.

It looks like we will have to live with Covid-19 for at least another year or two.

How will our lives change? Will the world turn to telemedicine more and more to protect the medical professionals and also to spread the reach of healthcare to all corners of the world? How will the new world economy look like? If these types of deadly viruses are mostly zoonotic then what can we do to protect ourselves while protecting our animal habitats and the environment? Will there be crowded cafes, sporting events, concerts and rallies in our cities? Will we be comfortable in using crowded public transport systems? Can the airline industry survive this drought? Will the education be mostly online? Will we become less social or anti-social creatures?

cial creatures?

Safeguarding human life

While we ponder on such matters, we should focus on the lessons we can learn from this experience.

One of the important lessons to learn from all this is that irrespective of the management strategies and theories used, safeguarding human life has to be at the top of any system of management, whether it is a business, an international organization or a country.

There is no use of any technology and/or new discovery, if we cannot sustain life on this planet. Looking at the struggle the whole world is facing at present, fighting Covid-19 and also trying to get the economies of individual countries back on track, one can see that designing and implementing

preventive measures to keep such invisible enemies at bay as much as possible, from all life forms is of utmost importance. First and foremost we are human beings and all other identities (faith, race, or nationality related) are just a sign of diversity and not of any basic fundamental difference to claim any sort of superiority or hatred towards others. We are all connected on the basis of this single identity like how the internet connects all the personal computers/smart phones irrespective of the brand of those devices. A virus will not discriminate against any of those characterisations other than the barriers set against it. Understanding this idea of 'One Humanity' makes one truly a global citizen.

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

NOTICE



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SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Three cycling officials deflated and banned over financial misdeeds

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Three former Cycling Federation officials have been banned from holding office in any National Sports Association after being found guilty of financial misconduct by a Committee appointed by the Sports Ministry's Department of Sports Development.

Amal Edirisooriya, the Department's Director General, fired three

notification letters declaring that the Cycling Federation's former President N. Karunaratne, former Secretary Nihal Gunasekera and former Treasurer Senaka Ranasinghe have been found guilty of their misdeeds and banned.

A senior official of the Sport Ministry said the three officials, who were given an ultimatum to submit the audited financial accounts to the Ministry of Sports, failed to appear

before the Inquiry Committee that triggered their life bans.

According to a declaration by the Department of Sports Development, which is under the Ministry of Sports, all National Sports Associations should present their audited financial reports within two months of the fiscal year-end but the Cycling Federation failed to submit their accounts for 2018 and 2019.

The Sports Law states clearly

that any office bearer or executive committee member who violates the Law is ineligible to contest an election in any of the National Sports Associations.

Earlier a letter signed by the Assistant Director of Sports RB Wickramasinghe stated that according to a request made by the three men, the date of inquiry had been postponed from August 4 to 19 and failure on their part to present themselves for

the inquiry will be an acceptance of guilt and liable to result in legal action, a reference to the Sports Law.

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

Karunaratne, Gunasekera and Ranasinghe were also probed over an allegation the trio were respon-

sible for manipulating an event at last December's South Asian Games in Nepal.

The Probe report was submitted by a special police investigation unit to the Attorney General through the Sports Ministry.

Ranasinghe was also the Treasurer of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) and resigned from his post amid turmoil citing personal reasons.

SRI LANKA SHOVED OFF AS CRICKET'S POOR COUSINS

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

For nearly six months Sri Lanka's beleaguered cricketers have been waiting to play a shot against international opposition while its had neighbour Bangladesh has been playing spoilsport in a manner that has made them bigger than the game and more important than global health demands during the coronavirus pandemic.

Frustratingly for the unassuming team captain Dimuth Karunaratne the wait has been too long and probably draining them of the enthusiasm to get back to competitive cricket that has become the common man's passion and obsession in a country that offers very little by way of entertainment to its people.

"We have been practicing and preparing since April waiting to play and that is the only thing we can do. Practice and practice and we don't know for how long. We are very much looking forward to this series," said Karunaratne whose team went into a near two-month lockdown after the England team evacuated and aborted a Test series in March.

There have been claims that Bangladesh have got too big for their bats ever since the team knocked out Sri Lanka from a T20 final three years ago and left the country after smashing the glass doors at the Premadasa Stadium dressing room.



Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne (right) and coach Mickey Arthur at a practice session

But Sri Lanka Cricket officials prefer to guard against making any comments that they feel will sour relations with the two Boards and just play the waiting game after Bangladesh refused to adhere to the mandatory two-week quarantine period and demanded that they come out for training just three days after arriving.

"We expect Bangladesh to be here without much delay," said Sri Lanka Cricket secretary Mohan de Silva. "We have our own healthcare rules and regulations and we expect

other countries to also follow these obligations."

Questions have also been raised whether Bangladesh would have objected had the superior England cricket chiefs directed them to spend three weeks in quarantine which players from the West Indies, Pakistan and Australia did before commencing their on-field activities that ran from July to September.

India also aborted a tour of Sri Lanka and is now happily engaged in their private IPL championship now taking place in the United Arab

QUESTIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN RAISED WHETHER BANGLADESH WOULD HAVE OBJECTED HAD THE SUPERIOR ENGLAND CRICKET CHIEFS DIRECTED THEM TO SPEND THREE WEEKS IN QUARANTINE WHICH PLAYERS FROM THE WEST INDIES, PAKISTAN AND AUSTRALIA DID

Emirates (UAE) which they seem to be able to play anywhere in the world and entice international players with the big fat purses to go with.

But Sri Lanka could also be losing out on its patience with Bangladesh and could be pushed to the wall to take a stand on whether its three-Test championship, which is part of the official International Cricket Council ranking, is on or off.

"If Bangladesh does not agree to the stipulated health requirements then we will have to call off the tour," declared Sri Lanka Cricket chief executive Ashley de Silva.

Trinity keep faith in incumbent rugby chief Pathirane

BY HAFIZ MARIKAR

Old Trinitians Rugby Scrummage yesterday elected Channa Pathirane as its Chairman for the second time and called for an end to politics with emphasis on rebuilding the image of Trinity College rugby.

Pathirane stressed that what was most important was leadership and transparency to take the sport forward with honesty.

"All must be united in the drive to make this great sport even better, simpler, safer and more accessible. We must listen to players, fans, competitions and progress and take decisions that are in the best interests of all with our strong values to the fore," said Pathirane.

The new Executive Committee comprises Channa Pathirane (Chairman), Ashan Ratwatte and Thakshila Hettiarachchi (Vice Presidents), Susith Enoch (Secretary), Asanka Ranhoti (Treasurer) and the committee made out of past players Amil Ramanaathan, NLK Ratnayake, Janinda Dunuwille, BNR Fernando, Lak-

mal Tennakoon, SW Chang, Murad Ramzeen, Nishantha Wickramage, Duminda Silva, Rashan Bandranayake, Ryle Madena, Lochana Gamage, Madushanka Ranatunga.

The election was held yesterday at the CR and FC old club house in Colombo.

Old Trinitians Rugby Scrummage (OTRS) is an organization affiliated to the Old Boys Association of Trinity College, Kandy and manages rugby across all age groups at the school under the guidance of its principal.

It remains responsible in the areas of management, fund-raising, administration and coaching of rugby at Trinity.

Pathirane played for Trinity with the likes of Bindu Dandeniya, Rohan Ranaraja, Thakshala Hettiarachchi, Shammi Upendra, Anuruddha Abeywickrema, Prabhath Harshakumara, Manjula Wijesinghe, Samantha Ratwatte, Noel Abrahams, Riza Odayar, Suren Ching, Krishantha Bandaranayake, Sardha Attanayake, Yohan Wijetilleke and Nilanka Nanayakkara.



Channa Pathirane

Lankan CC beat Ragama CC

Lankan CC beat Ragama CC by 103 runs in their under-23 cricket encounter played at Maggona yesterday.

Saman Kankanage batted best for Lankan CC top scoring with 100 off 135 deliveries with six sixes and six fours.

Lankan CC: 272 in 50 overs (Saman Kankanage 100, Lahiru Dilshan 55, Damith Silva 20, Kasun Abeyratne 39, Kevin Perera 20, Nipun Kanchana 2/57, Sasika Perera 2/29)

Ragama CC: 169/9 in 50 overs (Sanjula Bandara 60, Dellon Peiris 27, Sadun Sathsara 3/20) (YK)

Singha SC in T20 final

Singha SC Ambalangoda and Gesto SC Ahungalla entered the semi-finals of the Galle District Invitation Inter-Club T/20 cricket tournament at the Galle International Stadium yesterday.

Singha beat Rio SC by 102 runs and Gesto SC Ahungalla beat South West SC Galle by one run.

Singha SC: 197/5 (20) (Ramesh Mendis 56, Adeehsa Thilanchana 43, Imesh Udayanga 38, Upul Tharanga 19, Chamika Sandaruwan 2/34) **beat Rio SC:** 95/6 (20) (Kasun Tharaka 22, Jeewaka Shasheen 17, Nipun Ransika 16, Ramesh Mendis 2/13, Kavindu Nadeeshan 2/22)

Gesto SC: 118 (19.3) (Tharidu Kaushal 44, Anil Rideegammanagedara 3/15, Ranmina Hettiarachchi 2/14, M.M. Tharanga 2/17) **beat South West SC:** 117 (19.3) (Hirantha Wijesinghe 42, Asela Wewelwala 27, Anil Rideegammanagedara 17, Tharindu Kaushal 3/15, GL Malcolm 3/26, Thusith Kumara 2/16) (YK)

DIALOG PRESIDENT'S GOLD CUP VOLLEYBALL



Golden Birds (in white) and Ratnapala SC contest the women's volleyball final of the Dialog President's Gold Cup at the National Youth Services Council (NYSC) in Maharagama yesterday. Golden Birds won the title with a 3-1 scoreline (Pic ThePapare.com)

Golden Birds win President's Cup

Golden Birds SC emerged champions in the women's category of the Dialog President's Cup volleyball tournament when they beat Ratnapala SC Mahauswewa by three sets to one in the final that was played at the National Youth Services Council courts in Maha-

ragama yesterday.

Golden Birds took the first two sets on 25-19, 25-21 but Ratnapala SC came back in the third set to win 30-28 in a long and grueling game.

Golden Birds SC also managed to win the fourth set narrowly by 25 points to 23

Cricket coach Jayantha Weerasinghe no more

Jayantha Weerasinghe, the former commentator and cricket coach of St. John's College, Panadura and St. Aloysius College, Galle passed away yesterday.

His funeral will be held today at the General cemetery in Borella and his remains now lie at the Jayaratne funeral Parlour in Borella.

He was also the master in charge of cricket.



Jayantha Weerasinghe

Final warning for Russian athletics

Athletics' global governing body said Saturday it had given the Russian federation an additional five months to produce a comprehensive plan to fight doping and be reinstated to the sport or face expulsion.

World Athletics had originally given the Russian federation (RU-

SAF) until the end of this month to come up with the plan but it has now set a new deadline of March 1, 2021.

World Athletics said it was granting Russia more time because "RUSAF currently does not have the resources available to produce a detailed and appropriate plan for reinstatement".

World Rugby deputy in tears after police release



Bernard Laporte

PARIS AFP: French rugby federation (FFR) president Bernard Laporte broke down in tears on Thursday and vowed to return with renewed strength after he was released from police custody as part of an investigation into suspicions he favoured Top 14 club Montpellier.

Laporte, who is also vice-chairman of World Rugby, is suspected

of putting pressure on the appeals committee of the French league to reduce a disciplinary punishment against Montpellier in 2017.

The side's billionaire owner Mohamed Altrad and the chief organiser of the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France, Claude Atcher, as well as two senior FFR officials, were also freed from detention.

"The dialogue with the investigators finally convinced me. Despite the advanced investigations, with colossal resources, press campaigns which incessantly kept bringing up the same theories the case is empty," Laporte wrote on Facebook.

At a news conference later Thursday, Laporte was in tears and

had to stop for a few moments in order to compose himself.

"I slept very well last night. I will leave with strength, enthusiasm and conviction to help the amateur clubs who need it. We will win on October 3. I will put things right," added the 56-year-old who is standing for re-election as FFR president with the result expected on October 3.

HIGHEST TRADITIONS THAT INSPIRE ROYALISTS

By
Rear Admiral
Dr. Shemal
Fernando, PhD



In a glorious journey of 185 momentous years, Royal College has come a long way, producing some of the finest men to the country. The President and Commander-in-Chief, Gotabaya Rajapaksa recently elevated Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne to the helm of the Sri Lanka Navy as its 24th Commander. Thus, he becomes the newest Old Royalist, the name by which the alumni of Royal College are usually denoted, to be appointed a Service Commander.

This portrayal is a reminiscence of some of the rich history and tradition that guide and inspire Royalists present and past to keep on breaking boundaries and moving forward, to hand down the College not less but greater, better and more beautiful than it was handed down. The core resolve of Royal College is being able to provide an upbringing to all walks of life. This purpose has been focal at Royal over its many decades of existence, promoting ethnic harmony and unity among all lifestyles.

The culture at Royal College instills in its students the understanding that you may enter the school from whatever society you belong to, but you will leave the school as a Royalist; equal to all the brothers that walked the path to man's estate along with you. Royal boasts active student movements for Buddhists, Catholics, Hindus and Muslims, which conduct events within and outside the school to unify all ethnic groups and promote unity among all people, in turn making it a flourishing multi-ethnic institution.

Started as the Hill Street Academy in 1835, identified as Colombo Academy (1836-1842), Colombo Academy and Queens College (1859-1868), Colombo Academy (1869-1880), Governor William Manning opened the present Halls of Fame at Reid Avenue; a permanent abode for the Oldest Public School in the island on October 10, 1923.

New Commander of the Navy

Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, born on September 18, 1965, had his entire education at the prestigious institution from 1971 to 1984, excelling in studies as well as in athletics. His passion for cadetship inculcated in him great leadership qualities and aptly groomed him for a military career. He joined the Sri Lanka Navy as an Officer Cadet in 1985 and rose to become a Vice Admiral in 2020 through a brilliant professional trail graced by excellence.

In his immaculate white uniform and careful speech, he touched the hearts and minds of the entire Naval Force. A battle hardened officer decorated for valour and gallantry, he enhanced his professionalism by pursuing double master degrees on defence studies and maritime policy as well as a Master's in Philosophy. He held an array of key appointments and sustained injuries in battle when his craft was blown up at sea.

Right Royal felicitation

Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne was felicitated befittingly on his ascension to the pinnacle of the Navy by his alma mater on September 18, 2020. Upon his arrival, accompanied by his wife Chandima and daughter Samadanie, they were right royally welcomed and ushered in procession by the College Band. The Cadet Platoon accorded him a Guard of Honour before he paid floral tributes at the War Heroes' Monu-

ment. Of the many traditions associated with Royal College that a Royalist has the privilege of experiencing during his life span, a Special General Assembly within the hallowed portals takes pride of place. It is possibly the biggest gathering and shows the sheer might and power that Royal College possesses. Anyone who is blessed to hear the College Song that reverberates within the majestic portals would be reminded of his school days.

All in all the Special General Assembly is an event that embodies the true spirit of the school. I have had the privilege of seeing many a wonderful site in my years in College and as an Old Royalist for 40 years but trust me when I say that the felicitation ceremony to Admiral Nishantha was dazzling. Above all, the sense of gratitude that overwhelms you for this wonderful family that you have been bestowed by this hallowed institution is unforgettable because you know that there will be Royalists alongside you in the darkest of moments.

The Principal, B. A. Abeyratna in his address presented greetings to Admiral Nishantha who was celebrating his birthday on that eventful day and said how jubilant they were to extend their sentiments of felicitation. He went on to emphasise that Admiral Nishantha is a good role model for the fledgling Royalist to follow.

The distinguished gathering was also addressed by the former Commander of the Navy and Chairman of Old Royalist Cadet Association, Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe as well as a fellow cadet of his battalion, Janak Weerakkodi and the Head Prefect, Sawinda Dissanayake.

Admiral Nishantha thanked everyone and expressed his delight of returning to Royal. Recalling his college days, he said that Royal is a unique institution where he learnt good lessons, such as how to live in harmony, embrace equality and refined core values to lead a successful career. Urging the budding Royalists to inculcate qualities like discipline, patience, commitment and hard work that will be key elements for the successful progression of a personality, he called upon young Royalists not to become prey to the drug menace

and to become slaves of technology. Admiral Nishantha made his remarks in the Visitor's Book and took time to visit the Cadet Room to refresh his past memories. His Grade 1 teacher, Mrs. Sugathapala and Master in Charge of Cadet Contingent, Mr. M.N. Dharmarathna were present to make the event more dignified. Significantly, the presence of all living former Service Commanders produced by Royal College added glamour to the occasion.

Old Royalist Military Chiefs and IGPs

Among the Old Royalists, Lt. Gen. Tissa Weeratunga became the General Office Commanding Joint Operations Command; Four served as Chiefs of Defence Staff - Gen. Jagath Jayasooriya, Air Chief Marshal Kolitha Gunatilake, Gen. Crysantha de Silva and Adm. Ravindra Wijegunaratne; Six became Commanders of the Army - Major Gen. B. R. Heyn, Gen. Sepala Attygalle, Lt. Gen. Tissa Weeratunga, Lt. Gen. Nalin Seneviratne, Gen. Jagath Jayasooriya and Gen. Crysantha de Silva; Six became Commanders of the Navy - Rear Adm. Rajan Kadiragamar, Adm. Basil Goonasekera, Adm. Asoka de Silva, Adm. Thisara Samarasinghe and Adm. Ravindra Wijegunaratne; Three became Commanders of the Air Force - Air Vice Marshal Harry Goonetilleke, Air Chief Marshal Harsha Abeyswickrama and Air Chief Marshal Kolitha Gunatilake; Four were appointed as Inspectors General of Police - Messrs. S. A. Dissanayake, Ana Seneviratne and Cyril Herath.

College Motto, College Song and College Flag

An old Royalist writing his reminiscences in the Royal College Magazine of 1909 said, "the good old sailor king yet on the throne of his father when an eventful day dawned in the educational history of our island - that event which give it claim to be cherished by posterity was the founding of the old Academy - the installation of Rev. Joseph H.

Marsh, Jnr as the Principal by Governor His Excellency Sir William Horton in 1835."

The motto of Royal College gives the youth of the school motivation more than anything else. It generates the spirit of the school in the minds of students. A bronze plaque at the main entrance to the College reads thus; These stones have been preserved from the original building of the COLOMBO ACADEMY founded in 1835 which institution subsequently became the ROYAL COLLEGE.

The first mention of the Motto - Learn or Depart is during the regime of Principal George Todd (1871-1878) who constantly reminded the students that they must learn or get out. Reminiscences written by Royalists from 1893 do not make any mention of Royalists who have departed for not learning. Records only show that the vast majority have learnt and departed bringing credit to the College.

In 1927, Principal Major Harry Leslie Reed composed the College Song 'School of our fathers,' and it was found to be a 'hit tune' among the students. The credit for the brilliant performance behind this song goes to Mrs. H. L. Reed. The song made its public debut on July 13, 1928 and a shorter version was composed in Sinhala in 1968.

The song provides inspiration, a fervour and attachment to the hallowed institution. This College Song has come down the generations of Royalists and is cherished today for the values it represents.

The first verse; Thy spirit first to life awake - In eighteen hundred and thirty five - Beneath the sway of Marsh and Boake - Thenceforth did Lanka's learning thrive. The Refrain; School where our fathers learnt the way before us - Learn of books and learnt of men, through thee we'll do the same - True to our watchword *Disce Aut Discede* - We will learn of books and men, and learn to play the game. The second verse; Within thy shade our fathers trod - The path that leads to man's estate - They have repaid the debt they owed - They kept thy fame inviolate. The final verse; And we their loyal sons now bear - The torch, with hearts as sound as oak - Our

lusty throats now raise a cheer - For Hartley, Harward, Marsh and Boake. The Royal College Flag has, through the years, kept up the College spirit during celebrations. There is no record in any document of the College Flag prior to 1904.

The role of the flag can be summed up with the Prize Day speech of Principal Lionel Henry Wynn Sampson in 1924; "As a part of the same scheme I have had the College Flag embroidered with the College Crest. I hope that the Flag will serve as a symbol of devotion owed by every Royalist past and present to his School.

A school that is worth anything must impress on its boys a sense of loyalty and devotion and I hope that this Flag will help to produce in all Royal College Boys a sense of loyalty to their College, keep their flag flying as the proud symbol of the best school."

College Houses, Athletics, Cadetting and Alumni

The Royal College Athletics Meet is a very significant event as it involves the participation of a great number of students and brings together a majority of the school together to celebrate true sporting spirit. It was during the golden era of Royal under Principal L. D. H. Peiris that we first met as athletes of Royal College in the late 1970s - a friendship that flourished at Royal and the Navy in the sports arena of athletics.

At Royal, the students are divided into five Houses, four established in 1918 by Principal C. Hartley and later renamed in 1921 by Principal Major H. L. Reed and the fifth House established in memory of Principal Reed in 1970.

In the Government Gazette of April 1, 1881, the Lt. Gen. Sir John Douglas, granted permission for the formation of the Volunteer Corps.

On April 12, John Armitage who held a Commission in the Volunteers in England was appointed the Commanding Officer and Captain Curone, the Acting Adjutant.

The Royal College Cadet Battalion formed in 1881 was the first in the schools. The first parade by the Cadet Battalion was on July 2, 1881 at the College Prize Giving.

The Alumni of Royal College goes far back, stronger and established as an organisation as the, 'Royal College Union' (RCU). Founded in 1891 as a society for alumni of the College, it is the oldest such alumni society in Sri Lanka. The RCU was set up to further the interests of the College and its past and present members, and to keep former students in touch with each other and with the school.

World Wars I and II

The First World War (1914-1918) saw 88 present and past Royalist Volunteers serve in the British Army in France and the Near East (Iraq and Persia) and some made the supreme sacrifice.

The first was a young Royalist W. E. Speldevinde who drowned when the Troopship Villa de la Ciotat torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean Sea while proceeding to England. This ship carried mostly student volunteers from Royal and Trinity Colleges.

As per records, five others sacrificed their lives - Bombardier J. Loos, Rifleman W. E. Edema, Private G. J. C. Van

Rooyen, Sergeant H. A. E. de Vos, Sergeant R. H. G. Orloff and Flying Officer D. Bleakley. The first student to win a military decoration while on active service was a Royalist, Captain O. J. Robertson of the 23rd Battalion of the London Regiment.

He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in June 1916. Other recipients of the Military Cross during World War I were 2/Lt. Henry E. Speldevinde de Boer, Lt. Cyril W. Nicholas and 2/Lt. J. Robertson.

Many Royalists served in World War II from 1939 to 1945 as well. Among the Royalists decorated on overseas service was Capt. Dr. A. Thenuwara of the Royal Army Medical Corps who served in the Middle East and Malta under the British Army and was awarded the 'Africa Star.' Major A. N. Weinman and Wing Commander W. G. L. Wambeck had the distinction of serving in both wars. Major L. V. Gooneratne broke a long link with the Cadet Battalion having taken over in 1923 and given his heart and soul to the College Battalion. A big built man, his stirring, stentorian commands still ring in the years of those who knew him.

Royal College Monument

Of Sri Lanka's 30-year battle against terrorism, 47 Old Royalists have made the supreme sacrifice, in keeping with the imperishable truths ingrained in the College Song, "...They have repaid the debt they owed, they kept thy fame inviolate..." It was against that background that a Special General Assembly was held on May 20, 1998, graced by the next of kin of the Fallen Heroes and the foundation stone for the Monument was laid.

The RCU's War Heroes Committee constructed the Monument in honour of the patriotic Old Royalists mainly from the funds raised exclusively from the Royalists, young and old.

The unveiling ceremony took place on June 2, 1999 and the youngest among the Old Royalists 'Wounded-in-Action', Captain Rohan Perera of the Sinha Regiment was bestowed the rare honour, thereby giving pride of place to the gallant men who have sacrificed their soul and body for the Motherland.

Among the Old Royalists who have made the supreme sacrifice, the first to be 'Killed-in-Action' was Major Milroy Fernando of the Army in Omantani on January 6, 1986. Lieutenant-Commander (S) Sandun Gunasekera and Flight Lieutenant R. B. Kulatunga were the first Navy and Air Force officers to make the supreme sacrifice.

In the Roll of Honour, Major General Vijaya Wimalaratne remains the most senior, while two patriotic heroes, Lieutenant A. W. M. N. M. de Silva of the Army and Flying Officer Rohan Fernando Jnr of the Air Force have been decorated with the *Weera Wickrama Vibhushanaya* for their acts of gallantry and conspicuous bravery of a military nature of a high order in the face of the enemy.

The military personnel are a brave breed who are used to take success and failure as they come. They take it in their stride, advancing and retreating, and winning and losing battle and they are 'officers and gentlemen' who treat "success and failure" as impostors. When a courageous officer with the finest military traditions and training risks his life, he does so without question.

Even though he may fear for his personal safety, he is always prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for the greater good. His overriding concern is for the country he has to protect, the survival of his comrades in arms or the success of a particular manoeuvre.

(The writer, an Old Royalist, served the Sri Lanka Navy 1979 through 2018; he holds a PhD, MPhil and double MSc; he has been a livewire of the RCU since 1980 and served as Chairman, Royal College War Heroes Committee)

FELICITATION OF VICE ADMIRAL NISHANTHA ULUGETENNE, THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE NAVY. ALMA MATER ROYAL COLLEGE - A CRADLE FOR NURTURING MILITARY OFFICERS IN SRI LANKA



Features

61ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Assassination of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike

BY SENAKA WEERARATNA

It was a Friday 61 years ago to be exact on September 25, 1959 at around 10.30 a.m. when I was in the classroom listening to H.P. Jayawardena's English lesson in our final year at Royal Primary School, when my eye caught a movement in the corridor adjoining the class.

When I looked sideways to my left, I saw young Anura Bandaranaike being accompanied by his Ayah leaving the premises. In that relatively quiet moment, my classmates too saw Anura being led away, but none was able to second guess the reason.

It was during the lunch hour that we got the distressing news that Anura's father S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, the then Prime Minister of Ceylon, had been shot. Amidst a variety of reports streaming in of the shooting, it was not possible to give adequate attention to any classroom instruction for the rest of the day. In that class of H.P. Jayawardena we had a number of students who shot to national prominence in public life as adults. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Dinesh Gunawardena, late C.R. de Silva (former Attorney - General), Dr. Ajita Wijesundere (leading Gynaecologist) and Sarath Abeysondera (entrepreneur in UK) were among them.

In 1959, Anura Bandaranaike was in T. William's class, which also had Anura de Alwis (son of Duncan de Alwis, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister). Both were close friends. It is said that when Anura had wanted to invite only his favourite friends to celebrate his birthday, his father had given him an important lesson saying, "If you are inviting anyone to your birthday party, do not pick and choose. Invite the entire class." To a politician, alienating someone by not inviting was far more damaging than the benefits accruing from inviting a close friend.

Anura's mother Sirimavo Bandaranaike used to visit Royal Primary School to inquire into Anura's well being as a schoolboy, at a time when her husband was running the country. In 1957, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike was the Chief Guest at the Royal Primary School prize-giving on February 15, 1957. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was also present.

'Gateway', the Magazine of the Royal Primary School in its issue in 1958, has published the Annual Report of A.F. de Saa Bandaranaike, then Headmaster of Royal Primary School, where he pays a glowing tribute to his name sake the visiting Chief Guest. A.F. de Saa Bandaranaike, retired as Headmaster in 1958 and with his retirement, the highly informative Magazine 'Gateway' which he started and continued for 10 years, was discontinued by his successor for reasons that are not fathomable.

Appeal to the nation

The train of events from the time



UPON BEING ADMITTED TO THE MERCHANTS' WARD AFTER SURGERY, THE PRIME MINISTER ISSUED A MESSAGE TO THE NATION FROM HIS HOSPITAL BED SHOWING EXTREME GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT TOWARDS THE MAN WHO HAD SHOT HIM. HE DESCRIBED THE ASSAILANT AS A FOOLISH MAN DRESSED IN THE ROBES OF A MONK" AND THEN SAID, "I APPEAL TO ALL CONCERNED TO SHOW COMPASSION TO THIS MAN AND NOT TO TRY AND WREAK VENGEANCE ON HIM"

of shooting to the rushing of the Prime Minister to the General Hospital at Borella is well known.

He was operated by a team of top doctors in an operation that lasted for more than five hours. Dr. M. V. P. Peries, Dr. P. R. Anthonis, Dr. L. O. Silva and Dr. Noel Bartholomeusz were in the team.

Upon being admitted to the Merchants' Ward after surgery, the Prime Minister issued a message to the nation from his hospital bed showing extreme generosity of spirit towards the man who had shot him. He described the assailant as a foolish man dressed in the robes of a monk" and then said, "I appeal to all concerned to show compassion to this man and not to try and wreak vengeance on him."

His condition took a turn for the worse in the early hours of the morning the next day. He passed away at around 8.00 a.m. on September 26.

About 13 years ago, I met Dr. P.R. Anthonis at a public meeting in Colombo and had an opportunity to talk to him at leisure. Dr. Anthonis said that he was present when Bandaranaike died in Hospital. Mr. Bandaranaike had asked for a bottle of Orange Barley which had been supplied to him. Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike had also been present.

After he drank a glass of Orange Barley, the body had turned 'blue' due to a clot in a blood vessel restricting the flow of oxygen to his brain.

Dr. Anthonis said he was present in the Hospital until the remains of Bandaranaike were taken to his residence at Rosmead Place. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike died as a Buddhist, Dr. Anthonis told me.

Upon the announcement of the death over the radio, the country

plunged into mourning. The radio played solemn music. A verdict of homicide was recorded by the City Coroner. People started queuing in their hundreds to pay their last respects to the man who ushered in the 'Common man's era' through the political revolution of 1956 which he led.

Memoir

I visited No. 65, Rosmead Place in the company of my father, mother and brother at around 7.30 p.m. on September 26. We did not join a queue. We were ushered into the main house. I saw the inside of the house, full of black ebony furniture and the bullet holes in the glass panes. I met Anura

and one of his two sisters, probably Chandrika and conveyed my condolences. My parents and brother did likewise. Anura recognised me, but he was too dazed to engage me in a conversation.

Sirimavo Bandaranaike was in a room in a state of deep grief. I had an occasion, rather my father to speak to the driver of the Cadillac car who drove the injured Prime Minister to the Hospital. His name was Miskin.

He was a Police Sergeant. Around the time we were paying our respects to the late Prime Minister at his residence, I remember seeing Sydney de Zoysa, then a senior DIG, slowly circling in measured steps the coffin with both his hands inserted in his trou-

ser back pockets, while hundreds of mourners were filing past the remains of the late leader in despair.

The poignant scene at the Bandaranaike household which I saw on the evening of September 26, 1959 as a schoolboy, will remain etched in my memory. On September 27, 1959 at about 10.00 am, I was travelling with my father and uncle in our car and near Cambridge Place, we switched on the car radio and heard the last few sentences of a sermon praising the late Prime Minister and the radio announcer thereafter saying that it was a talk delivered by Mapiitigama Buddharakkhita Thera as a tribute to the late Prime Minister.

September 28, 1959 was the day

that S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike was scheduled to leave the country for the United Nations to address the General Assembly.

Instead his remains were taken on the shoulders of his Cabinet Ministers from his residence to the top of Rosmead Place where the coffin was placed in a hearse and taken to Parliament.

In that procession of Cabinet Ministers carrying the coffin on their shoulders was Wimala Wijewardena (then Minister of Health). She was in a white sari using one hand to keep up the coffin while using the other hand to adjust her *Sari Pota* which was constantly dropping down.

The role played by Mapiitigama Buddharakkhita Thera in the conspiracy to assassinate the Prime Minister is well documented. Wimala Wijewardena was an accused in the assassination inquiry into the death of the late Prime Minister.

My classmates at Royal Primary School were taken by bus to pay our last respects to the late Prime Minister in Parliament. To us, schoolboys, the assassination of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike was somewhat of a nerve racking event. His son Anura was our classmate.

Anura, an enigma

Anura's life was shattered by the assassination of his father at such a young age. He never received the guidance of a father figure.

He became reclusive in the first few months following his father's death. He was always dressed in white and was no longer the bubbly boy. He had more security whenever he came to school intermittently. We felt sorry for him.

Anura was no ordinary boy. He had a deep voice, a commanding voice which I had not come across in any other schoolboy of his age. He had a liberal spirit and was inclined towards the West. In 1961 when I was the monitor in a class conducted by T.D.S.A. Dissanayake (the author and diplomat), there was a debate held after hours presided over by the late Upali Attanayake (dramatist). The topic of the debate was Capitalism or Socialism. It was the time when President John F. Kennedy was the US President. Anura, Ranil Wickremesinghe and Vijitha Kuruwita (a well-known Vet) spoke and defended Capitalism, while W.S. de Silva, Chitta Ranjan de Silva (Bulla) and myself spoke on the merits of socialism.

The celebrated French writer Voltaire said, "Who so writes the history of his own time must expect to be attacked for everything he has said, and for everything he has not said: but those little drawbacks should not discourage a man who loves truth and liberty, expects nothing, fears nothing, asks nothing, and limits his ambition to the cultivation of letters."

Scout Association conference



Lay member officials of the Branch Associations of the Sri Lanka Scout Association attended a conference at the Hilton Hotel recently. Education Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila C K Perera was the Chief Guest. Sri Lanka Girl Guides Chief Commissioner Visakha Tillekeratne was the Guest of Honour.



President stresses need for educational reforms

University curricula should target job market

More focus on Technology and Information Technology

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has emphasised the need to reform the country's education system to create a citizen who can optimally contribute to the future world, the economy and development.

The Universities should not simply be degree-awarding institutions. The President said that the country, the economy as well as the graduates themselves should benefit from this. He urged the education authorities to introduce a new curriculum as soon as possible, giving priority to practical needs.

The President was speaking held at the Presidential Secretariat last week on the future activities of the State Ministry of Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion.

President Rajapaksa said that the current labour market discrepancies have occurred due to the fact that educational reforms that suit the country have not taken place for many years. There is a large number of job vacancies in various fields in the country and internationally. But the education system has not created the manpower needed for the modern world.



"To make the future generation of the country productive citizens, they must be enriched with new knowledge, skills and abilities. A clear roadmap should be drawn from preschool to higher education level to ensure that young people do not get lost in the field of education. It can increase the opportunities for technical education and expand the use of technology in the educational process.

All institutions related to education were brought under one Ministry to achieve this objective," the President said. He said that it is every child's right to have an equal op-

portunity in education irrespective of ethnic and religious differences and added that it is the Government's responsibility to raise a productive citizen for the country.

New reforms should create a background to facilitate access to education for the children who were left behind to reach their academic destination without age restrictions. The President proposed the practical implementation of a student-centric education system instead of the existing exam-centric education.

The immediate need of an education system is to facilitate graduation

for all the students who are eligible to enter universities and make the job market reach out for graduates instead of them taking to the streets demanding job opportunities were discussed in length.

University enrollment has been increased from 31,000 to 41,000 in the next year. The Open University will enroll an additional 10,000 students to their branches. Plans have been devised to register 10,000 to follow degrees in Information Technology. It was also discussed to adopt different eligibility criteria unique to each university which is the practice adopted by developed countries for university entry, at the meeting.

President Rajapaksa called upon the officials to expedite the review process of the already drafted National Education Policy and implement it accordingly.

Minister Prof. G.L. Pieris, State Minister Susil Premajayantha, Head of the Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival, Basil Rajapaksa, Secretary to the President P.B. Jayasundera, Secretaries to the Cabinet and State Ministries and Heads of the Line Institutes were present.

BY MILINDA RAJAPAKSHA

On the road to economic revival:

BOOSTING SRI LANKA'S VALUE-ADDED EXPORTS POST COVID-19

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa recently appointed Prabhath Subasinghe, Managing Director of Global Rubber Industries, to the Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation to work alongside, Basil Rajapaksa, Chairman of the Economic Revival and Poverty Eradication Task Force. This move ensures that the right measures are carried out by the Government to revive the economy and strengthen it to make greater strides in development.

Alongside these measures, President Rajapaksa's appointment of the Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty Eradication is meant to work against the economic downturn in the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic which has caused a hiatus in the economic activities of the country.

The Government has recognised the significant role played by value added exports to build the country's economy post Covid-19. Hence, companies with a global presence have been acknowledged as key levers in reviving Sri Lanka's economy by leveraging value-added exports.

According to a recent statement by the President's office: "The Task Force is responsible for reviving the economy and eradicating poverty while paying special attention to the challenges posed and opportunities emerged in Sri Lanka in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak." The Task Force believes that global companies with a local footprint need to fast track their value-

added export initiatives to align with the Government's imperatives. Under these measures and the guidance of Basil Rajapaksa, several multinational companies have been fast-tracking the execution of their value-added export strategies. In the past, Sri Lanka has imported goods that could potentially be produced locally, hence, this period provides a window of opportunity for the country to be both self-sufficient and economically stable.

To practically implement this initiative, Basil Rajapaksa visited two factories which are leaders in the export arena of Sri Lanka. The first was the New Zealand cooperative and biggest importer of milk powder to Sri Lanka, Fonterra Brands Lanka, which has now initiated the export of value-added dairy products to South Asian countries. The second was Global Rubber Industries (GRI), whose advanced production plant is the largest

to produce high-grade speciality tyres and the first to produce radial agriculture tyres in Sri Lanka.

Policy framework on export expansion

The first priority of the National Policy Framework is ensuring the growth of the country's economy, paying attention to which exports can leverage a competitive advantage if given the rightful recognition. It is imperative for the Government to ensure the ownership of strategic assets and economically important natural resources. Under the

guidelines of the policy framework on export expansion, the Government has also granted low interest loans for small to medium scale businesses, while the bank lending rates have been brought down to single digits, enabling local entrepreneurs to invest in the expansion of exports. The overall objective under the National Policy Framework is to develop a national economic policy for the benefit of the present and future generations. This will help to ensure people's ownership of the country's economic resources, strengthen local enterprises and secure the insurance of national assets. According to the 'National Policy Framework Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour', the macroeconomic targets for 2025 include the achievement of an economic growth at 6.5 per cent or higher, per capita income exceed-

ing USD 6,500, unemployment remaining below 4 per cent and the budget deficit remaining less than 4 per cent of GDP. To achieve these set targets, it is important to have both the public and private sectors support to stabilise the country's expansion by means of value-added exports.

Macroeconomic policy framework

The macroeconomic policy framework thereby must ensure that the Government sees to the eradication of the debt-trap, promoting domestic investments while reducing import expenditures and raising export incomes. Alongside these measures, it is important to reduce the budget deficit, eliminating unnecessary government expenditure while securing financing for essential expenditures and prioritising state investments. Similarly,

priority should be given to reducing the trade deficit, promoting domestic resource-based exports, and expanding the export economy by enhancing value-added industries.

In addition to local players, there are also several multinational companies who are key players in the international markets, who have the potential to contribute towards the local sector. Therefore, it is important for both the Government and private sector to work hand in hand to strengthen the country's economy through value-added exports. In accordance with this, the Government and the private sector can promote pre-contract systems along value chains, set up new strategies to facilitate product marketing, and control imports of agricultural products to maintain reasonable stability in the prices of the relevant product categories.

It is equally important to make the country self-sufficient in the relevant products while introducing internationally accepted organic product certification systems and a plan for execution that combines the state and private sector institutions efforts to minimise wastage of products in harvesting, transport and delivery of local products.

This special Task Force has been established with the aim of creating a new economic agenda for Sri Lanka to promote exports in all sectors and uplift local industries, as global trends change and evolve due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Among the many strategic thrusts of the Task Force, one of the most imperative focus areas remains the need to identify favourable economic prospects and formulate mechanisms to promote value-added export products according to the opportunities that have emerged in line with shifting global trends.



The most gruesome murder in English history

By Gwen Herat

Extracting power from English history, this multi-character play is set in England to unite the War of Roses. Little can soften the impact of Shakespeare's blazing melodrama when the first scene reveals Richard limping downstage to reveal himself in a soliloquy that begins, 'Now is the winter of our discontent. Made glorious summer by the sun of York'. Richard has to dispose six people between him and the throne when his dying brother, Edward IV has gone. When he takes over the crown, he has removed only one of them; the others he will deal with later.

First comes the dissimulation with his elder brother, the Duke of Clarence. By playing on Edward's fears, he has sent Clarence to the Tower. Having seen this done and affected great concern, he meets the bearers of the coffin of Henry VI, the king he had already murdered followed by his daughter-in-law, Lady Anne. Out of mischief or masochism or both, he woos her over the coffin. She yields and Richard gloats.

Next he stirs trouble at Court while the former Queen Margaret who unhistorically, still prowls about. She releases some of her fiercest invectives. Clarence by Richard's order and spite of a royal pardon is murdered in the Tower and his corpse is pushed into a barrel of sweet wine.

To Richard's credit, many reason out that he has been misjudged, especially over the death of young Edward V and his brother. They suggest that the boys may have been killed by someone also wishing to please Richard, or even that they may have outlived him and were killed by Henry VII.

It is very unlikely that any real or new evidence for either side would appear. The bones of the children were

found buried under a staircase in the Tower during the time of King Charles II and reburied in West Minister Abbey. They are probably the princes' (What other children would be buried there?) But they obviously cannot unravel the mystery as to who gave the order to kill the princes.

PRINCES AT THE TOWER

A very sad moment in English history and an act that can never be forgiven or forgotten, but then Richard had a heart of granite. Overwhelmed by Clarence's death, King Edward dies. The young Prince of Wales is to be brought from Ludlow. By then, Richard and his associates, notably Buckingham have begun to direct affairs as they wished. When the Prince arrives, he and his younger brother, the Duke of York are 'lodged' in the Tower, presumably until the coronation.

Various men of the Queen's party, dangerous to Richard, are executed, among them at a few minutes' notice the rash Lord Hastings. Buckingham is primed and gets the Lord Mayer and citizens of London to urge an apparent unwilling Richard to accept the throne. Once crowned, Richard does all he can to safeguard himself such as inciting Tyrrell to procure the death of the Princes in the Tower.

VENGEANCE ON THE GRUESOME MURDER

Seized by compassion, Tyrrell is against this act. Suspecting that Richard has got rid of Anne, he rises against this limping panther who knows only the taste of blood though evilly debonaire and who possessed a glittering irony and a frightening rage. The demonic creature he was, he spared nothing that stood between him and the throne. He was planning to marry Elizabeth, Edward IV's daughter. However, Buckingham revolts against him, raising an army. Henry, Earl of Richmond lands from France. Richard, encircled by enemies, fights to keep the throne.

He goes to battle and confronts the invader at Bosworth Field near Leicester. Buckingham has been captured and executed. But Richard is harassed by ghosts of his victims and fights desperately, screaming, "A horse; A horse. My kingdom for a horse," only to be defeated and killed. Everything ends well with Richmond's decision to marry Elizabeth and unite the red and white roses.

The division between the first half of Shakespeare's career and the second is too hard to place precisely but several things make the turn of the century a useful marker. The Lord Chamberlain's Men moved to the Globe in 1599 and in the same year, the Privy Council banned the publica-

tion of verse satire so that the theatre reaped the benefit as the satirists, popular with the public, turned to drama. This changed the theatrical scene as did the resurgence of the children's companies from 1600 onwards. For the first eight years of the new century Shakespeare worked mainly with tragedy. English history no longer fig-

ured unless one counts King Lear set in ancient Britain which proved politically awkward and in any case Shakespeare had used up the best material.

However, the average reader who is not into the Bard's work will find Richard III extremely difficult to digest unless he reads all parts of Henry VI to VIII.

THE DEMONIC CREATURE HE WAS, HE SPARED NOTHING THAT STOOD BETWEEN HIM AND THE THRONE. HE WAS PLANNING TO MARRY ELIZABETH, EDWARD IV'S DAUGHTER



Features

Need to regulate online education providers stressed

BY DILAN DE SILVA

“Disruptive innovation fundamentally transforms a sector by replacing expensive, complicated and inaccessible products or services with much less expensive, simpler and more convenient alternatives.” (Staker, P.1) Let's take a few examples of disruptive innovations; Within just a decade, an expensive helicopter, a pilot and a camera were replaced with an inexpensive drone, a single software reduced the requirements for many drafters to one, the computer creates an inexpensive, simple and convenient work environment when compared with the pre-computer era work environment.

Online learning is also a disruptive innovation which provides an inexpensive, flexible and convenient learning environment compared to the traditional face-to-face learning.

Online learning has been started as a solution to provide learning facilities to students who have no alternative for learning and also to provide high-quality courses for the schools in rural areas where experienced and well-qualified teachers are hard to find. (Staker, P.1).

Online education in Sri Lanka

Until early 2000, distance education in Sri Lanka was limited to a blended program which consisted of a print-based system with a few face-to-face lectures conducted mainly by the Open University. In 2002, the University of Colombo School of Computing established the National e-Learning Centre (NeLC) funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to provide “Open, Flexible and Distributed e-Learning Environment to provide effective, efficient, scalable and economical learning opportunities to stakeholder communities in universities, schools, the public sector and society”. It provides over 40 free online courses and is branded as ‘Viduyasiya’ (www.e-learning.lk).

Later in 2003, the Distance Education Modernisation Project (DEMP) aided by the Asian Development Bank commenced resulting in a positive movement in the resources available for online education.

The DEMP has established the National Online Distance Education Service (NODES) to facilitate universities and other private and public sector post-secondary educational institutions to deliver the online educational program. The ‘Access Centres’ established under the DEMP, the *Nanasala* established under the E-Sri Lanka initiative by the Information and Com-



munication Technology Agency (ICTA) and Sarvodaya centres, played a virtual role in providing access to the online component of educational programs.

Among many other government initiatives, ‘One Laptop Per Child (OLPC)’ initiative launched by the Ministry of Education in 2011, and eBIT, the online version of the Bachelor of Information Technology degree offered by the University of Colombo introduced in 2003 are remarkable.

The online learning era of Sri Lanka has started as a novel tendency during the coronavirus outbreak in 2020. It started becoming popular among learners from grade 1 to postgraduate level, as a solution to continue the education since the traditional face-to-face learning has stopped as the schools and universities were closed as a result of the action taken by the Government to manage the coronavirus outbreak.

Even though many other developed countries use online learning to deliver various courses, including post-graduate-level courses, in Sri Lanka, its use is minimum. Online courses were conducted by a few Government and private institutions. Currently, there are many online courses delivered by public and private institutions. However, this will grow up further in the online learning era.

Online education is more popular over traditional education mainly due to its flexibility and convenience. It's not a necessity for the students to attend lectures according to a specific timetable and they can watch recorded lectures later which is very convenient

specially for knowledge seekers who are also working.

Since learners only need a good internet connection and a device like a computer to attend lectures, it saves the travelling time while overcoming the geographical barriers of learning.

On the other hand, course fee of online learning may be lesser when compared with face to face learning, as the number of attendees in the former is theoretically unlimited, many costs associated with face-to-face learning, such as building rent, utility and insurance cost are also eliminated. According to Loxley, Ho et al. (2003) as cited in Liyanagunawardena, T.R et al (2014), the average unit cost of the Open University of Sri Lanka (Conducts Distance learning) is circa 20% of the cost of the conventional university system.

Government intervention

The multi-modal approach using a diverse range of teaching and learning activities will make online learning more effective and interesting. It creates a conducive environment for the learners to interact with peers and the lecturer. There is a strong government intervention to regulate tertiary education and vocational education through the Act No 20 of 1990(Tertiary and Vocational Education Act).

According to Article 14 of the Act, any institute which provides tertiary education and/or vocational education courses shall be registered under the Act (with Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission). Applications for

the registration shall be submitted to the Director-General and the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission shall approve such application if they are satisfied with the report submitted by the Director-General on the institute's ability to provide tertiary education and/or vocational education.

Article 15 of the Act states that, “no person or establishment shall conduct any tertiary education and vocational education course or tertiary education course or vocational education course being a specified course without being registered under this act”.

The registration process accommodates only the face-to-face education providers and not the online education providers. The criteria for registration include the information regarding the institute's permanent location, infrastructure, such as classrooms, sanitary facilities, safety and fire protection measures which are only required for face to face education providers. However, other criteria, such as institute's information, recordkeeping information, details of courses and academic staff information are common for online and face-to-face education providers.

Registration of online education providers

The Act empowered the TVEC for the registration of any institute which offers tertiary education and or vocational education courses, therefore, it shall apply for the institutes which provide online education, whilst the act

didn't expressly address the mode of delivery either face to face or online. Therefore, the current registration process conducted by TVEC is doing an injustice for the online education providers. On the other hand, such a loophole will diminish the TVEC's achievement of its third objective; “the maintenance of academic and training standards in institutes providing tertiary education and vocational education”, as no other mechanism is available to register, monitor and control those online education providers.

Kaye, 2002, as cited in Liyanagunawardena, T.R et al (2014) states that distance education programs conducted by state universities except the programs conducted by the Open University are heavily criticised for their quality. Therefore, it's vital for online education providers to get registered to achieve the objectives of the Act.

Changes for registration

As mentioned earlier, some criteria for registration are identical in both modes. However, criteria related to physical facilities shall not apply for the online education providers. A new set of criteria related to the technical and other online education specific requirements shall be introduced.

Online learning industry comprises many stakeholders including providers of learning management systems (e.g. Talent LMS), online assessments providers, online libraries (e.g. the Construction Information Service (CIS)), conference facility providers (e.g. Zoom), the plagiarism detection services (e.g. Turnitin) and various other online learning resources (e.g. Wiki) and tools (e.g. Google Form).

Therefore, the technical and other specific requirements for the online education shall establish with due consideration to those stakeholders. For example, the criteria should include the specification for a Learning Management System (LMS) (as a substitute for the physical classroom) and a back-up plan in case of a technical failure (as a substitute for the safety) among others. The current registration process shall be modified to cater to the above addressed technical requirements and facilitate any new institutes to provide face to face and/or online education courses.

Also, it is important to note that, since the current TVEC registered institutes have not been evaluated for their capability to deliver online education courses during the registration process, TVEC should assess their capabilities and permit them to deliver online education courses if they wish to deliver such courses. Even though the TVEC should treat the face to face and online teaching as two different

methods as some capabilities required to deliver those are different, and register them differently, the Act has not differentiated them clearly. Therefore, any organisation which had been registered under the TVEC may conduct online education programmes even without any further registration whilst fully complying with the Act.

However, the Commission, can make rules, under the Article 4(g) or 4(i) of the Act and request any such registered institute to get the approval from the Commission to conduct any online education courses, until such time the Act amended to distinguish the mode of delivery; face to face or online teaching.

Requirement for online teaching course

Teaching online is different from face to face teaching. Lecturers may not possess expert skills in online teaching. So, it should be a mandatory requirement for all the online education providers to employ/hire a professional who has expert knowledge and skills on online teaching.

They can guide the institutes/lecturers on online teaching; on the use of available resources/tools to teach and assess the learners, how to keep motivating the learners, etc. However, currently no such online teaching education courses are available in Sri Lanka. Therefore, TVEC shall treat it as an urgent requirement and coordinate with the relevant authorities and introduce at least an NVQ 4 level online teaching course. Until a sufficient number of qualified online teaching personnel become available in the country, provisional registration can be granted.

Online Library

Even though the current TVEC registration process is not looking for a (physical) library, the quality of the online education might be enhanced if an online library is available for the learners. However, most online libraries/databases are based on foreign countries (e.g. UK) and may not be affordable for small scale local institutes. So, it will be beneficial for the learners if the TVEC can coordinate with the government and establish an online library for the Sri Lankan online education providers at an affordable price.

To get the best benefit from the online learning era, TVEC should act promptly on this matter and take immediate and long-term action to register online training providers, to get their contribution and also to expand the tertiary education and/or vocational education in Sri Lanka.

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In the face of climate, health and food security changes

Challenges to agriculture – Part 11

Continued from September 13

BY ABHAYA KENDARAGAMA

Climate adaptation strategies and practices

All climatic zones: dry, intermediate and wet zones in the country support food crop production. Climate risk areas have been identified in all climatic zones and therefore, to ensure the national food security, attention has been given to all farming systems.

The adoption of climate smart agricultural systems in place of conventional farming whenever necessary seems to be a timely need. The composition of adaptation strategies and practices depends on nature and properties of farming systems. For example, guidelines for formulation of a suitable package of strategies and practices are discussed below for four major local farming systems: a) Home gardens, b) Seasonal crop based uplands, c) Dug-well based croplands and d) Paddy lands.

a) Home gardens

Farming in home gardens has been one of the oldest practices in the country. It is briefly described as growing crops and rearing food animals on an individual family owned piece of land including a house. With respect to diversity in crops and animals, home gardens in rural and urban areas show contrasting differences. Crops have been planted with a mixture of perennials and annuals in an integrated manner.

Rearing animals has been prac-

tised as small domestic units. Produce from crops and animals has been used mainly for family consumption and the excess for sharing with neighbours or obtaining an income. Crop diversity and household income mainly vary with climate and degree of urbanisation. Home gardens in rural areas have been dominated by crops, including fruits, spices, vegetable, other edible plants, medicinal plants, timber species and ornamental plants.

Tree crops in home gardens in the wet zone

The major fruit crops include *amberella*, *anonas*, avocado, banana, *beli*, *bilin*, dragon fruit, durian, guava, *jab-bola*, *kebella*, *lavulu*, lemon, lime, *lovi*, *madan*, mandarin, mangosteen, mango, *mora*, *naminan*, orange, papaw, passion fruit, pineapple, pomegranate, rambutan, rose apple, star fruit, *uguressa*, *weralu* and wood apple.

The major spices, condiments, other food additives and beverage crops are pepper, clove, *goraka*, nutmeg, tamarind, cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, turmeric, green chilli, *kochchi*, hot chilli (*naimiris*), curry leaves (*Karapincha*), *rampe*, cocoa, vanilla, coffee and tea.

The major vegetable crops include ash plantain, ash pumpkin, *batana*, beat, bitter gourd, brinjal, cabbage, capsicum, cassava, chinese potato, cucumber, dioscoreas, edible canna, *elabatu*, elephant yams, *kekiri*, large leaved yams, long bean, okra,



onion, pumpkin, reddish, ridge gourd, snake gourd, sweet potato, *thibbotu*, tomato, winged bean and leafy vegetable.

The other edible crops are betel palm, betel vine, bread fruit, cashew, coconut, jackfruit, king coconut and toddy palm. More common medicinal plants in home gardens include *akapana*, *katuwelbatu*, *kohomba*, *komarika*, *olinda*, *murunga*, *pavatta* and *wadakaha*.

The major timber plants include *atamba*, *batadomba*, *bath hik*, *bulu*, *dawulkurundu*, *domba*, ebony, *ehela*, *ginisapu*, *halmilla*, *hawarinuga*, *hulanhik*, *kahata*, *kekuna*, *ketakela*, *kirihambiliya*, *kolon*, *kumbuk*, *lunimidella*, *madan*, *mahogany*, *margosa*, *mee*, *milla*, *nedun*, *palu*, *paremara*, *pihimbiya*, *sabbukku*, *suriyamaru*,

teak, *thelambu* and *toona*. Ornamental plants are discussed under urban home gardens.

Urban home gardens in all climatic zones have been dominated by ornamental plants. The other crops include fruit species, vegetable crops, other food plants and medicinal plants as discussed above under rural home gardens. The major ornamental crops include *adiantum*, *agloanema*, African violet, *alstroemeria*, *anthurium*, *asplenium*, *begonia*, *bougainvillea*, *caladium*, *canas*, *cane palm*, *cheilanthes*, *cordyline*, *croton*, *carnation*, *chrysanthemum*, *dahlia*, *davallia*, *diefenbachia*, *dracaena*, ferns, *figus*, *fittonia*, *gerbera*, *gladiolus*, *gypsophila*, *hibiscus*, *jasmine*, *lilium*, *limonium*, *livistonia*, *marantha*, *monster*, *nelumbo*, *nephrolepis*, *orchid*, *osamun-*

da, palms, *peperomia*, *platycerium*, *polypodium*, *pteris* roses, *scindapsus*, *spathiphyllum* and *rhapizandzantedeschia*.

Crop production resilience

Conventional home gardens need to include a suitable package of strategies and practices to strengthen crop production resilience against climatic adversity. Development of a climate smart production system includes pre-plant and post-plant practices and strategies.

The proposed pre-plant strategies and practices include: establishing on farm soil conservation practices, such as lock and spill drains and individual platforms for the wet zone lands, stone bunds and *Glicridia* double hedges for semi-wet zone lands and earth bunds and multi-purpose bunds for the dry and semi-dry zone lands.

Adopting farm soil conservation practices could include: silt traps, side walls, chute structures, drop structures, gully structures, diversion drains, leader drains and main drains.

The other strategies and practices include: maintaining live vegetation fences to enhance biodiversity, installing percolation pits for recharging groundwater, maintaining a dead mulch for soil moisture conservation and reducing surface soil ceiling through crust formation, particularly during dry spells, establishing roof water harvesting techniques with surface storage tanks, installing supplementary crop irrigation structures, such as mini-sprinkler irrigation units linked to domestic water lifting devices, land terracing for

cultivating seasonal crops, inclusive of vegetable, providing adequate drainage facility for water logged areas and establishing compost making units (preferably heap, pit, bin and drum methods).

The suggested post plant strategies and practices are: cultivation of suitable crops and varieties well suited to the earth and local climate, providing priority for planting tree species if space available, training and pruning of tree crops for shade management and facilitating sharing sunlight among plants, grafting or budding of high value crop species to land races, such as orange-wood apple combination, timely harvesting timber trees for creating space for establishing new crops, establishing bee colonies to facilitate pollination in crop plants and to obtain honey, promotion of “OK technology” based farming and pot farming for vertical expansion of vegetable cultivation, encouraging edible landscaping, maintaining manageable herds of food animals (cattle, poultry, goat, pig, duck and rabbit), introducing post-harvest operation particularly for fruits and spices, sharing crop produce with neighbours for strengthening social linkages and introducing cottage industries for extra income.

Some supplemental cottage industries well suited to local farming communities include: nursery management for selling tree saplings, ornamental plant production, cut flower industry, ornamental fish rearing, mushroom production, yoghurt production, inland fish industry and handloom industry.

To be continued

Dhoni faces heat for go-slow in Chennai's chase

DUBAI AFP: India great Mahendra Singh Dhoni faced criticism for his uncharacteristically slow start in Chennai Super Kings' unsuccessful run chase in the IPL against Steve Smith's Rajasthan Royals.

Dhoni, the Chennai captain, sent up young England allrounder Sam Curran and Indian Premier League debutant Ruturaj Gaikwad ahead of him in his team's chase of 217 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, on Tuesday.

Finally coming into bat in the 14th over, the veteran wicketkeeper-batsman scored just 10 runs off his first 13 balls while partner Faf du Plessis was on a hitting spree in his 72-run blitz including seven sixes.

The former India skipper, who announced his international retirement last month, only got going in the final over to hit three successive sixes but by then the chase was beyond Chennai who lost by 16 runs. "This is not what you call leading from the front. Batting at No. 7 when you're chasing what...213 (217)? The game



MS Dhoni

was over. Faf was probably the lone warrior," former India opener Gautam Gambhir told ESPNcricinfo.

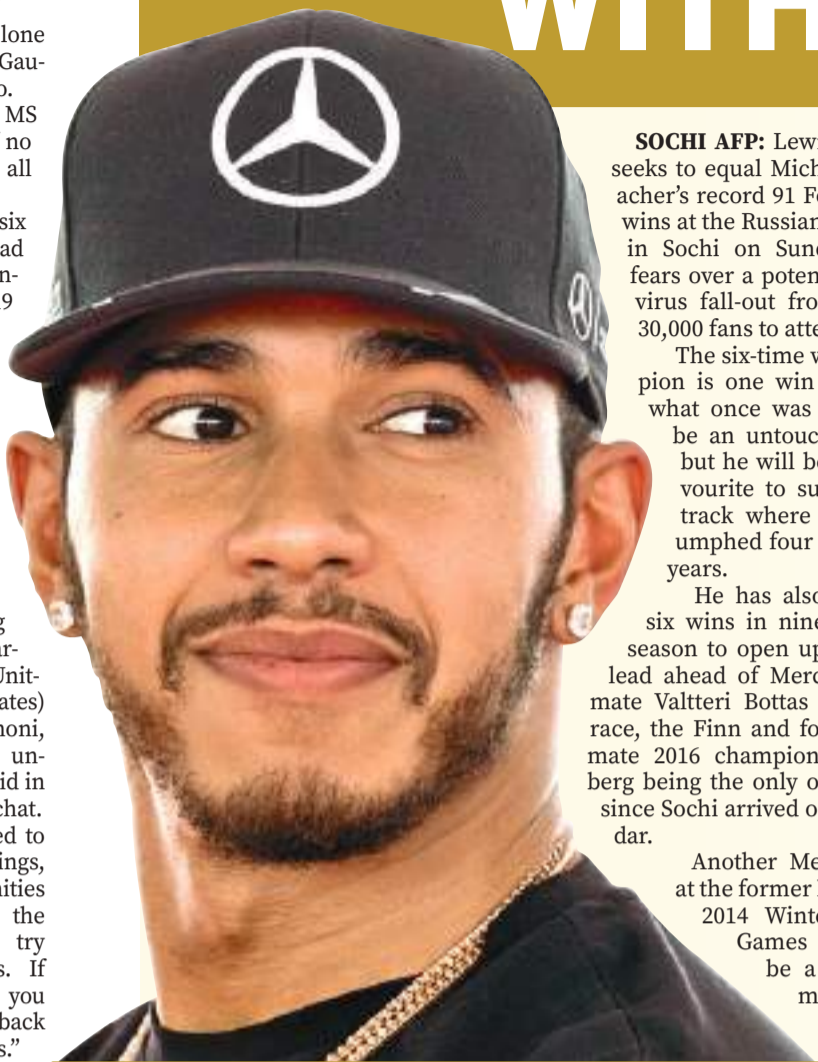
"Yes, you can talk about MS Dhoni's last over, but it was of no use to be honest. It was just all personal runs."

Curran had smashed 18 off six balls after being promoted ahead of Dhoni, who last played in India's semi-final exit of the 2019 World Cup, in Chennai's win over holders Mumbai Indians in the IPL opener last week.

Dhoni, known for his finishing skills during the peak of his international career, said his lack of time in the middle prompted him to shuffle the batting order.

"I haven't batted for a long time. 14-day quarantine (in the United Arab Emirates) doesn't help," Dhoni, who remained unbeaten on 29, said in the post-match chat. "Also wanted to try different things, give opportunities to Sam. Have the opportunity to try different things. If it doesn't work, you can always go back to your strengths."

HAMILTON EYES RECORD WITH 30,000 FANS



SOCHI AFP: Lewis Hamilton seeks to equal Michael Schumacher's record 91 Formula One wins at the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi on Sunday despite fears over a potential coronavirus fall-out from allowing 30,000 fans to attend.

The six-time world champion is one win away from what once was believed to be an untouchable total, but he will be a clear favourite to succeed on a track where he has triumphed four times in six years.

He has also reeled off six wins in nine races this season to open up a 55-point lead ahead of Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas in the title race, the Finn and former teammate 2016 champion Nico Rosberg being the only other victors since Sochi arrived on the calendar.

Another Mercedes win at the former home of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games would also be a record for most succes-

sive victories by a team at a single Grand Prix.

But all involved with the champions are aware that not only is the event set to be the first sporting occasion to host a major crowd in the Covid-19 era, but it will also see the team shadowed by a Netflix film crew. The organisers say 30,000 spectators are expected and that the race is sold out.

The cameras will be recording content for the third 'Drive to Survive' series - and tip-toeing around their subjects, hoping to avoid a repeat of events in Germany last year. Then, at the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim, run in teeming rain, Mercedes celebrated 125 years of motorsport with their worst performance of the season - a flu-struck Hamilton ending up classified ninth and Bottas crashing out from fourth.

"It made a very entertaining episode for Netflix," said Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff. "But this time, we hope we can have great content - and have a great race." Hamilton, lauded this week as one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world this year, has approached the race with humility.

"I never thought that I would be here, that's for sure," he said after his

90th career triumph at the Tuscan Grand Prix two weeks ago.

"It just does not seem real to me." His greatest rival this weekend is likely to be team-mate Bottas, winner on the tight Sochi track in 2017, his maiden triumph.

The Finn has proved himself to be a force on the circuit that suits his style and knows he has to wreck Hamilton's party to stay in the championship race.

After two pointless exits with car failures, Max Verstappen of Red Bull will be seeking a return to his earlier form.

"It's not easy in Sochi and the track is not a favourite for us with a lot of long straights - it's not easy to overtake," he said.

While the 30,000 fans attending the Olympic Park circuit enjoy a rare glimpse of live sport, F1's top officials are reported to be anxious about the potential threat from coronavirus.

Russia has exceeded one million cases of Covid-19 - one of only four nations to do so - and after nine events run behind closed doors in strictly-controlled bubbles, this relaxation of the tight controls has not been welcomed warmly by all in the paddock.

Classic Car Club elect office bearers

The Classic Car Club of Ceylon held its 28th Annual General Meeting at the Kingsbury Hotel on September 8, 2020 with Senior Member Paramesh David as Chairman Protrem.

Ramani Ponnambalam was unanimously re-elected as President of the Club with Shalike Ganewatte and Clive de Silva Jnr elected as Vice Presidents.

At this meeting the most notable event was the launching of its new look website known as www.classiccars.lk.

The newly appointed officials are scheduled to forward the Club's Events Calendar which is scheduled to commence with the Mana Jayawardena Rally in mid October.

Elected Office bearers for 2020/2021:

Patron: Commissioner of Motor Traffic
Vice Patrons: Asgi Akbarally
President: Ramani Ponnambalam
Vice Presidents: Shalike Ganewatte, Clive de Silva (Jnr)
Joint Secretaries: Geepal Fernando, Priyanga Samarathunga
Treasurer: Shiraz Akbarally
Asst. Treasurer: Sanjiv Alles
Immediate past President: Dinesh Jayawardana
General Committee: Clive de Silva (Snr), Bri Ponnambalam, Tilak Amendra, Chandana Amaratunga, Chanaka Jinasena, Shane Walgama, Dinesh de Silva, Senaka Kotagama, Suhen Wanigasooriya

Tour de France team leader Quintana denies doping

AFP MARSEILLE: The lead rider of a Tour de France team caught up in a doping investigation said he had "nothing to hide" after two unnamed members of the French outfit were briefly detained before being released.

Colombian rider Nairo Quintana, 30, leader of the Arkea-Samsic team and winner of the 2014 Giro d'Italia, said no drugs were discovered during the investigation.

"No doping substance has ever been found," Quintana said in a statement late on Tuesday.

"I have nothing to hide and have never had anything to hide."

Police detained two people from the Arkea-Samsic team on Monday, with press reports saying they were a doctor and physiotherapist.

Marseille prosecutor Dominique Laurens confirmed Wednesday that the pair, whom he had said had "many health products including drugs in their personal belongings, but also and above all a method that can be qualified as doping", had both been released Tuesday.

"The investigation is ongoing," Laurens said, adding that new developments were possible.

"Investigations and hearings (must) be carried out before the public prosecutor reaches a decision on the basis of the elements collected."

A source familiar with the matter told AFP that searches had targeted several riders including Quintana's brother Dayer, as well as members of the medical team.



Nairo Quintana

Nairo Quintana finished the Tour in 17th place, more than an hour behind Pogacar. Quintana's teammate Warren Barguil finished in 14th place.

It is the most significant investigation in years for the repeatedly scandal-hit Tour, which wrapped up Sunday in Paris with a surprise victory

for 21-year-old debutant Tadej Pogacar, the youngest winner in more than a century.

The Tour was rocked by a major probe in 1998, when customs officials stopped a vehicle laden with doping products and the Festina team was thrown off the race as the peloton headed into Paris.

MSA Hassan

Remembering a snooker legend on death anniversary

October 5, 2020 marks the 48th death anniversary of MSA Hassan who won the first All Ceylon Amateur Snooker Championship in 1935 at the inaugural tournament organized by the Central YMCA and his record in the YMCA Billiards Service 1933 has been unsurpassed.

He won every single event at one time or another, sometimes several at the same time and was the National Champion of Snooker for three years in succession in 1936, 1937 and 1938.

He showed his remarkable mastery of the game by winning the title again in 1952 and his records at Billiards and Snooker at the YMCA are still unbroken.

Hassan was the Chairman of the YMCA Billiards Club from 1948 to 1953 and guided the activities of the club with great acceptance.

He was the co-founder of the All Ceylon Amateur Billiards Association and Control Council of Ceylon in 1948. In 1947 he was named the Best All Round Ceylonese Sportsman.

Hassan who was an old boy of Zahira College, Colombo also played cricket and rugby for his college and was in the 1932 rugby team that beat Trinity College for the first time. He was awarded the school's Best Rugby Player prize. He also played cricket for Moors Sports Club.

In 1949, Hassan decided to concentrate on Billiards and gave an opening to MJM Lafr.

In 1966 he was appointed a member of the Advisory Committee on Billiards by the then Minister of Sports V.A. Sugathadasa.

M Kamil Hassan

Rizwan Hadjar to lead Beruwala FL

The President of the Beruwala Super Sun Sports Club MSM Rizwan Hadjar has been elected as the new President of the Beruwala Football League at their Annual General Meeting held at the Alipp International School Auditorium.

President: MSM Rizwan Hadjar (Super Sun SC)
General Secretary: MRM Zinan (Dhargatown United SC)
Assistant General Secretary: MNM

Rimsan (Beruwala Super Sun SC)
Treasurer: Mohammed Akbar
Assistant Treasurer: MAM Riplan (Dharga Town United SC)
Vice Presidents: HHM Nimsan (Beruwala Great Star), ARM Badhudeen (Dhargatown YMCA SC), MZM Yasir Arafath (Beruwala Palparin Sports Club), MFM Ifthikar (Dharga Town United Club), MRM Zamufa (Dharga Town Dharga Town York SC)



Simona Halep

Halep heads into French Open as clear favourite

PARIS AFP: Former champion Simona Halep arrives at the rescheduled French Open as the player to beat in a women's draw missing title holder Ashleigh Barty and recent US Open winner Naomi Osaka, two of the world's top three.

Serena Williams can never be discounted as she launches another bid for a record-equaling 24th Grand Slam singles crown, but Roland Garros is the American's least successful major despite her wins in 2002, 2013 and 2015.

Garbine Muguruza, who defeated Williams in the 2016 final, is another contender while fellow former world number one Victoria Azarenka is hoping to take the momentum from her run to the US Open final into the clay swing.

Last year's runner-up Marketa Vondrousova will again target a deep run in Paris having rediscovered some form at last week's Italian Open, where she made the semi-

finals before losing to compatriot Karolina Pliskova. The fourth-ranked Czech retired from the final with a thigh injury after dropping the first set to Halep, who extended her winning run to 14 matches after capturing a second consecutive title coming out of lockdown.

Pliskova, the second seed in Paris, said Halep was undoubtedly the favourite for a tournament pushed back from its traditional spring slot for the first time in its history due to the coronavirus.

"I think she's going to be the (top) favourite from the women's tournament, because I think also the way she played, she played already (won) Prague on clay. She won this tournament."

"So I feel like she's confident. For sure she's going to be dangerous."

"I know the weather is not looking that great in Paris, so I think the conditions just to like play aggressive game against her is going to be quite tough."

Halep, who also won in Dubai before the five-month tour suspension, spent the break working hard on her fitness, but said the global health cri-

sis had given her a fresh outlook on tennis.

"I'm more mature, I think. The pandemic got me in a place that I really dreamed to be," she told WTA Insider. "I am more relaxed because I could see that the most difficult things are in life in general, not in sport."

No woman has successfully defended the French Open title since Justine Henin won three times in a row between 2005 and 2007, a trend set to continue with Barty pulling out over the coronavirus fears that also prompted her to skip the US Open.

A sore hamstring has sidelined three-time Grand Slam champion Osaka, while Bianca Andreescu, the 2019 US Open winner, will miss the tournament as well. The Canadian hasn't played since hurting her knee last October at the WTA Finals.

Despite the notable absentees, the field here is stronger than the US Open where six of the world's top 10 players skipped the event, with the return of Halep, Elina Svitolina, Kiki Bertens and Belinda Bencic.

"As I said always, many girls from the top 10, top 15 have a

chance to win a Grand Slam," said Halep. "Roland Garros is very open, because it's clay court but it's a little bit faster, so also the big hitters can win it easy."

The Romanian holds a 20-2 record this season and is unbeaten since January -- her only losses came to Aryna Sabalenka in Adelaide and Muguruza in the Australian Open semi-finals.

But she added: "I cannot think about winning the title in Roland Garros, because the tournament didn't start yet. But I will give my best."

"I will dream for it, for sure." As for Williams, she has not added to her Grand Slam haul since winning the 2017 Australian Open while pregnant.

The window of opportunity is closing for her to finally match Margaret Court's total, with an unmistakable sense of an opportunity gone begging after her semi-final exit at Flushing Meadows.

Williams withdrew from last week's Rome event with an Achilles strain, meaning she will arrive in the French capital without having played on clay this year.

SPORTS

CHANGE IN TIDE EXCITES SPORTS FANS IN KANDY

By
Hafiz
Marikar



The sporting fraternity in Kandy is excited that the new Minister for Sports Namal Rajapaksa is sure to deliver on his Vision and play his part to make the region an active sporting city known for its sporting success.

Past successful sportsmen and sportswomen can be proud of their achievements that were possible due to their keenness and the backing they got from parents, clubs, schools and coaches.

Records reveal that Kandy produced some of the best sportsmen and women in rugby, cricket, hockey, football, athletics, table tennis, iron sports, netball, volleyball, tennis, boxing, badminton, cue sports, billiards and snooker, cycling and swimming.

Thanks to the old boys and parents, sport at school level is being kept alive, but what Kandy requires now more than ever is the backing from Sports Minister Rajapaksa who was a top sportsman himself, a Sri Lanka rugby captain and forward, to uplift sports at club level.

Today like club rugby, hockey and cricket are also back in the scene and with the support of Minister Rajapaksa the expectations are running high like never before.

Kandy could do better with another well-equipped ground. Sport is so popular in Kandy that today there is a necessity for additional grounds, especially for sports like school cricket, rugby, football and hockey.

Thanks to the Municipal Council for leasing a plot of land in the 1940s to Kandy Sports Club that they were able to turn it into a rugby ground at Nittawela.



Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa during his playing days that only rugby fans knew. Today every sport wants a piece of him

The Bogambara Stadium which helped most of the sports when it was under the Municipal Council is now under the Sports Ministry and at present is closed due to repairs.

Today several schools especially at rugby and cricket are finding it difficult to play their matches due to lack of a ground and the ground charges are sky high.

Schools and clubs heavily depended on the Bogambara ground for their sports almost every day. Until 1998 for a period of 100 years the Kandy Municipal Council were the owners. In 1998 the government took it over for re-development and had plans to have the Independence Day celebrations at the stadium with a promise to return it. But they failed to do so and sportsmen are suffering today especially football, rugby and hockey players besides athletes.

The Asgiriya Stadium is owned by Trinity College for cricket and the Antonian ground at Katugastota is used for their school cricket matches and sports training. They also help the Old Antonians SC in their cricket.

The Lake View ground is owned by Dharmaraja College where they play their cricket matches while Kingswood College converted their pint-size ground at Randles Hill to a big one. But still matches are not played. Vidyarthi College owns a plot of land at Nittawela where they play junior matches and also train. In the early days they suffered a lot without a proper place.

St. Sylvester's College has a miniature ground at Asgiriya without grass but practice and play matches elsewhere while Wariyapola Sri Sumangala (St. Paul's College) has no ground but are determined to excel in sports.

The University of Peradeniya has separate grounds for hockey, athletics, cricket, rugby, football and tennis. At one time the Peradeniya turf wicket was classed among the best in the country.

In the early days they helped most of the schools and clubs to play cricket and if not for their help today, hockey would have been a forgotten sport. The Police ground at one time was hired for all sports, but now

IN 1998 THE GOVERNMENT TOOK IT OVER FOR RE-DEVELOPMENT AND HAD PLANS TO HAVE THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE STADIUM WITH A PROMISE TO RETURN IT. BUT THEY FAILED TO DO SO AND SPORTSMEN ARE SUFFERING TODAY ESPECIALLY FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND HOCKEY PLAYERS BESIDES ATHLETES

first preference is given to cricket. It is a matting wicket and a little bit of hockey is played. Earlier except for the Trinity versus St. Anthony's big match, all other cricket big matches were played on this ground.

Following the lack of suitable grounds, the standards of these sports at club level have their limitation. Kandy has cricket clubs with products from nine cricket playing schools. The clubs are finding it difficult to practice and play matches. There are many clubs playing in the Division III but the same story lies with them too although they get the support of Asgiriya, Katugastota, Police ground and Peradeniya to play matches.

A few years back the Kandy Hockey Association were to get funds from their controlling body to put up an Astro turf but there was no proper place in Kandy. They are trying to lay the turf at Pallekelle, but it is too far for school children who do all their practices at their school compounds and even win championships despite the hardships.



Sri Lanka women's cricket convener Apsari Tillekaratne poses with Jaffna school cricketers during her visit to the northern province

Hunt for cricketers in North and East

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

The convener of Sri Lanka women's cricket Apsari Tillekaratne made a historic visit to Jaffna last week and has realized the potential and the interest shown in the Northern Province.

"Our main aim is to develop women's cricket everywhere in Sri Lanka and ensure there are equal opportunities for all and already we have decided to pave the way to play some big matches among the girls schools," said Apsari.

"I have a big responsibility to develop this sport among the girls and I think the best way to start this is from the school level."

Apsari had also noted the absence of basic facilities in Jaffna and promised to look into the shortcomings to make the project meaningful while at the same time having to assure the players will be in safe hands to develop their skills and talents.

"Because of their culture some parents are not encouraging towards their children and this is another challenge for us to overcome," said Apsari who is the wife of former Sri Lanka captain Hashan Tillekaratne.

She also visited schools in Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Killinochchi and said Sri Lanka Cricket was in the process of drawing up a project to bring the northern province on par with other regions in the country promoting women's cricket.

"The Sports Minister (Namal Rajapaksa) has a good vision to develop sport and this will help us in our endeavours to push ahead to the limits or even beyond," said Apsari.

"Overall we are preparing for the Under-19 Women's World Cup in 2022 and this is when the schools will have to play a part to help us unearth new talent for the future. We have already identified some good talent in the northern province and hope to build on it."

Wushu Federation on talent search targets Asian medal

BY KASUN IRUGALBANDARA

The Wushu Federation will embark on a talent search program with a plan to win medals at the Asian Games to be held in China in 2022.

Manel Dharmakeerthi the president of the Wushu Federation told the Sunday Observer that they will commence the search from the Digana and Matara areas.

"We have succeeded as a nation in this sport in the past. We were successful in winning medals at the World Championship and World Cup but we were unable to win a medal at the Asian Games. "We were close to winning a medal last year but missed narrowly. As such we can put in a great deal of work for the next Asian Games," said Dharmakeerthi.

The Wushu Federation will conduct their first talent search in Digana, Kandy on October 10 and 11 and the second one at Kotawala in Matara on October 31 and November 1.

"Anyone, even without the basic knowledge in Wushu can participate at the talent search program. We hope to find physically strong and talented athletes to train in Wushu. We hope to conduct training for several months after the selection of these athletes, said Dharmakeerthi.

The Asian Games will be held in September 2022 in China.

"We will give them three months training with the selected athletes under Chinese coaches before the Asian Games begin," said Dharmakeerthi told.

Suarez suspected of cheating at language test

Barcelona forward Luis Suarez is suspected of cheating to pass his Italian language test with the help of his teachers, the Perugia prosecutor's department in charge of the investigation said on Tuesday.

The Italian exam was a first step required in order to receive a passport ahead of a possible transfer to Juventus, a move which has been seen abandoned.

"The investigation showed that the subjects discussed during the exam were agreed beforehand with the candidate and that the grade was awarded to him even before the test," the prosecutor's department said in a statement.

Local prosecutor Raffaele Cantone, a former head of Italy's National Anti-Corruption Authority, had been carrying out an investigation since February into University for Foreigners officials over various irregularities.

Suspicions over Suarez were aroused by an overheard conversation.

"But what do you think, that we're going to fail him? To-



Luis Suarez

day I have the last lesson (with Suarez) and I have to prepare it because he barely speaks a word" of Italian, Stefania Spina, one of the people targeted by the investigation, is claimed to have said according to prosecution documents cited by Italian media.

Asked by a colleague what level Suarez "should pass" in Italian, Spina reportedly replied: "He should not, he must, he will pass, because with a salary of 10 million (euros) per

JUVENTUS COACH ANDREA PIRLO SAID LAST WEEK A PROPOSED DEAL FOR SUAREZ WAS UNLIKELY TO GO AHEAD BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN THE URUGUAYAN'S BID TO GET AN ITALIAN PASSPORT

season, you can't make him fail" his exam, "even if he doesn't know how to conjugate verbs and speak in the infinitive."

Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo said last week a proposed deal for Suarez was unlikely to go ahead because of delays in the Uruguayan's bid to get an Italian passport.

The Italian champions cannot recruit Suarez otherwise because they have already reached their quota for non-EU players.

Motor racers back on Kanway track after long lay off

BY BERNARD PERERA

Sri Lanka's racing drivers and riders will be back on the track after a lapse of over six months due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown when the Sri Lanka Motor Cycle Club conducts the 'Kanway' meet on October 11 with 20 events for motorcycle and cars.

These events have attracted almost all leading drivers and riders in the country except four Motor car categories. The four car events that will not be run on this day are 1600cc Class, Honda one-make, SLGT up to 3500cc and the Subaru Legacy 2000cc class.

Seventy drivers and over 100 riders have confirmed their participation for these events.

Two young female riders Hansika Abeysinghe and Sushmi Solanki are expected to challenge the male riders in events up to 125cc categories.

In fact Hansika has done well on this track beating the men on many occasions and she is expected to repeat the same here on this day.

Meanwhile Sushmi Solanki too is one rider who is capable of challenging Hansika in the 125cc Open class.

The only female driver Kaushalya Ariyadasa will be seen in action for the first time on this track competing in a Nissan March category along with the men in the absence of famed driver Shehara Jayawardena.

The highly classed Gunawardena brothers Aaron and Jaden



Hansika Abeysinghe

riding in the higher classes are sure to be the challenge for other leading riders in the caliber of Maduranga Caldera and Dushan Mudalige.

Minister for Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa will be the chief guest while the guests of honour will be Mutiah Muraideran, Lasith Malinga and former Olympian Sriyani Kulawansa.

Sports lost and is losing remaining grounds?

BY TB RAHAMAN

Where is sports in Sri Lanka heading? At the rate the playgrounds are being taken over to put up buildings for commercial purposes very soon athletes will not find a ground to practice and hone their skills in their respective sports.

This is a good eye opener for the new, young and energetic Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Namal Rajapaksa to take immediate steps to stop these gluttons from taking over playgrounds. Besides, the Minister is very eager to build a healthy nation especially with the younger generation being actively involved in sports. But how can these youngsters be active without grounds?

As far as my memory tells me there were many vast grounds in

Colombo and the suburbs taken over and hotels built on them. Echelon Square was a vast ground that was used by the Army and Air Force personnel to carry out their sports activities like football. The Army ground near Galle Face was used by the Army first to play cricket and later rugby. The Army cricket ground was also taken over to build a hotel and shopping mall.

A cricket ground at Rajagiriya was sold to a private bank which put up a massive building.

The Government Services ground at Slave Island where the football loving public living in the vicinity relished the sport was also taken over and a hotel built.

In the latest move the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) is eyeing a take-over of the land at Sir Mar-

cus Fernando Mawatha where the Sri Lanka Tennis Association is housed. Tennis is an elite sport and Sri Lanka has produced many versatile tennis players of high calibre. Many children of even politicians go there to learn the game. Some of these children have represented the country and later turned out to be good coaches. They find employment through coaching too.

The tennis association has gone ahead further by training differently able soldiers and introduced wheelchair tennis. All this training is being done free of charge to keep the people with limited abilities active and look forward to something in life.

This five acre land was given out on a 99-year lease and it has taken a lot of work to build clay courts first and now some hard courts too. This



tennis centre is graded as one of the best in Asia and can conduct many international tournaments that can bring in foreign players and currency into the country. Most tournaments are conducted with the help of sponsors who keep the game going at a very high level.

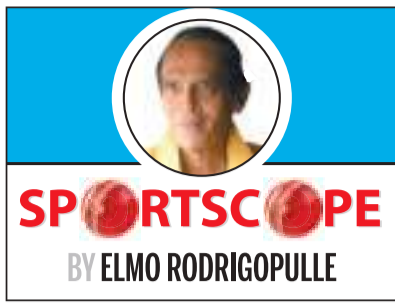
The sport that suffered most is football that was called the poor man's game.

Sri Lanka has produced some of the best players of Asian standard two decades ago. Sadly today the game has suffered so much probably due to lack of grounds and Sri Lanka

has failed to produce a quality player of Asian standard like in the past.

The ball is in your court now Minister of Sports. It is you who can stop these take-overs and build more grounds in almost every housing scheme, just like what Malaysia has done.

A FLAME THAT BURNED THROUGH A VIRUS



Fantastic win and series for Aussies

You can surely count on the baggy green Australian cricketers for drama. Led by Aaron Finch they would have disembarked in Melbourne and the UAE with broad and jubilant smiles on their faces after their magnificent victory over England in the final one-day at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

With this incredible victory the Aussies proved their superiority in this format of the game, which the writer titles the 'cowboy game' because the cricketers take the field in coloured cowboy like outfits under lights and with everything in colour from the umpires to the balls in white and the sight screens in black.

When this type of game now in vogue with T20 and 50-over World Cups being played, one must spare a thought for that man who had innovation in his blood. The one and only Kerry Packer who turned the cricket world upside down.

He made the arrogant Australian Cricket Board of that time to bend before him and grant him his demands. We need not further sing the praises of Packer because it is well documented for history and the players must say a prayer in silence for giving them fabulous pay packets and sing their way to the banks.

Having said that we pad up to take on the TV commentators for their repeating that the boundaries were short at Old Trafford ground every time a batsman hit a four or a six.

It must be said that with both England and Australia going over the 300-run mark, it rained fours and sixes at one side of the ground with the big hitting batsmen targeting that side of the ground.

The commentators repeating of short boundaries were heard with monotonous regularity while the devastating partnership between Alex Carey and Glen Maxwell were on fire and when the biased English commentators were doing their thing.

It was sickening to listen to the short boundary comment continuously. What the English commentators should have done and would have been appreciated had they released their pent up anger at the England and Wales Cricket Board for playing such an important decider on a boundary shortened ground and not belittling the batsmen.

With both Australia and England each having won a game in the three match one-day series this third game was going to be a no-quarter asked or given game and a cracker.

To say that the baggy green caps came saw and conquered the 50-over series forgetting the dreaded covid-19 is no misnomer and all plaudits to them and the EWCB must say a big thank you to the visitors for keeping the wonderful game of cricket alive and kicking and being an example.

Australia's victory is fantastic considering that they were chasing a mammoth 303 and were sans their best batsman the any bowler mauler former captain Steve Smith. Sans him it was cricket's Mount Everest to climb to achieve victory. And that the Aussies performed this miracle was great.

When Australia were chasing victory and when paceman Jofra Archer had wicket keeper and left hand last recognized batsman Alex Carey caught at third man by leg spinner Adil Rashid and with the Aussies 73 for 6, England were dancing the jig.

They were justified in dancing and doing the jig and celebrating because they knew they were sniffing victory and a 2-1 series triumph. But with a dejected Carey taking the long, lonely walk back, he was stopped in his tracks by the third umpire who had noticed that Archer had delivered a no-ball.

What a relief for Carey and what joy it turned out for the Aussies and England did not seem disheartened because they had the fire in their attack to burn the rest of the Aussie batsmen.

But what one saw after the reprieve of Carey was utter mayhem as Carey along with the devastating Maxwell riding a crest of a wave of success took the threatening England attack by the scruff of its neck and lambasted it along the ground and out of it and made it look ordinary with the home team bowlers and fielders looking utterly helpless and looking to the cricketing gods for help.

It is accepted that God helps those who help themselves and Carey 106 and Maxwell 108 believing in this saying during their double century stand 212 lit up the ground like a Chinese-like wonderful fireworks display of stroke-play that had probably not been seen on this ground before.

Carey the talented left hander had a poor run with the bat in the T20 and 50-over series came good with a century. Maxwell who hits the ball with the strength of an ox was simply belligerent and unstoppable.

But the guy who made this impossible victory possible and needs to be always remembered was veteran left arm new ball bowler Mitchell Starc who sent back England's Roy and Root with the first two balls of the match.

And then when Australia required 10 runs off the last over, Starc slammed leg spinner Rashid for a six and a four to signal an unforgettable triumph for the never-say-die Aussies thus ending the series and cricket for the year in Old Blighty hosting West Indies, Pakistan and Australia kicking aside the covid-19 fear.

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By **Dinesh Weerawansa**



When the Covid-19 epidemic hit the world and we in Sri Lanka too had it from mid-March, none thought that the 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year would ever be a reality this year.

There were enough and more reasons to think so as everything in our day to day lives came to a complete standstill as the deadly coronavirus spread worldwide, bringing almost all human activities to a complete standstill.

From the second weekend in March which the oldest uninterrupted inter-school cricket match - the Royal-Thomian encounter was just played, the authorities in Sri Lanka took a determined approach to face the Covid-19 epidemic.

Thanks to the determined efforts of the health authorities, security forces and Government officials, Sri Lanka implemented one of the world's most successful campaigns under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. While citizens in the so-called big countries in the world perished in next to no time due the Covid-19, Sri Lanka set new world marks in combating the coronavirus.

Thus, Sri Lanka became one of the most least effected countries in the world from Covid-19. Though the threat posed from Covid-19 cannot be ruled out altogether, Sri Lanka is on a better wicket.

Hence, the 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year will now be held at the BMICH on November 18, following health clearance from all Covid-19 Government agencies and the Task Force.

This will be a giant leap forward for the 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year in an atmosphere unlike any of the school cricket awards shows, which mushroomed in recent times and are struggling due to lack of sponsorships.

Full credit must go to the principal sponsor - Sri Lanka's national mobile partner Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel which is honouring its commitment.

The long-awaited 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year will now be held immedi-

ately after the GCE Advanced Level examination.

The final Selections have now been finalized. Schoolboy and schoolgirl cricketers who will carry away the top awards were picked last week 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.

It was special to have De Mel as chairman of the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy and Schoolgirl Cricketers of the Year selection panel - a fitting tribute to one of Sri Lanka's top fast bowlers in the early Test era.

The SLSCA delegation at the Selection Committee meeting was led by its president Thilak Wathuthewa, 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.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year has come a long way from its humble beginnings at the Nawarangahala in 1978/79.

Returning to the BMICH as the host venue 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. The BMICH has a seating capacity of 1,600 and in order to adhere to the Government health regulations due to Covid-19, we are inviting only 800 guests for the Mega Show.

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.

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.

But 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 Cricketer of the Year will be the only formal school cricket awards show for the year 2020.

Thus, the 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



FLASHBACK: Double celebration for Royal College in 2011 as Bhanuka Rajapakse and Ramith Rambukwella emerged the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year and Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year

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 provider 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 fulfilled 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 for a separate segment for outstation schoolboy cricketers it went a long way in inspiring players from remote areas to showcase their talent.

The ANCL Chairman/CEO W. Dayaratne, President's Counsel, has given his fullest support. Together with his Director Editorial Dharma Sri Kariyawasam, Director Legal and Administration Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana, Director Finance Janaka Ranatunga and Director Operations Canishka Witharana, the ANCL Chairman has helped the Mega Show go from strength to strength.

42nd OBSERVER-MOBITEL Most Popular School Cricketer 2020

Vote for your favourite Schoolboy/Schoolgirl Cricketer and elevate him/her to win the prestigious OBSERVER-MOBITEL 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

One Sunday Observer coupon valid as three votes: Other papers one vote.

Win prizes in the weekly coupon draw:

- 1st Prize : Mobitel 4G Wi-Fi router
- 2nd Prize : Rs. 2,500
- 3rd Prize : Rs. 1,500
- 4th Prize : Rs. 1,000

The 42nd Most Popular Schoolboy/girl Cricketer Contest is now on. Mail the completed coupon to the SPORTS EDITOR, SUNDAY OBSERVER, LAKE HOUSE, COLOMBO 10.

CONDITIONS:

Children of Lake House & Mobitel staff are not eligible to participate in the competition.

Each coupon must contain only one vote for one player and for one contest.

In all matters connected with the contest, the decision of the Sports Editor, SUNDAY OBSERVER is final.

DATE **03-10-2020**

NO. **30**

Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer

1. Anuda Jayaweera	(Ananda College)	73,401
2. Lohan de Soya	(Dharmasoka College)	71,216
3. Shehan Fernando	(St. Benedict's College)	70,984
4. Sukitha Manoj	(St. Sebastian's College)	66,799
5. Thevindu Seneviratne	(Royal College)	59,462
6. Ahan Wickramasinghe	(Royal College)	54,997
7. Dunith Wellalage	(St. Joseph's College)	49,558
8. Kanishka Rantillekege	(Ananda College)	49,406
9. Ranudha Somaratne	(Trinity College)	49,388
10. Dimuth Sandaruwan	(Richmond College)	36,117
11. Nipun Dananjaya	(St. Joseph Vaz College)	29,624
12. Navod Paranavithana	(Mahinda College)	25,771
13. Ruchira Adikari	(Anuradhapura Central)	22,303
14. Bhanuka Manohara	(Richmond College)	21,991
15. Pawantha Weerasinghe	(Ananda Sastralaya)	18,609
16. Ruwin Peiris	(Trinity College)	18,419
17. Vanuja Kumara	(St. Peter's College)	16,199
18. Ashen Daniel	(St. Joseph's College)	15,341
19. Savindu Perera	(Maris Stella College)	13,603
20. Dilmin Ratnayake	(S. Thomas' College)	11,891
21. Matheesha Pathirana	(Trinity College)	10,903
22. Nikil Sashmitha	(Tissa Central Kalutara)	10,134
23. Abishek Anandakumar	(Trinity College)	9,831

Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer

1. Nimesha Wijesundera	(Marapola MV)	51,064
2. Renuka Damayanthi	(Bandaranayake MV)	50,782
3. Suranja Lakmali	(Gonapola BMV)	49,461
4. Janadi Anali	(Anula Vidyalaya)	43,607
5. Sachini Nethmini	(Wadduwa Central)	40,211
6. Umsha Himeshani	(Devapathiraja Vidyalaya)	32,445
7. Kavisha Dilhari	(Devapathiraja Vidyalaya)	24,201

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

CRYSBRO SIGNS A LANDMARK DEAL WITH NOC

ROLE MODEL TOUCH FOR BUDDING ATHLETES

BY TB RAHAMAN

It took 52 years for Sri Lanka to win a medal at the Olympic Games after Duncan White won it first in 1948.

White won a Silver medal in the 400 metres hurdles event while Susanthika Jayasinghe also won the Silver medal in the women's 200 metres race in 2000 after the gold medallist Marion Jones was disqualified for having taken performance enhancing drugs.

Now the National Olympic Committee has got down to do some serious business in grooming talented athletes who can hit the mark, maybe in another ten years time. They have associated with Crysbro who have come forward to sponsor a total of 20 athletes who can achieve Olympic standards and possibly win a medal.

Crysbro signed a landmark MOU with NOC to launch the 'NOC-CRYSBRO Next Champ' a revolutionary scholarship program on Thursday (24) at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute where they will invest Rs 20 million initially for the project.

Amores Sellar, Senior Manager Sales and Marketing, Crysbro and Maxwell de Silva the Secretary of the NOC signed the MOU.

Each athlete will be presented with Rs. 1 million a year which will cover expenses such as nutrition, transportation costs, coaching fees, accommodation, logistics (such as clothing, sports gear) and medical expenses. A separate fund will be maintained to cover expenses of international events.

Initially, the NOC have selected five athletes in the age category of 14 and 16 years who have won medals in



From left: Tharushi Karunaratne (athletics), Susanthika Jayasinghe, Ravindu Jayasundara (athletics), Deshan Kumara (weight lifting) and Sachini Laksarani (weight lifting) pose for a photo on the historic occasion (Pic by Sulochana Gamage)

international events. These five athletes are Ravindu Jayasundara (athletics), Tharushi Karunaratne (athletics), Milka Gehani (gymnastics), Sachini Laksarani (weightlifting) and Deshan Kumara (weightlifting).

The talent scouting was done by Olympic medallist Susanthika Jayasinghe, SAG medallist Ineka Cooray, former South Asia's fastest man Shehan Ambepitiya and Olympian swimmer Reshika Udugampila.

Ambepitiya said that they contacted all National Sports Associations to nominate their top under-16 candi-

dates for this scholarship and then interviewed each and every one of them saying they have taken into consideration their performances during the last two years. Performances at the Youth Asian Championship and Youth Olympic qualification standards were also considered when short-listing the names from which five athletes will initially launch the program.

"We will be selecting the next five athletes at the end of this month and then keep 10 slots open where young athletes will get this message and be motivated to perform in the upcoming events. We will then select the last ten considering their performance at these events," said Ambepitiya.

Their performances at the 2021 Asian Youth Championship, Youth Commonwealth Games and Youth Olympic Games will be the criteria.

"Look at me as a good example of determination and ambition who worked towards achieving the ultimate medal at an Olympic Games," said Susanthika Jayasinghe. "But unlike me the new athlete must aim to win a gold medal and not a silver at the Olympic Games," added Jayasinghe.

Aussie tied Test hero Dean Jones no more

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones who featured in the rare tied cricket Test against India in Chennai in 1986 by making 210 died suddenly of a heart attack in Mumbai, India where he was a commentator in the Dug-Out during the IPL on Thursday.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) expressed sadness at his death at the age of 59 describing him as a "prolific batter".

"We are extremely sad to hear of Dean's sudden death and I would like to extend our deep condolences to his family and friends on behalf of the ICC", it said in a statement.

Jones played in 52 Tests and 164 ODIs and was part of the 1987 Australia team which won the World Cup.

"He had a significant impact on the game of cricket as a player, as an advocate for the development of the sport, as a coach and latterly in his role as a broadcaster. He will be sorely missed by all those in the cricket family," the ICC statement further added.

In his 52 Tests Jones made 3631 runs at an average of 46.55



Dean Jones

while in 164 ODIs he aggregated 6068 runs at an average of 44.61 with seven hundreds and 46 fifties. He was number five on the all-time MRF Tyres ICC Men's Batting Rankings in the format.

In the epic tied Test Jones battled exhaustion and illness to make a heroic 210 in what would be only the second tied Test ever. He retired from international cricket in 1994 and went on to become a coach and more recently a broadcaster commenting on cricket around the world.

Archery to recommence

The Archery Federation has planned to conduct their National championship in November this year after cancelling many tournaments during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Junior Nationals will follow in December and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held today according to the Association.

Meanwhile, the Federation hopes to promote archery throughout the country and will hold discussions with the officials of the

Education Department to take the sport to schools.

Education Department officials have already agreed with the idea to spread the sport among school children as soon as possible. Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa has also agreed to offer scholarships to children who take to archery according to the Federation.

Archery is an Olympic event and famous around the world. Sri Lanka is placed 86 in the world rankings way behind India who are eighth and Bangladesh 16th. (KI)

Sports Ministry to rope in kids on World Children's Day

BY KASUN IRUGALBANDARA

The Sports Ministry is seeking ways to take sports to more school kids and has planned to conduct a workshop on World Children's Day on October 1 at Torrington Square in Colombo where each child will be given a skipping rope.

Amal Edirisooriya, the Director General of the Sports Ministry told the Sunday Observer that 500 school children will be involved in this program.

"We have invited eleven schools to participate in this activity program. During this activity we hope to make them understand the advantage of sports and wish to attract them towards it," said Edirisooriya.

The participants will be involved in basketball, jumping and netball among other sports to be conducted jointly by the Department of Sports and the Ministry of Education.

"These activities will be a long process and we also plan to conduct it island-wide after the first one in Colombo on an annual scale," said Edirisooriya. The two Ministries will review this program at the beginning of next year and students in Grade Four are eligible to participate.

"We wish to present each student with a skipping rope and hope they will take advantage of it very well," said Edirisooriya.

Water partner for Sri Lanka Cricket



Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) secretary Mohan de Silva and Mahinda Perera (left) the managing director of My Cola Beverages exchange their signed Agreement that makes the latter the official bottled drinking water partner of SLC in the presence of team captain Dimuth Karunaratne at a function held at the Shangri-La hotel in Colombo on Thursday (Pic by Saman Sri Wedage)

Illegal bodies mar election of Body Building Federation

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Several complaints have been made against the Sri Lanka Body Building and Fitness Federation which is still struggling to hold an election of office bearers over the legality of its affiliated district associations.

In a written complaint the former secretary of the Federation, Nihal Weeratunga, has brought it to the notice of the Sports Ministry's director general Amal Edirisooriya that the district associations are unauthorized by violating their own Constitutions.

It has been pointed out that only six of the 17 district associations are legally constituted and are eligible to vote at an election.

Edirisooriya has now directed the presidents and secretaries of all affiliated clubs to report to the Sports Minister on Tuesday for explanations on the matter and

their activities. The Sri Lanka Body Building and Fitness Federation which was formed in 1974 is also in trouble for failing to meet the August 31 deadline to conduct its election of office bearers.

District associations including Colombo, Jaffna and Kurunegala have formed two entities and some of the districts are not even registered with the parent body according to the complaint.

An official of the Sports Ministry said that a meeting has been called for on September 29 to decide on the eligibility of district associations with voting rights. According to the new Constitution of the Federation there are 25 district and affiliated associations eligible for the election.

The Referees Association, Coaches Association and Masters Association also take part in the election.

Neymar accused of racist remarks

PARIS AFP: Marseille claim to have footage of Neymar racially abusing Japanese right-back Hiroki Sakai during their Ligue 1 win over Paris Saint-Germain earlier this month, a source close to the club said.

The individual said Andre Villas-Boas's side have evidence of the Brazil forward making the comments on two occasions. A Marseille spokesperson refused to confirm the allegations.

AFC defends League

KUALA LUMPUR AFP: Asia's football body Thursday defended safety measures for the AFC Champions League after coronavirus-hit title-holders Al Hilal were kicked out of the tournament for failing to field enough players.

The Saudi giants had accused the Asian Football Confederation of showing insufficient "flexibility" after the club was axed for being unable to name a 13-man squad after several players tested positive for the virus.

Only 11 players were fit for Wednesday's group-stage fixture in Doha against UAE's Shabab Al Ahli after 30 players and staff were confirmed to have been infected.

Al Hilal had managed to send a squad for last week's restart of Asia's showpiece club tournament following a six-month hiatus.

Sri Lankan boy in Australia gets big break in rugby

BY INDIKA WELAGEDARA

A Sri Lankan boy, Yasiru Kanathigoda, has put himself on course to play for the Australia Under-19 rugby team after he was recognized and selected by the Victorian Schools Rugby Union under-18 Merit Team this year.

Kanathigoda is the First Fifteen team captain of his Melbourne High School and has earned recognition for being an exemplary character on and off the field while making major contributions to the sport playing as a centre three-quarter.

He was awarded the Best Backs Player of the Year

2019 at the Schools Victoria competition. It marked a significant achievement and probably the only under-18 player of Sri Lankan origin who has been selected from the whole state.

He is the son of former Ananda College prop forward Panduka Kanathigoda.

Melbourne High School is one of the State of Victoria's four selective entry high schools which provide an educationally enriched environment for academically high-achieving students from Years 9 to 12.

Selection is highly competitive through rigorous testing and the junior Kanathigoda was fortunate

to be selected to this school four years ago.

He was also a member of the school cricket team from a young age at Grade 9 and went on to represent the Victoria district under-16 cricket team known as the Scorpions.

He represented his school at inter-state competitions in Brisbane and Adelaide as well as within Victoria.

During the winter season in Australia he embarked on his rugby journey being drawn to the ferocity and passion of the game.

His pace and running power is said to be a force to be reckoned with.



Yasiru Kanathigoda with the ball making a break

BUSINESS

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2020



AGILITY AND BUSINESS STABILITY **PAGE 26**



NLB TARGETS RS. 23B REVENUE **PAGE 26**



COMPETENCIES VITAL TO COMPETE **PAGE 27**



BOOSTING SALES PERFORMANCE **PAGE 29**



Sri Lanka National Quality Award (SLNQA)

This annual award scheme recognizes organizations in Sri Lanka for performance excellence & business sustainability.



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Inflation up in August



Headline inflation as measured by the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) change in the National Consumer Price Index increased marginally to 6.2 per cent in August from 6.1 per cent in July.

This was driven by the monthly increases in prices of items in the Food and Non-food categories. Meanwhile, Food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 13.2 per cent in August from 12.9 per cent in July, whereas Non-food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 1.1 per cent in August from 1.0 per cent in July.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis increased to 6.1 per cent in August from 5.9 per cent in July.

European shares fall

Global stocks dropped on Thursday after a number of Federal Reserve officials warned the US economy would falter without further stimulus measures, driving investors out of risky assets, including gold and silver, and into the safety of cash, which boosted the dollar.

European shares fell, pushing the Stoxx 600 down 1%. Technology, oil and gas and banks were among the biggest sector losers, with German semiconductor maker Infineon down 1.5%, Deutsche Bank off 1.4%, while in London, oil producer BP lost 4.0%.

Asian stocks also fell overnight, with Japan's Nikkei down 1.1% and the Shanghai Composite down 1.7%. US futures were also pointing to a modest drop at the open between 0.1-0.6%, following on from Wednesday's steep declines.

Webinar on agri sector collaboration



A webinar on "India-Sri Lanka Current Business Environment and Opportunities for Joint Collaborations in Agriculture and the Processed Food Sector", to promote Sri Lanka's agri products and processed foods will be held in Mumbai on Tuesday, September 29, from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

The webinar is organised by the Sri Lanka Consulate General in Mumbai and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Mumbai.

USD 2B FDIs TO BE INKED THIS YEAR - CABRAAL

Sri Lanka will sign Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) to the tune of around USD 2 billion by the end of this year ending the year, said Money, Capital Markets and State Enterprise Reforms State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal on Friday.

He said around USD 800 million FDIs have already been realised and added that more will be finalised shortly.

"We are working on investments in pharmaceuticals, apparels and IT industry which will be a major component of the share of FDIs to the country in the coming year," the State Minister said, adding that many large scale global investors have shown a keen interest in investing in Sri Lanka while some will set up joint ventures with local entities. Sri Lanka has signed



FDIs to the value of around USD 1.5 billion so far this year and another USD 1 billion in investments are in the pipeline, according to the BOL. Cabraal said there would be an increase in foreign inflow to Treasury Bills and Bonds further strengthening the economy.

Sri Lanka's FDIs increased by around USD 153 million in the first

quarter this year. However, reaching the USD 2 billion target would be an uphill task given the current global scenario. Political stability, consistency and clarity of policy are a key to woo investors who in the past had abandoned investments due to political dilly dallying and lack of consistency in policy.

The new Government has pledged that key policies will not be changed for the next four to five years.

However, Opposition factions are sceptical about the economic goals of the Government which they say, are unattainable.

Refuting the claims, Cabraal said the Government granted concessions to people in the worst of times during the pandemic and yet continues to support the affected

sections. "We have restored stability and revived the economy which is likely to record a one percent growth this year which is an achievement compared to many major economies which are recording negative growth," the State Minister said, adding that interest rates, tax concessions and many more benefits were passed on to people to support the economy.

The economy contracted by 1.6 percent in the first quarter this year while the figures of the second quarter are expected in the coming weeks.

He said the government has paid all the outstanding dues even during trying times and added that the economy will bounce back soon due to sound and stable policies to attract investments.

Boost for aviation industry

Spark Air to take wing early next year

Sri Lanka's airline and aviation industry will receive a boost with the launch of operations of Spark Air to foreign destinations in February next year, a senior official of Spark Air (Pvt) Ltd told *Sunday Observer Business* on Friday.

He said the airline has applied for the Air Operator Certificate and Airline Licence to run international regular transport operations and charter operations carrying passengers, cargo and mail. **TO PAGE 28**



The traditional mask industry is yet a thriving enterprise that continues to fascinate locals and tourists alike. The colourful and odd shaped masks which make excellent souvenirs are found adorning the walls of houses. Here, a mask maker in Kesbewa puts the final touches to one of his masterpieces. **Pic: Sarath Peiris**

CSE and SEC launch real estate investment trusts

The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) launched Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) which gives average investors an opportunity to reap the benefits of real estate investments and the advantages associated with investing in publicly traded securities on the CSE.

While investing in real estate appears to be a popular choice, the rising cost of property poses a significant challenge to individual investors who typically resort to bank loans to finance such investments.

This timely introduction by the CSE and SEC provides greater access to all investor segments to invest in commercial real estate projects and an opportunity to benefit from the spiraling property prices.

REITs were first introduced in the United States in 1960 creating a mechanism for individual investors, especially middle-income earners, to generate income by investing in



large commercial real estate. This product has made rapid progress within Asian markets as well with its growing popularity especially in Thailand, Malaysia and India and is also viewed as a mechanism to broaden real estate ownership within a country. A REIT is a structure which typically owns and operates income-generating real estate. The income-generating real estate assets owned by a REIT may include office buildings, shopping malls, apartments, hotels, resorts, self-storage facilities and warehouses. **TO PAGE 28**

Micro power grids: Pilot project launched

BY RAJITHA JAGODA ARACHCHI

Marking the end of an era where diesel power generation was critical to survive during sudden energy drops, a novel state, private and international collaboration has succeeded in setting

up the first pilot project to explore the potential of developing micro power grids in Sri Lanka.

The principal collaboration between Lanka Electricity Company (LECO) and the University of Moratuwa to install a smart grid laboratory in

the university has attracted Asian Development Bank, DIMO and DHY-BRID, a German company renowned for similar innovations.

The project was unveiled at the Kingsbury Hotel last week. Minister of Education Prof. G.L. **TO PAGE 28**

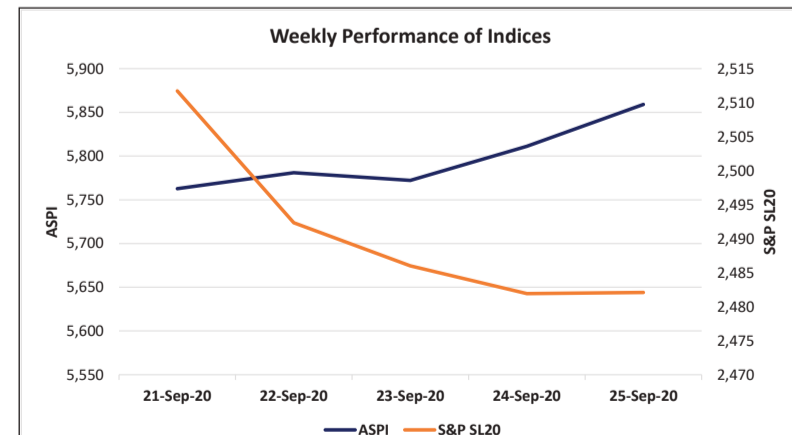
EDB targets over USD 13 b export income this year

The revised export target of the Export Development Board for 2020 is US\$ 13.39 billion and of that we expect US\$ 9.57 billion from merchandise exports and US\$ 3.82 billion from services exports, EDB Chairman Prabhath Subasinghe said. He said the EDB

has presented 11 project proposals for the 2021 Budget while continuing the National Export Strategy to develop a vibrant export industry.

The project proposals for 2021 comprise a program to set up export production villages (EPV),

export oriented supply chain development through organic certification as per the Sri Lanka Organic Standard SLS 1324:2018, facilitation of Ceylon Cinnamon Geographical Indication (CCGI) Registration, implementation and promotion, ... **TO PAGE 28**



Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

	US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
Sep 21 - Sep 25					
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	187.13	219.50	1.7942	239.26	27.913
Friday	187.30	219.85	1.7934	240.15	27.888

Business

Agility vital for business stability



BIZ TALK with
Kishu Gomes

Traditionally, business organisations have been run as machines. You set them up and watch them run; everyone has a pre-determined and rigidly set role and a top-down approach to management and goal setting, with little room for creativity and adaptation. Thankfully, things have changed, and today, businesses are more like living organisms — they evolve by the day.

With the recent developments — epidemics or pandemics, natural disasters and terrorism, agile companies have become a necessity, primarily due to rapidly evolving and shifting business environments, fierce competition, rapidly changing consumer wants and disruptive new technologies.

Business agility simply means a company can speedily respond according to market evolution and environmental changes. This might sound like a simple concept, but it remains an elusive one for business leaders, many of whom have yet to fully implement business agility, despite the many advantages it offers.

Advantages

What are the benefits of agility at work? Is agile on your list of competitive advantages? Can your business react and change its game plan based on either customer feedback or shifts in market, all while keeping that end vision in focus?

A successful business has the ability to assess any given situation and decide how to proceed based on the findings.

Before your business can become agile, first you must be well-acquainted with the principles and characteristics of an agile organisation: leaders are self-aware and motivated, encourages leadership that forward-looking and inspires everyone around them to perform to their potential, dedicated to continuous learning and training, encour-

ages and supports collaboration, communication, and information sharing through use of technology and management processes, focus on long-term goals and objectives.

If you have an old-fashioned approach to management that essentially equates to micromanagement, you will spend all your time directing and controlling.

However, if you encourage your employees to take initiative, have ownership of their goals and careers, and make difficult decisions, you will be rewarded with employees who are engaged and empowered.

Agile organisations respect their employees enough to delegate responsibility and authority. Though agile organisations still have a top-level structure, they adopt a more flexible approach, because agile leaders know this breeds accountability and collaboration.

Empowered teams

To encourage the formation of empowered teams, you need to adapt your approach to goal setting. Instead of having a traditional trickle-down approach, consider aligning your goals upwards.

Employees should be encouraged to speak up and give feedback to improve their surroundings. This will help employees feel they are a valued member of a productive, powerful team, especially when they

Information transparency involves giving employees access to operational and financial information. Such transparency can encourage interdepartmental insights and ideas, regardless of position or seniority, which can help a business grow

see their suggestions put into effect. Whether you are building a new agile organisation or attempting to make your business more agile, it's important to remember that transparency is key.

Information transparency involves giving employees access to operational and financial information. Such transparency can encourage interdepartmental insights and ideas, regardless of position or seniority, which can help a business grow, strengthen and develop.

Creating agile people

Equally important is an organisation's attitude towards training and development.

After all, it has been shown that companies that incorporate the use of innovative learning and development programs retain their staff for longer.

Businesses should encourage the use of personal development plans and continuous learning. This way, you will benefit from well-informed and determined employees who are loyal to your organisation, as they know you have taken the time and effort to invest in their

futures. In an agile organisation, aims and objectives will change regularly.

You will need to keep track of training opportunities and allow for real-time feedback, in addition to scheduling and tracking regular performance discussions.

To support this, agile businesses should make use of modern collaboration and performance management software, leaving them free to focus on critical tasks that ultimately will affect the bottom line of their organisation.

Following the previous benefits, we arrive at the last one — building resilience.

By challenging people to be more agile, which involves taking action, expressing their ideas and standing behind them with responsibility and control, you can improve not only the individual but also the overall organisational resilience.

These are only a few of the many benefits of bringing agility to the workplace.

The biggest strength of the modern organisation is the ability to create a sustainable advantage and only the organisation's agility could create this power.



NLB targets Rs. 23b in revenue this year

The National Lotteries Board (NLB) which markets many lotteries and maintains an effective island-wide network of agents and sellers, has set a revenue target of Rs. 23 billion for this year.

While creating employment opportunities mainly for the underprivileged and for those with special needs, it helps the state to minimise the issue of unemployment.

The NLB has contributed Rs. 1,301,766,412 to the Consolidated Fund up to August in spite of the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and is also the highest contributor to the Fund. It is involved in many CSR activities including making substantial donations to events such as the Kandy Esala Maha Perahera, Kataragama Devalaya annual perahera, Kotte Rajamaha Vihara, Belanvila Rajamaha Vihara and Sabaragamuwa Maha Saman Deva-

It has contributed Rs. 25,000,000 to the Covid-19 fund and cash to three hospitals, Homagama Base Hospital - Rs. 500,000, Tangalle Base Hospital - Rs. 500,000 and Castletown Street Hospital - Rs. 100,000.



Lalith Piyum Perera

The Board distributed Rs. 42 million among 20,000 people involved in the distribution and sale of lottery tickets who were affected due to the pandemic.

During the first eight months of this year, there have been 20 super prize winners, 168 who won Rs. 2m each, 232 - Rs. 1m each.

The Board of Directors of NLB comprises Chairman Lalith Piyum Perera and Directors Kelum Priyankara Liyanage, D.D. Jayasiri, H.C.D.L. Silva (Treasury Representative).

Lottery	Contribution
Mahajana Sampatha	529,630,728
Wasana Sampatha	36,462,492
Govi SETHA	337,064,932
Supiri Vasana	25,770,592
Dana Nidanaya	49,488,900
Darudiri Sampatha	13,849,548
Jathika Sampatha	44,993,780
Neeroa Lagna Jaya	32,580,040
Mega gPower	192,722,060
Sewana - Passive	24,452,540
Sewana - Scratch	3,750,800
Swarna Sampatha - Scratch	1,000,000

ComBank IPG services record remarkable growth momentum

Payment processing services deployed by the Commercial Bank of Ceylon today accounts for approximately two out of every five transactions, a media release from the Bank stated.

This market share of 40% in value terms is a testament to the role the Bank has played in supporting the country's retail industry and promoting online sales for customers.

The Bank supports the online payment processing of over 500 merchants through Mastercard Payment Gateway Services (MPGS) and Visa Cybersource, two of the world's leading payment gateway platforms

which are fully-compliant with Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS) requirements. The third IPG solution of the Bank is 'ComBank SimplePay' which is a simplified, Sri Lankan adaptation of the Mastercard product 'Simplified Commerce.'

MPGS and Visa Cybersource platforms offer tokenisation support, eliminating the need for customers to re-enter their card details when performing repetitive transactions with a specific merchant.

This is made possible as the card details are stored securely by the Bank.

Colombo Port City wins Global Best Project Award

Eighth ENR Annual Awards



The Colombo Port City was presented the title Global Best Project by international engineering and construction.

The Port City was evaluated against a diverse mix of projects from around the world, and takes a prominent place on the list of 30 winning projects featured from 21 countries in six continents.

Other categories that were evaluated included Residential/Hospitality, Road/Highway, Power/Industrial. This is the first time that a Sri Lankan project has been awarded and recognised at the highest level in the field of engineering and construction in recent years.

Global Best Projects identifies and honours the project teams behind outstanding design and construction efforts of the past year, standing apart with the distinct rule that at least one firm involved in the project must be

working outside its home country. Adhering to the condition that construction had to be completed between January 2019 and April 2020, the submission for the award was made by China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd. (CHEC Ltd.) and was awarded to Colombo Port City Development Project Phase 1.

With Engineering News-Record (ENR) being one of the most prominent news networks in the United States of America, judging the contest was a panel of globally renowned judges.

The evaluation categories included safety performance, innovations, challenges and design and construction quality - with a special emphasis on the diversity of global project teams and their collaboration. The judges also considered how the project benefits the local community and or the domestic construction industry.

DFCC Bank finances Watawala Tea's Daintee buyout

DFCC Bank PLC completed the acquisition financing for Watawala Tea Ceylon Limited recently.

Watawala Tea bought confectionery company Daintee Limited, adding several brands to its portfolio.

DFCC Bank Director and CEO Lakshman Silva said, "DFCC Bank is delighted to support and partner Watawala Tea Ceylon Limited in structuring and arranging this unique two-tiered facility which comprises guarantee and term loan facilities. This transaction stands as a further testament to our ability in closing large transactions, and our strong and continued commitment to our stakeholders.

DFCC Bank Senior Vice President and Head of Corporate Banking Shamindra Marcelline said, "This is



Director and CEO, DFCC Bank, Lakshman Silva (fourth from left) presents a memento to Group Managing Director, Sunshine Holdings, Vish Govindasamy to mark the occasion. Looking on are (from left): Aruna Deepthikumara, Group CFO Sunshine Holdings, Shyam Sathasivam, Managing Director - Watawala Tea Ceylon Limited, Shamindra Marcelline, Senior Vice President Corporate Banking, DFCC Bank, Palan Rajanathan, Vice President, Corporate Banking, DFCC Bank, Vindula Dharmasena, Relationship Manager Corporate Banking, DFCC Bank and Sumudu Abeygunasekara, Assistant Vice President Corporate Banking, DFCC Bank.

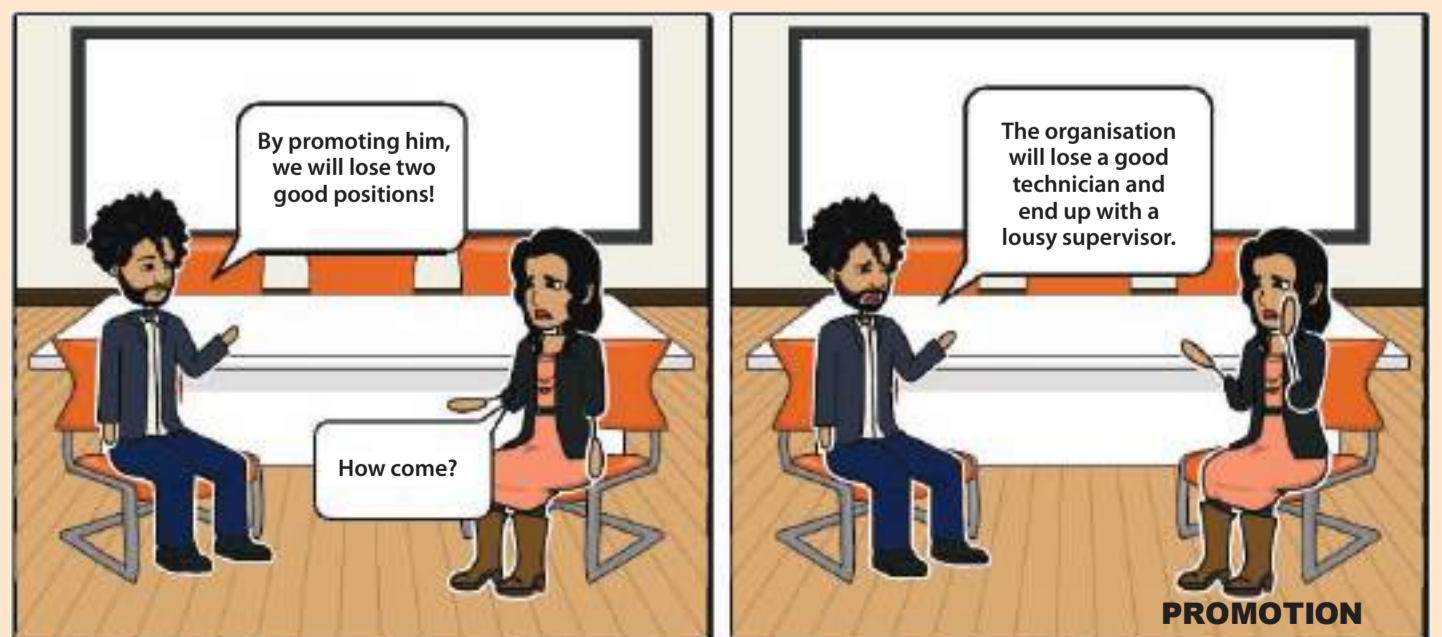
a landmark transaction by the Bank for an important corporate banking client. The transaction marks another significant achievement, espe-

cially given prevailing market conditions which are conducive for strategic mergers and acquisitions. Congratulations to Watawala for leading

the way. This transaction also highlights our capabilities in acquisition financing which is a key corporate banking initiative.

Everyone knows HR

During a promotion not only past performance, but also the potential to perform the future job should be assessed.



By Janaka Kumarasinghe

Competing with competencies: Developing future-proof Sri Lankans



STRATEGIC STRIDES
by
Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

Competencies are required in an increasingly competitive global environment. Sri Lanka occupied 84th place on the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) last year. This shows a dismal picture as Sri Lanka in 2012 was at 52, in 2015 at 68 and in 2016 at 71.

Obviously, many fingers will be pointed at policymakers for their action and inaction. My intention is not to engage in a detailed analysis on the reasons but to reflect on what we can possibly do together as a nation. Today's column focuses on future competencies for Sri Lankans that will ensure confidence in competing in local, regional and global spheres.

Overview

The future belongs to those who create it. In fact, we Sri Lankans are doing it on multiple fronts thanks to some enthusiastic professionals. The adequacy of political patronage for such initiatives is questionable.

As it is often said, we are increasingly moving towards a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world, particularly after the Covid-19 pandemic. We see many political rumblings with multiple signals, retarding growth focus. Our neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh are much focused in their development plans and steadfast in their growth momentum.

Will they beat us on the economic front by maintaining a higher growth rate to become a vibrant economy in South Asia, the way they beat us in cricket? Loads of food for thought. It was amazingly consistent at the deliberations in three international conferences last year, in Pune and Ahmedabad

in India and Nadi in Fiji, which I participated in, with regards to comprehending competency needs.

Competencies are the measurable or observable knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviour critical to successful job performance. Choosing the right set of competencies is core for consistent performance expected by an employee. What was echoed as future competencies can be easily labeled as ABCDE.

Let's see what they are:

A: Analytical thinking

Irrespective of whether our background is science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) or not, the future demands us to be analytical. With the massive inflow of information, selecting, prioritising, focusing and deciding are key for speedy action. If we do not become smart in this terrain, what possibly could happen will be "analysis paralysis".

It further invites us to work systematically and logically to resolve problems, identify causation and anticipate unexpected results. It also involves managing issues by drawing on own experience and knowledge and calls on other resources as necessary.

Undertaking complex tasks and breaking them down into manageable parts in a systematic way, thinking multiple possible causes and anticipating consequences of situations, thinking of possible alternatives for a situation, recognising and reconciling data discrepancies, identifying information needed to effectively solve problems, weighing the pros and cons of options and alternatives and systematically changes variables to determine effects on the whole are other associated activities.

At a time when there is a conscious effort to shift GCE (AL) students from the arts stream to STEM areas, the emphasis on analytical skills is very relevant. Sharpness of reasoning than getting overly emotional in decision-making is what is acutely required at many social fronts.

B: Business savviness

Having a holistic understanding about the world of business is essential for any manager to perform and progress. The future demands us to move beyond our functional silos in becoming broader in our perspectives encompassing wider perspectives. Narrow speciality should pave the way for multi-skilling, perhaps retaining some speciality.

If I take an HR executive as an example, does he or she know the busi-



ness realities such as market conditions, competitor activities, opportunities and threats out there and the key people needed accordingly?

I still recall, when I interviewed CEOs of South Asian countries, as a part of my doctoral research, a significant majority of them said, "My HR person knows HR, but he or she does not know business." Partnering with the core business processes in getting connected to business related decision making is key for a collective contribution towards corporate success.

As a nation are we there? is the big question. In the public and private sectors alike, what we sadly see missing is the much needed "holistic thinking". How people pursue their personal agendas with a narrow ulterior perspective with gross ignorance or glaring inconsistency is very pathetic to observe.

C: Creative mindset

Creative thinking is a mental activity, which produces new ideas or new insights. It does this by de-patterning or re-patterning thoughts. In fact, our mind is the sum total of our memories, images, desires, expectations, beliefs, feelings and other such mental processes. Thinking is, therefore, a sequence of images and events, which constitutes our mind.

Creativity involves breaking patterns and thinking out of the box. A mind pattern based on traditional, or stale perceptions should give rise to a fresh new wave of creative thinking. The result is the generation of new ideas. Warren Bennis described crea-

tivity as a dimension of a "new paradigm" for managers.

Despite the proliferation of automation, robotics and other vistas with Artificial Intelligence (AI), human creativity will be much in demand in the continuing era of imagination. Whether we make a conscious effort to foster creativity among the school children, leading to imagination and innovation is a question mark.

D: Digital diligence

Technology has always been an enhancer of our work. From adding machines to the advanced computer this was the case. Such extensive applications are broadly categorised as digital transformations. When integration of digital devices to our daily lives happens at an increasingly rapid pace, it is the survival of the fittest in being digitally diligent. In simple terms, it is about the smartness one demonstrates in embracing the change with regards to changing technology.

It was Joseph Schumpeter, the Austrian-American economist who first spoke of a "gale of creative destruction" to sustain economic growth. We can see a parallel to that in the now popular use of the term "disruption".

Prof. Clayton Christensen of Harvard Business School, widely regarded as the concept initiator of disruption, said that a disruption displaces an existing market, industry, or technology and produces something new and more efficient and worthwhile. Whilst being disruptive on one hand, it is creative on the other hand. "We are witnessing profound shifts

across all industries, marked by the emergence of new business models, the disruption of incumbents and the reshaping of production, consumption, transportation and delivery systems," says Klaus Schwab, in his most recent book, "Fourth Industrial Revolution".

Are we reaping the benefits of our digital initiatives? Perhaps to some extent. Creation of information and Communication Agency (ICTA) and recent revitalisation of it appear as constructive steps. Being ahead in South Asia with 4.5 G mobile communication technology is another sign to say that we have positive trends to encourage the society to be more digitally diligent.

E: Emotional maturity

To harmonise the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) we need to foster Emotional Intelligence (EI). What is needed is AI-EI synergy in being high tech and high touch.

As Daniel Goleman advocates, EI is a capacity for recognising our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in ourselves and in our relationships.

Despite many subsequent presentations and interpretations, I still prefer the five key components of EI advocated by Goleman. They are self-awareness, self-regulation, self-motivation, empathy and effective relationships.

If I am to single out, empathy is the key. To ensure lasting relationships and sustainable partnerships, one

needs to demonstrate empathy. We need to make a conscious effort to move from taking one-sided emotionally-laden erratic decisions to a more mature platform. Sri Lankans have a long way to go in this respect.

ABCDE competencies vs. connections

I see a Human Resource issue at the macro level baffling national leaders. How to pick the right person for the right position, especially with regards to the key ones from a national perspective.

We have seen bouquets and brickbats by a section of the public through social media about certain recent appointments.

It is pertinent to mention what David Ogilvy, the advertising tycoon, had to say with respect to hiring: "If each of us hires people who are smaller than we are, we shall become a company of dwarfs, but if each of us hires people who are bigger than we are, we will become a company of giants." The hiring process has to be professionally designed and executed to hire people with potential.

Challenges

Leaders should be performers in practising what they preach. They inspire, influence and initiate in such a manner to ignite result-oriented action. In contrast, laggards are passengers. They hamper the progress by being lazy and lethargic. Indecisiveness resulting in inaction is often common in their approach.

Do we see more leaders or laggards? The answer lies in the results they achieve. It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. Living with leaders and laggards leaves us a less number of choices for achievement. Leaders have to be far more effective to overcome the ineffectiveness of laggards.

Way forward

"You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today" so said Abraham Lincoln. We need to embrace competencies needed for the future in the present itself. We need to train not only the current managers but also the emerging leaders in becoming future-proof. ABCDE is one clear way of awakening to the required competencies and to take key strategic initiatives accordingly.

It reminds me what I learnt from my alma mater: "Disce aut Discede" in Latin meaning "Learn or Depart". I think we need to interpret it in the contemporary private and public domain as "Perform or Depart". Time is ripe for us to relentlessly strive to reap a rich harvest.

Certification for cinnamon bark exports to Brazil finalised

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brasilia has finalised the certification process for the export of the Sri Lanka Cinnamon to Brazil in bark form with Brazilian authorities recently.

Sri Lankan exporters, who faced difficulties in exporting cinnamon in bark form to Brazil, can export the product by furnishing the phytosanitary certificate issued by the National Plant Quarantine Service office in Sri Lanka.

As per Brazilian Customs classification and the plant health requirements, Sri Lanka Cinnamon in bark form is listed under wood and its products category due to the nature of the product.

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brasilia, has been actively engaging

with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply in Brazil, known as MAPA and the Export Development Board and National Plant Quarantine Service office in Sri Lanka, over a year, to finalise the Certification Process for Sri Lankan Cinnamon.

Cinnamon has a promising market in Brazil since the product is popular in Brazilian cuisine, beverages and confectioneries. Cinnamon imports to Brazil grew from 18% during 2017-2018 but slightly decreased in 2019 as compared to 2018.

The total Cinnamon imported by Brazil in 2019 from the world is over 2,300 tons valued at 7.74 mn USD. Of Brazil's total cinnamon imports, Sri Lanka represented a very small

amount in 2015 and thereafter, no recorded export of cinnamon has taken place directly to the country in recent years. Being the key exporter of cinnamon, Indonesia supplies nearly 75% of Brazil's need.

Sri Lanka Cinnamon exporters can claim 5% duty preference, under the GSTP Agreement from Brazil and therefore, companies interested in exporting cinnamon, should consult the Department of Commerce to receive a GSTP certificate.

Prospective exporters also need to consult the National Plant Quarantine Service office in Sri Lanka to obtain certification documents. The Embassy aims at promoting and diversifying Sri Lankan exports to the Brazilian and Latin American market.

SEC and CSE sign MoU with DRP

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Commissioner General, Department for Registration of Persons (DRP).

The MoU enables the CSE and the Central Depository System (CDS) to obtain digital verification of the National Identity Card (NIC) details available with the DRP when a person wishes to open a CDS account via the CSE digital App, based on the consent obtained from the ID card holder. The feature of obtaining consent is also built into the App.

This was part of the initiative to digitalise the end-to-end operations of the Sri Lankan stock market, which was launched on September 17. The system to digitally verify the



After signing the MoU. From left: Rajeeva Bandaranaike, Chief Executive Officer CSE, Dilshan Wirasekara, Board Director CSE, Jayantha Fernando, Board Director CSE, Dumith Fernando, Chairman CSE, Viyani Gunathilaka, Commissioner General DRP, Viraj Dayaratne PC, Chairman SEC, Chinthaka Mendis, Director General, SEC and Naresh Abeysekera, Commission Member SEC.

particulars of an ID card holder is supported by the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA).

This is the first time this verification process with the Department

for Registration of Persons (DRP) has been made available based on the provisions of the Registration of Persons Act read with the Regulations made under the Electronic Transactions Act No. 19 of 2006.

BOC supports 'Ratapurama QR' initiative

The initiative of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to empower the Sri Lankan community with the knowledge of Lanka QR was launched in Matale recently.

The Bank of Ceylon (BOC) and other Lanka QR certified financial institutions rendered support to build awareness on QR Payments with merchants and users in Matale town. Assistant General Manager, Central Province, Manoshika Herath and her team made it a productive and colourful event.

It enlightened the public of the power of Lanka QR. It was a novelty experience for some. The Bank of Ceylon is geared to see the entire endeavour through till the end.



BOC, Assistant General Manager Aruna Kumara receives the certification from the Governor of the Central Bank, Prof. W.D. Laxman.

SLASSCOM teams up with NCCSL

The Sri Lanka Association of Software Service Companies (SLASSCOM) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) to facilitate an online platform known as 'from-srilanka.com', among SLASSCOM member companies.

SLASSCOM members will have the opportunity to feature their products and services on this platform which operates as an online B2B marketplace for Sri Lankan companies to promote their products and services to global buyers.

Fromsrilanka.com is Sri Lanka's one stop online destination to source all Sri Lankan made products and

services, owned and managed by The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka.

It has been designed and developed with the aim of supporting Sri Lankan companies across all industries to promote their products and services into the global market.

"Most global companies do their sourcing digitally nowadays, so through this platform those opportunities would easily reach us," said President, NCCSL, Asela de Livera.

SLASSCOM, Chairman, Channa Manoharan said, "The strategy "Drifting the curve" is for building momentum to come out of the "corner" stronger in challenging situations."



After signing the MoU. (From left): Hashantha Abewickrema, Business Development Manager FromSriLanka.com, Chamika Godamanna, Sub-Committee Chairman NCCSL, Asela de Livera, President NCCS, Channa Manoharan, Chairman SLASSCOM, Chaminda de Silva, Executive Director SLASSCOM, Nishan Mendis, Director SLASSCOM and Shiraz Iye, Director, SLASSCOM.

Business

US will continue to empower mid-sized Lankan businesses – US Ambassador

By
Lalin
Fernandopulle



The United States will constantly seek new opportunities for US businesses to partner and support small and medium sized enterprises and empower women entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka's journey towards achieving economic prosperity, US Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Alaina B. Teplitz told guests at the launch of Sri Lanka@100, a private sector-led initiative focused on the growth of mid-market enterprises last week.

She said the US believes in inclusive economic growth which is key to achieve shared prosperity.

"Through the US Government's international development agency, USAID, the US government has set up dynamic and mutually beneficial

partnerships with Sri Lanka which will help Sri Lankan businesses," Teplitz said.

She said that US companies have invested over \$300 million in Sri Lanka over the past several decades, and expressed hope that this platform would generate more opportunities for mutually beneficial trade and investment between the two countries.

"The Sri Lanka@100 initiative will strengthen mid-sized business enterprises in Sri Lanka.

"The initiative demonstrates the US's commitment to economic development targeting that space.

"Such initiatives will power Sri Lanka going forward and will be key to building the economy which has much potential," the Ambassador said, adding that the move will help increase productivity, access to finance and strengthen the capacity of Sri Lankan institutions.

She said as an Ambassador, strengthening private sector capaci-

ty is a top priority to create economic opportunities.

"You, the entrepreneurs, the business and government leaders expanding the impact and profitability of medium-sized businesses – are the engines that will power Sri Lanka's prosperity, and the United States is investing in your drive and potential," said Ambassador Teplitz.

She said the USD 26 million funding initiative of the USA provides technical assistance for over 60 mid-sized businesses, increases household income and develops the skills of entrepreneurs," the ambassador said.

The Sri Lanka@100 initiative is funded by USAID and administered by Stax.

U.S. assistance to Sri Lanka has totaled over \$2 billion since Sri Lanka's Independence in 1948.

The United States has made substantial investments in agriculture, enterprise development, education, healthcare, energy and natural



Alaina B. Teplitz

resources, and humanitarian activities. The purpose of the initiative is to enable Sri Lanka to become a high-income country within 100 years of Independence (by 2048) — with equitable and inclusive growth fueled by the value creation of mid-market firms. The Platform will, in particular, support businesses in underserved segments. Stax Manag-

ing Director and Co-Founder of SL@100, Dr. Kumudu Gunasekara said, "While we may have been born in a developing country, we don't have to continue to live in one.

We are incredibly resilient as a people, as a nation.

Our SME owners and entrepreneurs have weathered many storms to stay afloat.

"This Platform is about helping them to now really power full steam ahead with ambitious growth plans, and about taking Sri Lanka's development to the next level," he said.

State Minister for Regional Cooperation, Tharaka Balasuriya, too expressed similar sentiments on the importance of supporting medium-scale businesses that have the power to recharge Sri Lanka's economy.

"Programs such as Sri Lanka@100 help businesses fulfill their potential in an increasingly competitive environment, and will play a large part in the economy's post-Covid recovery," he said. Mid-sized

firms in Sri Lanka face many challenges when preparing for the next stage of growth — such as dependency on a small domestic market for revenue, limited access to quality business development services, and lack of access to varied forms of capital.

The SL@100 Platform is designed to help mid-market companies address such issues by providing high-calibre advisory services in areas such as strategy, marketing, accounting and finance, legal, and technology and data services.

The SL@100 Platform is building an ecosystem of trusted vendors and partners who can provide such services and also bring innovative ideas to the table to help mid-market firms grow.

The ecosystem will include general business interest organisations such as industry bodies, banks, chambers, state-affiliated organisations, and training and professional skill building institutions.

UTN Trading Company, agent for Tulips

UTN Trading Company (Pvt) Limited was appointed as exclusive agent for Tulips, a personal hygiene care brand, for Sri Lanka and the Maldives recently.

Managing Director, UTN Trading, Udaya Nissana said, "We are extremely proud to have been appointed as sole agent for the renowned Tulips brand in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

As a pioneer in the field, Tulips ensures all products are manufactured with strict adherence to international safety standards. While this appointment is testament to our

team's capabilities, UTN Trading is also delighted to continue its legacy of bringing world-class products for our consumers." In operation for over two decades, Tulips, based in India, is among the largest and most qualitative manufacturers and exporters of personal hygiene products such as cotton buds and pads, special swabs, cotton balls and wet wipes in South Asia.

The company's products are manufactured at its state-of-the-art facilities ensuring the highest level of quality standards and product consistency, a company spokesman said.



The exchange of the agreement.

Heineken Lanka recruits graduates for third consecutive year

Heineken's 'Asia Pacific Graduate Program' is the beverage company's innovative talent program that engages and inspires potential recruits across the Asia Pacific region.

Launched in 2017, this initiative demonstrates the diversified opportunities available to candidates regionally across the business.

The two-year training platform consists of four assignments, each of which are six months in duration.

This year, the Asia Pacific Graduate Program garnered over 10,000 applications regionally with approximately 800 applications from Sri Lanka. Graduates from the top 300 universities in the world as per latest university rankings are eligible to apply.

After a series of interviews and assessments including a regional assessment in Singapore, two candidates from Sri Lanka were selected for the 2020 cohort. Managing Director of

Heineken Lanka Limited, Dusty Alahakoon said, "This program is one of our many initiatives to infuse Sri Lankan talent into the regional talent pool.

We are committed to providing global standard training and development opportunities for our employees, equipping them with the necessary skill set and multi-level exposure to broaden capabilities necessary in an ever-evolving business context.

We are confident that this will create a new breed of professionals for Sri Lanka, ready to take on strategic positions to face the international arena and propel growth for the country." Over the past three years, Heineken Lanka has recruited 10 graduates through this program. Upon successful completion, the Asia Pacific Graduates take on managerial roles within Heineken and are groomed for management positions.

Micro power... Continued from page 25

Pieris, Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma, Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Prof. Kapila Perera, Secretary to the Ministry of Power, Mrs. Wasantha Perera, Acting General Manager of LECO, Dr. Narendra de Silva, Chairman Director for ADB, Dr. Chen Chen, Chairman and Managing Director of DIMO, Ranjith Pandithage were also present.

The pilot project comprises a commercial micro grid and R&D facility which will be used as a research platform to study renewable energy integration and smart grids.

Prof. Kapila Perera outlined the human capital development aspect of the project.

"We first had a small scale project

in the University of Moratuwa in 2017. With this collaboration the University will have a state-of-the-art laboratory to conduct research on smart grids. Nurturing human capital is also a major part of this project," he said.

Stressing the importance of innovations, Prof. G.L. Peiris told the gathering that during the Covid outbreak three vital sectors, tourism, foreign remittance and exports dipped and only the innovative mindset of Sri Lankan entrepreneurs bounced the economy back amid innumerable challenges. "That is why innovation is important," he said.

He also encouraged the collaboration between the University of Moratuwa, LECO, ADB, DIMO and DHY-

BRID, particularly as a model to be followed in future innovations.

"We wish to increase local production and reliable power generation is a must to increase production. I consider this pilot project as very vital," the Professor said.

The ADB has granted USD 1.8 million to set up the project.

"Energy has always been a priority in ADB's development support to members. While assisting to upgrade the energy sector in Asian countries, we focus on increasing the use of clean energy to combat climate change.

So far we have granted over USD 10 million to member countries to fulfill similar objectives," Dr. Chen

Chen said. The ADB has been a long time partner in Sri Lanka's energy sector projects which includes assistance to build the country's first large scale 100MW wind park in Mannar.

Secretary to the Ministry of Power, Mrs Wasantha Perera said, "After installing micro grids across the country, Sri Lanka will inherit a more resilient and sustainable power supply.

"I am happy to see the Ministry of Education joining hands with us today. It reflects the sharing of ultra-modern knowledge to the next generation," he said.

The Government hopes to increase the share of renewable energy to the national power supply by 70 percent by 2030.

CSE and SEC... Continued from page 25

A REIT would enable unit holders to earn a portion of the income that is generated through renting, leasing or selling these properties which needs to be distributed directly to the unit holders of the REIT.

The CSE and SEC have introduced a framework which mandates the distribution of 90% of the generated income to investors.

This innovative introduction, which has been formulated specifically taking into consideration the local environment, would open new horizons for real estate developers and owners to convert completed income generating projects into a REIT, have its units listed on the CSE

following the mechanism now made available to them and have them publicly traded in the secondary market, similar to equity securities listed on the CSE.

The framework for REITs has been introduced by the SEC via rules made by the SEC in terms of Section 53 and 13 of the SEC Act which came into effect on July 31, in the form of a Gazette notification.

The comprehensive set of SEC rules will govern the overall mechanism of REITs in Sri Lanka. The CSE has also formulated Listing Rules for the listing of units of REITs. A REIT would enable investors to further diversify their portfolios by investing

in this lucrative investment vehicle which would produce long-term returns. Investors would benefit from a stable stream of income, swift entry and exit route through the secondary market and also benefit from the returns of overall real estate asset appreciation.

The economy at large would also benefit from the introduction of REITs with the anticipated creation of jobs, economic growth, increased tax revenue, liquidity through listing and would also attract foreign direct investments into the country. REITs would also need stronger corporate governance and increased transparency which would help the investor

community and regulatory bodies to assess the viability and quality of projects.

Similar to any stock market investment, the investor needs to take into account his or her own financial status and also consult an investment advisor before making an investment decision.

A review can also be carried out on the REIT's disclosure filings, including the annual and quarterly reports, before investing in REITs.

The CSE and SEC will continue to focus on setting up a more conducive environment along with the regulatory authorities to facilitate greater company and investor participation.

Spark Air... Continued from page 25

"Initially we will stick to air cargo transportation and then move on to passenger transportation due to the current global situation to destinations USA, Europe Africa, Middle East and Far East with two A330 airbuses," Head of Safety Management Systems, Capt. Uditha Danwatte said.

The airline plans to go for a dry lease agreement with airbus owners shortly.

"We have local and foreign investments for the operation which will boost the aviation and tourism industries," Capt. Danwatte said.

The venture will provide employment opportunities for local pilots and ground handling staff and help generate foreign exchange to the country.

The limited number of airlines in the country has left many in the local aviation industry unemployed.

Around 400 pilots are without employment. The national carrier currently has a fleet of around 24 aircraft which includes 12A330

long haul and 12 A320/A321 medium haul airbuses.

"We will build hangars and launch a maintenance , repairs and overhaul (MRO) project at the Mattala International Airport," Capt. Danwatte said.

He said the new Government has extended its fullest support on the venture and that Civil Aviation Director General Capt.

Themiyi Abeywickrama has been a source of encouragement from the outset. Capt.

Danwatte, a renowned pilot who rendered a yeoman service to the Sri Lanka Air Force over two decades in the height of the battle against terrorism and thereafter, to many leading international airlines brought pride to Sri Lanka when he flew an AirAsia bus from Kuala Lumpur to Colombo with his son, a pilot himself, a year ago notching a feat in the global aviation industry.

"The aviation industry here has a long way to go for which we need to take the first step," Capt. Danwatte said.

EDB targets over... Continued from page 25

...development of a sustainable supply base to enhance export earnings of value added rubber products, development and promotion of ICT/BPM sector, developing holistic branding strategy, development and promotion of the electronics and electrical sector, proposal for National Export Brand Development Program to build Sri Lankan brands in overseas markets, intensive farming of Vanna-mei shrimps in the Puttalam district, under an interest-free one-year loan scheme, (a joint project with NAQDA), organising a training program for young graduates as Export Development Officers and organise two international trade fairs per year in Sri Lanka.

He said seafood and aquaculture sector, coconut based products, electronics and electrical components, ICT/BPM sector and rubber products will be developed as thrust industries.

Exports touched the USD one billion mark for the third consecutive month since June recording close to USD 1 billion in August.

However, this was a dip of 19.2% to US\$ 947.7 million compared to US\$ 1,033.3 million recorded the corresponding month last year.

Despite the decline in exports coconut-based products, electrical and electronic components, spices and essential oils and food and beverages recorded a positive growth of 22.88%, 8.32%, 19.4% and 11.45% in August compared to the corresponding period last year.

The EDB, following the outbreak of the pandemic, presented proposals to the Government to help exporters manage their cash flow issue and be competitive in the post Covid-19 global market.

However, the progress of certain sector under the National Export Strategy was not satisfactory according to data.

Experts of the export industry said there should be greater focus on the IT-BPM sector given the unexpected boost of digitisation as a result of the global pandemic to exploit the changing work ecosystems.

DPL continues environmental conservation effort

Dipped Products PLC (DPL) donated gloves for the national beach cleaning program conducted by the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), in partnership with the Lions Club of Sri Lanka.

This contribution was in aid of the 'National Marine Resources Conservation Week 2020' declared by the Government with a focus on conserving the national marine resources all around the island.

The event was held at the Central Environmental Authority recently

with Minister of Environment, Mahinda Amaraweera as the chief guest. It was coordinated and facilitated by the Lions Multiple District 306 Sri Lanka as part of their 'Go Green with Lions' initiative. The program will raise awareness on marine pollution and the conservation of marine resources in the country.

"The majority of marine pollution originates from waste which is discharged irresponsibly into waterways or coasts," DPL Deputy Managing Director, Pushpika Janadheera said.



DPL Deputy Managing Director, Pushpika Janadheera presents a box of gloves to Minister of Environment, Mahinda Amaraweera at the Central Environmental Authority.

Singer and SLIM to boost sales team stature

Singer (Sri Lanka) has collaborated with Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM), the apex body for marketers, to launch an Advanced Certificate in Retail Services Marketing to equip the Singer salesforce with the best practices and industry knowledge in marketing.

This collaboration would contribute to Singer's aim of elevating customer experience to the next level backed by a well-trained staff.

"Singer is one of the largest conglomerates with an islandwide presence and a strong sales network. The company is renowned for its best in class customer service that has propelled it to greater heights. This initiative will further assist

in our endeavours to streamline the best practices in customer service and further reinforce our brand presence in Sri Lanka," said Chief Executive Officer at Singer (Sri Lanka), Mahesh Wijewardene.

Director, Human Resources and Business Integration at Singer (Sri Lanka), Roshan Kulasuriya said, "Singer accommodates over 3,000 sales staff who are keen on taking up leadership roles in our organisation.

"It is of utmost importance to mould them to be sales professionals and provide them a validation with an Advanced Diploma offered through SLIM - a key investment that we are banking on," he said.

KPI scorecard helps boost sales team performance

● Keeps business strategy on track

by
Hemantha
Kulatunga



The Key Performance Indicator or KPI is a measurable value that demonstrates the effectiveness of the achievement of organisational business objectives.

Companies use KPIs to evaluate the success of attaining business targets. Occasionally said to be an over-used term, KPIs can play one of the most important roles in the growth of a business entity. While KPIs act as a guidepost in business, the measurements can be an actionable scorecard that keeps business strategy on track. Every company should have this important set of guidelines to reach the desired targets.

One of the most important aspects of KPIs is that it is a form of communication and conforms to the same rules and practices as any other form of exchange. Through KPIs, precise and relevant information is absorbed and acted upon. In developing a strategy to formulate KPIs, the company must understand the basic objectives to plan how to achieve and who will act upon the information. The formulating team should know which processes are required to be measured with the KPI dashboard.

Key performance indicators in sales are created to achieve the outcome, efficiency and effectiveness of the exact selling activity against a predetermined target. The KPIs in sales are decided on the specific needs of an organisation, considering various factors.

Therefore, the measurements are

subjective and vary from business to business. KPIs for sales must be aligned with the results the company aims to achieve. Focus on the wrong measurements will deceive and misguide the sales team.

Let us analyse the possible advantages of setting up performance indicators. Salespeople are given targets to be achieved in a specific period and they know that their achievement can be visible after that period. It is a simple process.

The main advantage of the pre-defined indicators is that it assists the sales team in a more organised manner.

Instead of simply groping in the dark for sales, assessment of structured information on sales targets and achievements can be a tremendous support for the sales team, in addition to the motivation the indicators provide to them.

Equal treatment

KPIs also provide equal treatment to everybody in the organisation. The information derived by the program is directly communicated to the top management without the influence of others where they can evaluate each employee individually. Properly defined objectives that are divided and broken down to time-bound short and long term sales revenue targets help organisations to perform above average. The objective of a sales team is to improve the revenue of the company, defeat competition, and increase market visibility to the maximum. To reach these objectives, the senior management must understand the data, guidelines, and metrics set up through KPIs. With the tracking and monitoring of the KPIs, the sales team can be empowered more and encourage



them to do better. Therefore, let us run through some of the main performance indicators used by the sales teams to find better prospects, close more deals, and boost up revenue. Conversational intelligence is an important factor to consider in sales KPIs. The strategists must look beyond the mere numbers when considering a possible customer.

An emotional link and a bond are required today to convert decision-makers who are well aware of the market conditions with the availability of technology.

Engaging prospects by sharing related personal opinions can build up trust in the said prospective customer. Acting as a trusted advisor can be a valuable asset to a salesperson in the eyes of a buyer. Tracking the effectiveness of the conversation the salesperson persists with a customer must be included as a KPI to evaluate the quality of such communications where action steps can be identified.

The average amount of time taken from the initial contact with the

customer until the closure of the sale (known as sales cycle length) is another important measurement a company must constantly monitor.

Depending on the type of product or service on offer, this information can immensely help to develop the productivity of the sales team.

Usually, good salespeople do not rush prospects for the buying decision although the cycle should be reasonably timed. Measuring and keeping a close track of the length of the sales cycle can immensely help the sales forecasting, based on the available leads in the pipeline.

Work in harmony

The sales conversion rate metrics measure the effectiveness of a sales team. The information is vitally important as the knowledge of the percentage of the number of conversions gives an insight into aimed success. The sole intention of a marketing organisation is to convert the maximum possible number of prospects into buyers.

To convert prospects to customers, the entire organisation, specifically sales and marketing should work in harmony. Therefore, implementing a sales conversion rate as a KPI is an effective way to integrate all relevant divisions of the company to increase sales.

Monitoring customer retention rates or tracking the number of recurring customers is another vital area key performance indicators should be compulsorily introduced.

Measuring the retention rate in a specified period of time is enormously helpful to a sales team to ascertain that they are on the correct path in the sales strategy of the organisation. Information on the number of customers at the start of such a specified period, the number of customers at the end of the period, and the number of new customers during the period are identified and compiled through this process.

The Customer Lifetime Value, known as CLV is an analysed prediction of the total revenue projected

from a customer throughout the relationship. The CLV inspires the salesperson to establish and develop mutual customer relationships that can help an organisation in many ways.

Information flow

CLV is useful for sales managers to understand the types of buyer characteristics better. These metrics represent the upper limit of expenditure to gain new customers.

Hence, customer retention must be included in KPIs. Building a powerful sales funnel is one of the most important purposes of a commercial organisation. It is an absolute necessity to know the activities of the company's sales team and monitor how many leads they bring in.

Sales performance indicators not only inform the management of how active the sales team is but it also can point to possible problems early. Good information flow is critical for an organisation.

The key performance indicators measure against a benchmark to provide actionable information that leads to an organisation to advance more effectively. KPIs breakdown complex data into understandable metrics, making the entire organisation aligned toward a common goal. As KPIs are invariably linked to incentives, teams and individuals are tremendously encouraged to achieve goals. These incentives are offered to improve KPIs to the specified level and the time. The information provided by KPIs empowers employees to increase their performances.

Therefore, setting up Key performance indicators should be a compulsory requirement of any organisation, irrespective of whether the company is small, medium, or large.

New EFC Chairman calls for era of sustainability and resilience for employers

Group Managing Director of Sunshine Holdings, Vish Govindasamy has been appointed as the Chairman of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC) for 2020-21.

He takes reins of the national organisation of employers by succeeding Group Chief Executive Officer of Overseas Realty, Pravir Samarasinghe.

Govindasamy said that he wishes to work closely with the membership, the Director-General and new council members of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon to usher in a new era of sustainability and resilience for employers of the country in a post-Covid economic and social landscape.

"I am assuming the chairmanship at a time when the country is faced with much hardship owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, but I look

forward to steering this ship safely to its shore. I would like to see this opportunity more optimistically. It is the beginning of a new era where all of us must think and act differently, and the world of work is not an exception. In this regard, I would like to work with all of you to usher a new era of sustainability and resilience for employers," he said.

"The development of new standards relating to working from home and distant locations, while ensuring work-life balance for employees as well as a modular approach for restructuring still stand to benefit all employers across the country. Partnerships with experts in other areas linked to employment such as finance and health have enabled us to provide services to a vibrant membership who have favoured a one-stop service approach.



Vish Govindasamy

"We are exploring the possibility of providing services in the areas of taxation, business registration and potential value-added startups. Our efforts not only ensured the sustainability of businesses but also the livelihoods of many valued employees," Govindasamy said.

Ebony Holdings receives 'Ganna Ape De' accreditation

Ebony Holdings (Pvt) Ltd and its premium menswear fashion labels Vantage, Ebony and Luxure were recently awarded the 'Ganna Ape De' accreditation and use of the Suriya Sinha logo in their products, recognising that they are a 100% Sri Lankan brand.

This trademark conveys the message that the company's production and consumption will contribute towards building the national economy.

The accreditation ceremony was held at Golden Crown Hotel, Kandy recently. Dr. Sumith Wanniarachi, Board Director representing the Mawbima Lanka Foundation presented the certification to Ebony Holding's Chairman Rasmi Raheem and Managing Director Raseen Raheem.



The presentation of the certification

Awarded to companies or products after in depth evaluation, the accreditation is based on the contribution made towards the vision of creating a sustainable national economy.

Hoping to encourage producers or manufacturers to use the resources available in the country, Mawbima Lanka Foundation aims to promote a

consumption culture that prioritizes locally made products against imported substitutes.

The vulnerability of the national and global supply chain has been made evident over the last few months, and as a country, it is important that consumers and stakeholders do what they can to improve the national economy.

vivo to launch Y20 with triple camera

vivo, a global smartphone brand, will launch its latest mid-range smartphone, Y20, to the Sri Lanka market soon.

It will be powered by a 5000 mAh battery, Y20 comes with an AI Triple rear camera setup (13MP+2MP+2MP) and multiple camera features including macro and bokeh camera and selfie features.

The key highlight of vivo Y20 is its long-lasting battery life complemented by AI power-saving technology, which also supports reverse charging. Y20 also features Side-Mounted Fingerprint Scanner.

"We are strengthening our Y series family with the latest addition of Y20 packed with loads of features in the camera, big battery, eye-popping colors and ultra-game mode for a complete smartphone experience for users in the mid-range price segment. As an evolving youth-centric brand, we are continuously innovating to deliver stylish smartphones infused with trendsetting technologies at the most competitive price points. Keeping in mind user's day-to-day lives, Y20 has been designed to be user-friendly, supporting various multimedia activities with eye protection screen and gaming



functions with large size battery and strong processor," said CEO, vivo Mobile Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., Kevin Jiang. vivo's youth-oriented Y series is known for its innovative technologies and elegant design that support day-to-day lives of the tech-savvy young audience. The smartphone has a 6.51-inch Halo Display with Eye Protection coupled with an advanced screen for protecting the users' eyes. The Y20 houses a Qualcomm Snapdragon processor with 3 RAM + 64 GB storage space (expandable to 256GB) via microSD card for increased speed and performance.

Mastercard to support CBSL's 'Cash Wade' campaign

Mastercard will support the Central Bank of Sri Lanka's (CBSL) 'Cash Wade' campaign which aims to increase the adoption of digital transactions in Sri Lanka.

The global technology company is set to embark on several initiatives aimed at encouraging consumers and businesses around Sri Lanka to enjoy the convenience and security offered by its digital payments solutions.

As part of this endeavour, Mastercard has launched a cashback rewards promotion on utility bill payments. Cardholders can avail a cashback of Rs. 250 on payments of Rs. 1,000 and above to utility service providers such as the Ceylon Electricity Board and Sri Lanka Telecom and

other select partners. The offer is applicable to all payments made on the partner merchant's website or mobile app using any Mastercard debit or credit card issued in Sri Lanka.

Director, Payments and Settlements, Central Bank, D. Kumaratunge said, "Having declared 2020 as the 'Year of Digital Transactions,' we launched the 'Cash Wade' campaign earlier this year to highlight the issues related to using cash and the benefits of switching over to digital payments. We welcome Mastercard to this campaign. Partnerships such as this will allow us to take our message to more Sri Lankans."

Country Manager, Sri Lanka and



D. Kumaratunge

the Maldives, Mastercard, Rajesh Mani said, "Mastercard is delighted to expand our partnership with the Central Bank and to bring the company's



Rajesh Mani

deep resources and expertise to support the 'Cash Wade' campaign to drive adoption of digital payments nationwide."

Pradeep Edward elected Chairman TMC, Colombo

Dr. Pradeep Edward, a marketer and corporate leader was elected president of The Management Club (TMC) Colombo at its 15th Annual General Meeting in Colombo recently.

He is Secretary General of the Asia Marketing Federation and the CEO of Lanka Hospitals Diagnostics.

A Past President of SLIM, and Pharma Promoters Association of Sri

Lanka, and General Secretary of Sri Lanka Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry, Pradeep has been a judge and speaker at several local and international events.

He was also awarded the Deshamanya title.

TMC was formed in 2001 under the auspices of the Chartered Management Institute - UK Sri Lanka. The branch was set up to uplift man-

agement practices in Sri Lanka on par with the best international standards, and strives to achieve this by providing constant opportunities for member interaction and participation.

Dr. Pradeep Edward counts over 25 years of corporate experience in local and multinational companies, in numerous fields, with over five years at CEO capacity.



Dr. Pradeep Edward

“Cargills: Village to Home”

The latest edition of “Cargills: Village to Home” took place on 19th and 20th September, and was organised to build the country’s budding SME entrepreneurs by giving them a platform to engage with a wider network of customers. A few SMEs will be invited as partners, where they can promote their diverse range of products in demarcated stalls, for customers to purchase.

Spearheaded by Cargills FoodCity, this initiative also paves the way for our local SMEs to broaden their reach and improve their livelihoods. Featuring a host of local boutique shops ranging from cane and clay products to local cosmetics, a variety of dishes highlighting the best of the local cuisine will also be served with live action stations demonstrating the preparation. “Cargills: Village to Home” will also display their range of Cargills’ Good Harvest and BeeSafe produce for discerning customers.

Moving forward, “Cargills: Village to Home” will continue to be a weekly event conducted at selected Cargills Food City outlets and we warmly invite you to take part in this initiative and show your support to our local SMEs and individual entrepreneurs



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Ministry of Defence

MATERIAL REQUIREMENT FOR MAIN ROOF & THERMAL INSULATION WORK AT BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

Contract No : DHQC/PROC/2020/H/121-1

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed Bids and qualified tenderers for **Supply of Hardware Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** as described below.

Description of Items :

H/D METAL CUTTING DISC 180 X 3 X 22MM AND 4'-0" X 2'-0" X 50MM THK GLASS WOOL

2. Estimated cost will be **Rs. 17.9 million** (excluding VAT).
3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.

4. **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. Bid shall accompany a valid certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th Paragraph of Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million.**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees Four Thousand (**LKR. 4,000.00**) (The method of payment shall be by cash) by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below from **0900 hrs to 1600 hrs from 28th September 2020 to 1000hrs on 21st October 2020;**

“The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor), C/o The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla”

6. All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security, to the value of **One Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR. 179,000.00)** 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 21st October 2020 to 18th February 2021** (120 days).

6. **Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bid Opening.**

7. 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 21st October 2020**. Late Tenders will be rejected. Tenders will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the 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
Email: pmudhqc@gmail.com**

Sri Lanka Insurance BID NOTICE

CALL FOR BIDS TO SELECT SUPPLIERS FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

	Name of Bid and Bid No.	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security Requirement (Rs.)	Eligibility Requirements	Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time	Bid Closing Date and Time	Collecting of Bidding Documents
1	SLIC/ICT/010/2020 - OUTSOURCING SLIC CALL CENTER SERVICE	9,350/-	500,000/-	1. Bidder should be a Registered Supplier to The Government of Sri Lanka 2. The service provider or its Group of companies, parent company, any of its partners or line-up business should not have any conflict of interest with respect to Sri Lanka Insurance, which include, a competing Life or General insurance provider operation in Sri Lanka as a competitor to SLIC or any of its business operations. 3. Bidder should have been in business for more than one year	01.10.2020 @ 2.30 pm SLIC 8th Floor Meeting Room	20.10.2020 @ 1.00 pm	28.09.2020 to 19.10.2020 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
2	SLIC/ICT/011/2020 - IMPLEMENTING OF CCTV SYSTEMS FOR SLIC 49 BRANCHES. (Turnkey Project)	8,000/-	350,000/-	1. Bidder should be a Registered Business entity in Sri Lanka. 2. Bidder should have a reputed clientele with their references.	01.10.2020 @ 3.00 pm SLIC 8th Floor Meeting Room	20.10.2020 @ 1.00 pm	28.09.2020 to 19.10.2020 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
Technical Correction (Previous Advertisement on 13.09.2020)							
3	SLIC/ICT/009/2020 - CORRECTION SUPPLY OF CCTV SYSTEMS FOR NUWEGODA, 288 CITY OFFICE, GALLE, JAFFNA, BADULLA	1,925/-	70,000/-	1. Supply of DVR , CCTV Cameras (SLIC Head Office) 2. Camera lens should be 3.6mm fixed Lens	N/A	13.10.2020 @ 1.00 pm	up to 12.10.2020 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

● Bidding documents will be issued from the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head office on production of a request letter on a business letterhead together with the proof of eligibility at a None Refundable fee as above.

● Bidding documents can be inspected free of charge at the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head office during normal working hours.

● Bidder should have not been blacklisted previously.

● Selected suppliers should provide the Guarantee/Bond as stated below.

a) A Performance Bond to the value of 5% /10% (whichever applicable) of the total contract sum, with validity over the stipulated contract period should be provided within two weeks of the confirmed order

b) If advance payment needed a bank Guarantee equivalent to 30% of the total contract value should be taken with validity period of over 90 days.

● Late bids will be returned unopened.

● Bidding documents can be obtained from below mentioned address.

● The final decision in this regard will be with Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd.

AGM Procurement & Property Management
Procurement Department
Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd
08th Floor
No.21, Vauxhall Street
Colombo 02.
Contact Details - 011-2 357 964
Email: deshapriyag@srilankainsurance.com
Web: www.srilankainsurance.com
Company Registration Number - PB 289



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should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

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Advertorial

Sri Lanka Standards Institution

National Standards Body and the Member Body of ISO in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) is the National Standards Body in Sri Lanka, set up under the Bureau of Ceylon Standards Act No. 38 of 1964. The Institution functioned under the name of Bureau of Ceylon Standards until the Act was repealed and replaced by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution Act No. 6 of 1984.

The Institution now functions under the Ministry of Trade and is governed by a Council appointed by the Minister in terms of the Act.

SLSI by virtue of being the National

Standards Body in Sri Lanka is a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) which is based in Geneva.

As members of the ISO, National standards Bodies exchange on reciprocal basis copies of their National standards and is responsible for disseminating information on standards, technical regulations and standards related activities to the community at national level.

• Systems Certification - Provides certifications on ISO 9001, ISO 14001, FSSC 22000, ISO 22000, HACCP, GMP, ISO 45001, OHSAS 18001, ISO 50001, Vegetarian, Supermarket, Vidatha, Organic, Greenhouse Gases Verification, Sustainably Produced Fuel Wood and Covid-19 Safety Management System to ensure your process capabilities and enhance your customer satisfaction.



WHAT THE SLSI OFFERS YOU?

• Product Certification - Get your products certified for its conformity to Sri Lanka Standard specifications and win consumers' confidence for your product.



• UTZ Certification - Products Certification scheme to ensure the quality of tea, coffee and cocoa. in accordance with better farming practices.



• Sri Lanka National Quality Awards - This annual award scheme recognises organisations in Sri Lanka for performance excellence and business sustainability.



• Energy Efficiency Labelling of Electric Appliances (MEPS) - This label is given by the SLSI for the achievement of Minimum Energy Performance Level of electrical appliances including LED bulbs.



• Energy Efficiency Star Rating - Convince your customers that your CFL bulb is cost effective in energy consumption.



• Quality Management Training - Enhance your career of performance excellence with training on quality management and standardization. Tailor-made in-house training;

• Formulation of National Standards - Formulation of National Standards necessary for the development of the National economy to uplift the quality of life of the nation.

• Product Testing - Testing against specifications in local or foreign stand-

• Documentation and Information Services - Provides information on local and foreign standards, international standards, technical regula-

• Import Inspection Scheme - Consignments of products inspected under

specially designed for your company's needs are also provided.

• Pre-export Inspection of Products - Issue certificates for your products for its conformity to buyers' standards before you export.

ards or your own specifications from our accredited laboratories.

• Calibration of Measuring Instruments - Check whether your instrument gives the correct reading, if not get it corrected. Awareness programs for your staff on calibration of measuring instruments are also provided.

tions and technical books. Free reference within the library or obtain membership to lend documents.

the compulsory import inspection scheme are inspected.

Visit our website for more details or Contact Director (Marketing and Promotion) on 2694981, E-mail: dmp@slsi.lk Address: 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka National Quality Award (SLNQA)

The Sri Lanka National Quality Award is an annual award conducted by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) to recognise organisations in Sri Lanka for Performance Excellence and Business Sustainability. This program is implemented based on the world renowned Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award of the USA.

Visit our website slsi.lk for more details or contact Director, Marketing and Promotion on 2694981. E-mail: dmp@slsi.lk. 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka.

Award Categories

Sectors	Scale	Application Fee
Manufacturing	Large	Rs. 50 000.00
Service	Medium	Rs. 35 000.00
Education	Small	Rs. 20 000.00
Health Care		

Application Booklet Fee : Rs. 1 000.00



NSB honoured as a "Company with Great Managers"



Award recipients with the Chairperson of National Savings Bank, Mrs. Keasila Jayawardena and CEO of Colombo Leadership Academy, Riaz Hassen. From left: V. S. Fernando, Ms. Dulakshi Tashiya Perera, Mrs. Kesila Jayawardena,

The National Savings Bank (NSB) was recognised as a "Company with Great Managers" with five employees of the Bank winning awards under four different categories at the 'Great Manager Awards 2020' hosted by the Colombo Leadership Academy for Leadership Excellence.

Accordingly, NSB was honoured to be the first State bank in Sri Lanka to receive this award.

The Managers of the Bank, Mrs. C N Ekanayake, Mrs. J. M. A. K. Jayasinghe and Dulakshi Tashiya Perera were awarded the 'Great Manager Awards 2020' under three categories, 'Driving Results and Execution', 'Coaching others for growth' and 'Aligning Organisational Vision' while V. S. Fernando and D. C. Oloboduwa were awarded under the category, 'Team Effectiveness and Collaboration'.

Mrs. Keasila Jayawardena said that the Bank takes pride in creating committed managers within the Bank by adopting very good HR practices and



Chairperson, NSB, Mrs. Keasila Jayawardena

a comprehensive training program. She said that a person's management and leadership skills would always ensure the success of the organisation and the person's personal life.

"The Companies with Great Managers and 'The Great Managers Awards' is an initiative taken towards identifying, assessing and recognising organisations with 'Great Managers'. The Awards, through a set of

stringent leadership competency evaluations strives to define and build an eco-system and culture that nurtures great managers in Sri Lanka.

An official of the organiser of the event, Colombo Leadership Academy, said that NSB was chosen from a number of nominations received to contend and validate managerial excellence and best HR practices among leading Sri Lankan corporate entities.

On an individual level, the Great Manager Awards would be a great opportunity for the Bank to assess its own managerial and leadership effectiveness while identifying overall strengths and areas of development for the managerial pool.

The CEO of Colombo Leadership Academy, Riaz Hassen, the Chairperson of National Savings Bank, Mrs. Keasila Jayawardena and the members of the Senior Management of the Bank and Colombo Leadership Academy were also present.

Abans FMI offers facility management to Labour Dept



From left: Asitha Jayaweera, DGM, Abans FMI, Dr. Manish Shrivastava, Director, Abans FMI, R P A Wimalaweera, Commissioner General of Labour, P. K. Pestonjee, Managing Director, Abans FMI, A. A. N. Manjula Gunasekara, Manager, Abans FMI, Nimali Senevirathne, AGM, Legal and HR, Abans FMI.

The 32-storey *Mehewara Piyasa* building complex at Narahenpita, houses the Department of Labour, and other institutions under them. To ensure its facilities operate at optimal capacity for the many visitors who walk through its doors, the Department of Labour has secured the services of Abans FMI (Facilities Management Integrated).

Since its launch five years ago, FMI has adopted an approach that uses sophisticated technologies and a stringent focus on quality in its processes to provide Facility Management Services for its clients. This is reflected by the company's many certifications, which include the ISO 9001:2015 and the ISO 45001:2018 certifications, Institute of Workplace and Facilities Management,

British Institute of Cleaning Science, CIDA and CCI.

Recently, FMI also introduced computer aided Facilities Management and some other technologies to monitor the status of their facilities in real-time and also address any concerns instantly through the mobile app.

"We are honoured to be working with the Department of Labour. We are the only company in Sri Lanka using Computer Aided Facilities Management software and other modern tools. Our strong focus on quality with the sophisticated use of technology has eliminated many inefficiencies to facilitate prompt preventive maintenance and offer optimal performance," said FMI Director Dr. Manish Shrivastava.

Sri Lanka Telecom launches online teaching platform

With the increasing dependency on online teaching and learning at present, Sri Lanka Telecom launched "SLT eSiphala", the online teaching platform that would enhance the digital teaching and learning experience.

The advanced e-learning technologies available on SLT eSiphala, allows teachers to connect up to 20,000 students in a session and create virtual classrooms to organise their teaching. The platform also enables them to conduct live or pre-recorded sessions, along with scheduling online assignments and tests together with marking systems. Online certificates and progress reports for each student can be issued through SLT eSiphala.

The sessions can be made interactive with the chat, whiteboard, screen-share and file-share features. As students can upload homework assignments and projects, teacher and student can track their progress. The mobile-friendly feature of SLT eSiphala makes it more accessible to



teachers and students even on the go. Connecting to some of the best lecturers in the island is made possible to students all across the island and benefits them at a time when education is mostly based on the digital arena.

SLT and Mobitel offer special data packages to SLT eSiphala users with dedicated back-end support, through two packages, 'LMS Lite' and 'LMS Max'.

Nations Trust Bank goes green with e-Leaflets

Nations Trust Bank is well-known in the banking space for its commitment to digital accessibility and social responsibility.

Thus, as the next-step in its digital journey, Nations Trust Bank is proud to record the network-wide rollout of "Nations e-Leaflets" recently.

Nations e-Leaflets will replace the Bank's wide array of printed marketing and customer care material at branches and other locations.

Customers will now enjoy a futuristic experience where they can simply scan a QR code and access a vibrant

digital leaflet on their smartphones or other smart devices.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Nations Trust Bank, Hemantha Gunetilleke said, "We are excited to launch our new e-Leaflet platform across our branch network to provide an enhanced and seamless customer experience."

"Our digital strategy revolves around continuous transformation through innovation, to offer the highest levels of customer convenience, accessibility and simplicity across the country," he said.



Hemantha Gunetilleke

Union Assurance offers Group Life Insurance Solutions to Nations Trust Bank

Union Assurance PLC has partnered with Nations Trust Bank PLC, to provide a comprehensive Group Life Insurance solution to Nations Max Bonus savings account holders. The solution comes with many value-added benefits to the account holder.

The Group Life Insurance solution from Union Assurance provides comprehensive Life Insurance protection to Nations Max Bonus account holders which is tailor-made to suit the needs of account holders.

Chief Executive Officer of Union Assurance, Jude Gomes said, "As a pioneer in the Life Insurance industry, we constantly redefine our prod-

ucts and services to meet evolving customer needs. This partnership with Nations Trust Bank will help us expand our reach and will make a positive impact in the lives of a wider group of individuals, which will be beneficial for both organisations."

Union Assurance and Nations Trust Bank have held a strong partnership since 2008. Strengthening this partnership further, Nations Trust Bank and Union Assurance continue to establish new avenues to meet the demands and provide holistic financial solutions to more customer segments.

Union Assurance is a pioneer life

insurance provider in Sri Lanka, completing over three decades of success with a market capitalisation of Rs. 18 bn, a Life Fund of Rs. 38 bn and a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 455% as at July 2020. Set to empower the Sri Lankan Dream, Union Assurance offers Life Insurance solutions that cover education, health, retirement, and investment needs of Sri Lankans.

With 76 branches and an over 3,000-strong workforce, Union Assurance continues to invest in people, products, and processes to remain agile and responsive to emerging changes in the Life Insurance industry.



CEO, Union Assurance, Jude Gomes presents the Group Life Cover to Priyantha Talwatte, Director and CEO, Nations Trust Bank. The management teams of Nations Trust Bank and Union Assurance look on.

Advertorial

CEAT Kelani production surge boosts local rubber industry earnings

September rubber purchases alone will generate Rs. 150 million in revenue for producers

Increased production to meet local demand has enabled CEAT Kelani Holdings to increase its monthly purchases of natural rubber in the domestic market by as much as 35 per cent by September, the country's leading tyre manufacturer has disclosed.

The Company, which sources all of its natural rubber requirements locally, said its purchases in September 2020 alone would reach 500 tonnes (500,000kgs), generating Rs 150 million in revenue for Sri Lankan producers in areas such as Kegalle, Kalutara, Ratnapura and Monaragala.

In the pre-pandemic months of December 2019 to February 2020, CEAT Kelani's purchases of rubber averaged 366 tonnes a month, generating average monthly revenue of Rs 107 million for local suppliers, the Company said.

"One of the major reasons for CEAT Kelani's existence in Sri Lanka is the availability of natural rubber, and we have always been focussed on maximising local value addition," the Company's Managing Director Ravi Dadlani observed. "With our ramping up of production in response to the



The warehouse of a natural rubber supplier to CEAT (on right) and CEAT Kelani representatives conducting a training program for rubber suppliers

temporary import restrictions imposed by the government, our contribution to local natural rubber producers has increased sharply, by as much as 40 per cent in value terms

in just seven months." Increased production of truck, bus, radial and two-wheeler tyres by CEAT, while supporting the government's efforts to conserve foreign exchange through



import substitution, would also help local industry achieve the 'V' shaped post-pandemic recovery that is expected of it, Dadlani said.

CEAT Kelani engages with a base of nearly 30 dealers for the purchase

of natural RSS rubber and interacts with them on daily basis. Besides daily procurement transactions, the Company imparts know-how to the dealers to help them improve the quality of RSS grades.

"We periodically audit dealers' operations and help them maintain high quality standards," Dadlani added. "As a result many of our dealers are now recognised as 'CEAT approved NR dealers.'" This recognition not only helps them to be consistent suppliers to CEAT Kelani, it also helps them to establish themselves as quality suppliers of RSS grades to rest of the local industry."

CEAT's ramping up of production of truck and bus tyres since the start of the pandemic-linked lockdown has resulted in the Company now producing 100 per cent of the segment's requirements and enabled the government to make a saving of Rs 11 billion a year in foreign exchange. The Company has also achieved an 85 per cent increase in the production of tyres for the 'two-wheeler' segment over the past three months; enabling a further saving of Rs 350 million a year through import substitution.

CEAT Kelani produces two million tyres annually across multiple categories, and a further 200,000 car and Van Radial tyres is imminent with new machinery being installed, pending the arrival of foreign technologists to commission the additional capacity.

CEAT Kelani Holdings has kept the prices of its tyres unchanged since December 2019 to support customers and the economy, despite the additional investments made in increasing capacity and an increase in market prices due to demand.

CEAT Kelani Holdings is considered one of the most successful India - Sri Lanka joint ventures in the manufacturing sector.

The joint venture's cumulative investment in Sri Lanka to date totals Rs 8 billion, inclusive of Rs 3 billion committed in January 2018 for expansion of volumes, technology upgrades and new product development. The company's manufacturing operations in Sri Lanka encompass pneumatic tyres in the radial (passenger cars, vans and SUVs), commercial (Bias-ply and radial), motorcycle, three-wheeler and agricultural vehicle segments.

New appointments at Chevron Lubricants

Chevron Lubricants Lanka Plc (CLLP) has appointed Muhammad Najam Shamsuddin as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Company from October 1.

Shamsuddin's appointments follow the leadership transition of roles in CLLP with the resignation of Pat McCloud, as McCloud moves to a different role within Chevron. Shamsuddin brings more than 15 years of international industry experience in the oil and gas sector, joining Chevron in 2004 and moving through multiple positions of increasing responsibilities in Pakistan, the Middle East, and several markets in Asia.

"The Chevron Lubricants Lanka team is strong as demonstrated by the Company's improved performance and strong results in a period of great adversity," said CLLP's Chairperson, Ms. Rochana Kaul. "While we will miss Pat in Colombo, Najam's leadership and knowledge of the industry will prove to be a great benefit to the Company."

Before joining CLLP, Shamsuddin was the Area Business Manager for Chevron's Asia Pacific Cluster markets, a position he held since April 2019. In that role, Shamsuddin oversaw profitable growth for Chevron Lubricants in Malaysia, Singapore,



Pat McCloud

Vietnam, Indonesia and other export countries.

Shamsuddin holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration (Hons) and a Master's in Business Administration from the Institute of Business Administration Karachi, Pakistan.

McCloud joined CLLP in October 2018 and has led the Company to achieve top-line and bottom-line growth in FY2019. McCloud will assume a new position with Chevron based in the United Kingdom.

Ms. Kaul added, "Pat has made noteworthy achievements in his two years at CLLP, with his strong focus on customer needs and workforce morale.



Muhammad Najam Shamsuddin

We thank him for his significant contributions to our business and the Chevron Lanka team."

Chevron Lubricants Lanka PLC (CLLP) is Sri Lanka's premiere marketer of world-class lubricants. CLLP engages in blending, manufacturing, importing, distributing, and marketing lubricants oils, greases, brake fluids, and specialty products in Sri Lanka.

The Company offers its products for industrial, commercial, and consumer applications. CLLP markets its products under the Chevron, Caltex, and Texaco brands. The Company was incorporated in 1992 and is based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Flemington turns five

A recent entrant in to Colombo's property development arena, The Flemington recently celebrated five years in the industry.

During the past five years, The Flemington has maintained an active presence in Colombo's property development industry. Since their opening in 2015, The Flemington's success in the community has continuously grown with an expanding property portfolio, client database and a track record that places a high value on integrity and commitment to their clients.

The Flemington offers elegant condominiums designed by award-winning architects and each project is designed and built with convenience in mind, situated in close proximity to leading supermarkets, hospitals, schools and restaurants in Colombo and Rajagiriya.

Founded by Managing Director, Shamitha Ganegoda, The Flemington is a passion project which reflects his experience in the real estate market in Australia, where he lived for 18 years. Working as a Financial Controller for a few Australian property development firms, Shamitha developed a passion for creating modern condominiums influenced by Australian concepts that provide spacious interiors with unparalleled privacy amidst the



Managing Director of The Flemington, Shamitha Ganegoda

its clients. "It is important to me that The Flemington stands for trust and integrity.

We value the investment that is placed with us for a tenant to secure a home to increase their convenience and quality of life as they move into the city.

Our commitment to our clients remains steadfast from the point they sign with us to the time when we hand over their keys and Deeds to their home, said Managing Director of The Flemington, Shamitha Ganegoda.

To date, The Flemington has successfully completed and handed over two projects situated in Rajagiriya and 103 Campbell. A third property development project is currently underway.

AIA Insurance Platinum sponsor of Sri Lanka's Most Admired Companies Awards

AIA Sri Lanka is proud to partner as Platinum Sponsor, The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka (ICCSL) in presenting 'Sri Lanka's Most Admired Companies Awards 2020'. This is the third year of the Awards Ceremony for which AIA has been the Platinum sponsor.

The awards recognise companies that are a cut above the rest in terms of not only their financial performance but also on the value they create in a sustainable and ethical way for their employees, customers, investors and the general community. Companies that have been in business for over five years as



at June 30, 2020 and are 30% or more of Sri Lankan ownership are eligible to enter this Awards competition which is open to listed and unlisted

companies in Sri Lanka. AIA's Director and Chief Officer Legal, Operations and External Relations for AIA, Chathuri Munaweera said,

"With over three decades of experience doing business in Sri Lanka, AIA is truly appreciative and respectful of companies that succeed financially, but more so, through sustainable and ethical value creation. In this light, we are delighted to be a part of this effort to recognize honesty, and integrity in Sri Lanka's most reputed corporates."

ICCSL Chairman Dinesh Weerakkody said, "This pioneering initiative which rewards excellence across a number of performance criteria, is aimed at recognizing companies with the strongest reputations. growth." The Awards Ceremony is due to be held at the BMICH on November 10 at 4.00 p.m.

Pan Asia Bank conducts medicinal tree planting at the sacred Jethavanaramaya



Director and CEO of Pan Asia Bank, Nimal Tillekeratne plants the first medicinal plant in the Jethavanaramaya sacred garden inaugurating the tree planting project.

Pan Asia Bank held a tree planting ceremony at the north side of the Jethavanaramaya Stupa in Anuradhapura, the sacred historical temple, in commemoration of its 25th anniversary. The program was initiated under Pan Asia Bank's Green Initiative, the *Haritha Sammana* project.

Thousands of Buddhist devotees and tourists annually visit eight sacred places in Anuradhapura, and Jethavanaramaya is one of the main holy destinations. Due to the dry climate which prevails in Anuradhapura district, most devotees and tourists suffer in the intense heat. As a little step to green the area, Pan Asia Bank has come up with this worthy initiative as its Corporate Social Responsibility to the society as the 'Truly Sri Lankan Bank'.

The Director and CEO of Pan Asia Bank, Nimal Tillekeratne led the proceedings by planting the first sapling while Ven. Ihala Halmillewe Rathanapala Thera, Chief Incumbent at Jethavanaramaya and Chief Guest on the occasion planted the second sapling to inaugurate the notable initiative to enhance greenery.

At the ceremony, Pan Asia Bank planted and offered 100 medicinal trees with cages to the bhikkhus, with the aim of reaching another 500 medicinal trees with cover cages across the country.

Sri Lanka's forest cover needs to be restored and as the truly Sri Lankan Bank, Pan Asia Bank is making a significant contribution while also receiving accolades for its green lending efforts - a testimonial to its stature as a truly Sri Lankan bank.

House of Fashions Sri Lanka salutes heroes

For all we know, Covid-19 is a deadly pandemic that you and I can catch, anytime and anywhere. To staunch its spread, affected countries took certain action with Sri Lanka imposing the movement control order (MCO).

First and foremost the pandemic wouldn't have been under control without the leadership and guidance of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Thanks to the Army and IDH Staff who put the nation first before self and risk their life to contain the pandemic, for us. 'Covid-19' Pandemic has been brought under control within a short time period in

Sri Lanka compared to other countries. Without the sacrifices and the dedications of SL Army and IDH staff it wouldn't be possible.

Unwittingly, there are also other people we should be thanking - the invisible supporting the visible, specifically those who are not able to stay at home because they work in the essential services.

The people who long to be at home with the families but had to make sacrifices beyond their call of duty.

They too, work round the clock tirelessly. There was never any outcry amid not being highly recognized nor

accolade. While juggling with their role as a father, a mother, a brother, a sister at home, these heroes are out in the offices and sites braving the outbreak to keep government operations going.

They had no guarantee of not being exposed to the virus.

Thank you for not staying at home and for benevolently serving the nation as the backbones in the essential services.

The least we could do to return their favour is, ironically, to stay at home. Thanks may cost nothing, but this time it costs us to stay put where we are. We as 'House of fashions'

(South Asia's Largest Single Owner Department Store) salute our heroes and made them overwhelming through our industrial products by offering them a 30% discount for the total bill of their purchased items.

Whatever happens, as Sri Lankans are in this together, we sink and survive as a nation.

We could be physically isolated from each other but in reality, we are staying together in spirit. We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but are placed here for each other.

If you are there always for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you.

SPECTRUM

features.suo@lakehouse.lk / Tel: 011 2 429 429, 011 2 429 228 / Fax: 0112 429 227

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

A Chinese female entrepreneur in Sri Lanka

After the Easter Sunday tragedy and Covid-19, she is still optimistic

by Amy Yang

Huang Huayan is the founder of an interior decoration company in Sri Lanka, and badminton is her hobby. In 2018, she came to Sri Lanka as a traveller, then realised it is a good place to invest. In the past two years, she went through the Easter Sunday tragedy and Covid-19. Despite business difficulties, she is still optimistic about Sri Lanka's economic prospects. Recently, I interviewed her. This is her story.

"I have a good friend who works in a travel agency in Sri Lanka. Five years ago, through her, I started to get to know this country. It gave me impressions of pure Buddhism, wild beauty and opportunities.

May 15, 2018 was my first trip abroad in my life. I came to this beautiful island, Sri Lanka. After travelling to Colombo, Kandy and other central cities, I felt that the previous impression is appropriate.

At the end of the trip and two days before returning home, I returned to Colombo. My friend took me to visit the prosperous Galle Road in the city, introduced me to One Galle Face Shopping Mall, and mentioned Port City Colombo. At that time, the grand scale and future vision of the Port City left a very deep impression on me.

I have experienced the construction of the Port of Shekou in Shenzhen and Zhujiang New Town in Guangzhou. I have witnessed the earth-shaking changes in these two areas in China. As a businesswoman, I saw opportunities and possibilities at this time.

That night, I searched for information on Sri Lanka's development plan. The Port City, Colombo is the future financial centre of South Asia and will attract a large number of tourists. After the completion of the infrastructure, there will be financial institutions and tourism supporting hotels, office buildings, and housing construction. Interior decoration is just what these projects need, and it is also my field. I can't help thinking that if I en-



ter the Sri Lankan decoration market at this time and lay a foundation, three to five years later, there will be broad demands for decoration in Port City, Colombo.

After doing my research, I decided to "just do it!" When I returned to China, I didn't even take my luggage back. With longing, a series of preparations for the next Sri Lanka journey began.

Someone asked me why I fear nothing of the unknown country? I said: "my motherland China makes the decision to invest in Sri Lanka, why don't I?"

"Then why do you have to take risks at this age, as a woman?" Perhaps after adulthood, the

first 10 years of life is the period to understand and know society; the second 10 years is the period when we create our future.

I like this quote: 'Life is all about tossing'. We are in an era of rapid development and change. There are rare opportunities. When you fully realised, you have missed a good opportunity. And when you realise it you are too late. This time, I did not hesitate and quickly made up my mind.

I entered the decoration industry in 2005 and started a wonderful journey in Guangzhou city, and I have been enjoying it all the time.

The decoration industry is like girls' makeup, it is delicate work. Although this is a traditional industry, the material and process update and iterate very quickly and require rich experience, from design, material selection to construction...The final work will be different with different details. Although I can't make it 100 per cent perfect, they will always have a different taste. This is like our life: there are

joys, sorrows, and regrets, and we have to accept everything we get on the journey of life.

Sri Lanka's interior decoration technology is relatively backward, and the choice of materials is quite limited. When I come to Sri Lanka, I also have a small target: to bring China's advanced technology and ideas here, and to contribute a little bit to this beautiful country.

On July 11, 2018, I took a flight back to Sri Lanka, started to register a company, learn about laws and regulations, and import materials and plans to develop business.

In an unfamiliar foreign country, everything needs to start from scratch. It is really difficult. Much help from Sri Lankan friends allowed us to start the company smoothly. In 2018, the new company was established in Sri Lanka.

I am lucky. In a relatively short period, we signed contracts with some clients. Although these projects are not big, it is very important for us to work with local staff, accumulate operating experience, and adapt to this county.

Over the past two years in Lanka, we have experienced the Easter Sunday attacks and Covid-19, and all kinds of unimaginable difficulties, but we have survived. Life in Sri Lanka is simple, but I enjoy it. When stressed OR unhappy, there is nothing that cannot be solved by playing badminton. This year's Covid-19 has had a profound impact. As a private enterprise, we face great challenges, but I believe that finding the opportunities in the crisis is our way of survival. Under the positive environment of the new Sri Lankan government, various policies are beneficial for economic development. I am optimistic about the future economy of Sri Lanka. Even though the road ahead is difficult, there will be more potential in the future. "Flowers and thorns are always accompanied, and there is hope if you persist."



SWARANJALI A Live Musical Concert

Paying Tribute to Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj by Rashmi Sangeetha on September 30 at 7pm



PERFORMANCE ON FACEBOOKLIVE

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), High Commission of India, Colombo, will host an online musical evening SWARANJALI to pay tribute to Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj on Wednesday, September 30 at 7.00 p.m.

Pandit Jasraj was an acclaimed Indian classical vocalist who mesmerised music lovers around the globe for several decades. A proponent of the North Indian style of Hindustani classical music, he was also a Guru, training several generations of musicians in the nuances of Mewati Gharana. His death, on August 17, 2020, at the age of 90, has left a deep

void in the Indian cultural sphere.

An online musical tribute to Pandit Jasraj would be paid by Rashmi Sangeetha, one of the emerging artistes of Sri Lanka. Rashmi Sangeetha completed her Post graduate degree (M.Music) in North Indian classical music from the Benaras Hindu University, India and is now working as a senior lecturer at the University of Visual and Performing Arts.

She has been a jury member at various award ceremonies, including the State Music Ceremony organised by the Department of Culture, Government of Sri Lanka. She has received several awards in Sri Lanka and India, including the Pandith Om Kaaranaatha Thakur Memorial Award twice for the

most outstanding performance at the Post Graduate Degree. Rashmi Sangeetha has also released several albums and sung songs for Sri Lankan tele-drams and films. She is also an 'A' grade artiste in classical and light music at the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation.

The online musical tribute program would be webcast live on Facebook page of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre: <https://www.facebook.com/IC-CRSriLanka>





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Raigam TELE'ES 2019

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DURING WORLD WAR II, A DUTCH BHIKKHU RESIDED AT THE GOTA PABBATHA RAJAMAH VIHARA. HE HAD LIVED IN A SMALL KUTI (ABODE) BUILT WITH CEMENT BLOCKS IN THE ROCK BOULDER FACING THE INDIAN OCEAN ON THE SHORE AT GODAWAYA, WHICH PORTRAYED A FASCINATING VIEW OF THE SEA



The glistening dagoba gives a majestic look to the ancient site

The turbulent sea below the rocky boulder on the sea shore

—Text & Pix by—
Mahil Wijesinghe

My destination is Gota Pabbatha Rajamaha Vihara, better known as the Godawaya temple, on a rocky boulder with a panoramic view overlooking the Indian Ocean. It is an ancient site on the coast, to the south of the Walawe Ganga estuary in the Hambantota district.

Whenever I visit Hambantota, I never miss the Godawaya temple where I spend at least half an hour enjoying the soothing atmosphere to my mind and body.

The ancient sea port of Godawaya lies about four kilometres from Ambalantota on the Galle Road, turning right at the Dehigahalanda school towards the seaside. It has a quiet little bay, which is a thriving fishing centre at present.

Several rocky boulders are scattered around, facing the boisterous bay on its west, while on the landside there are numerous stone ruins, including rock caves, stone pillars, a dagoba and the torso of a Buddha statue.

The recently restored colour-washed dagoba, lies on a rocky outcrop, which gives a majestic aura to the ancient site.

Stone ruins

Some stone ruins, including a stone carved statue of the Buddha, in the Godawaya temple, have been restored by the Department of Archaeology.

The rock inscription in the temple site states that the dues collected from the port were to be donated to the Godawaya temple.

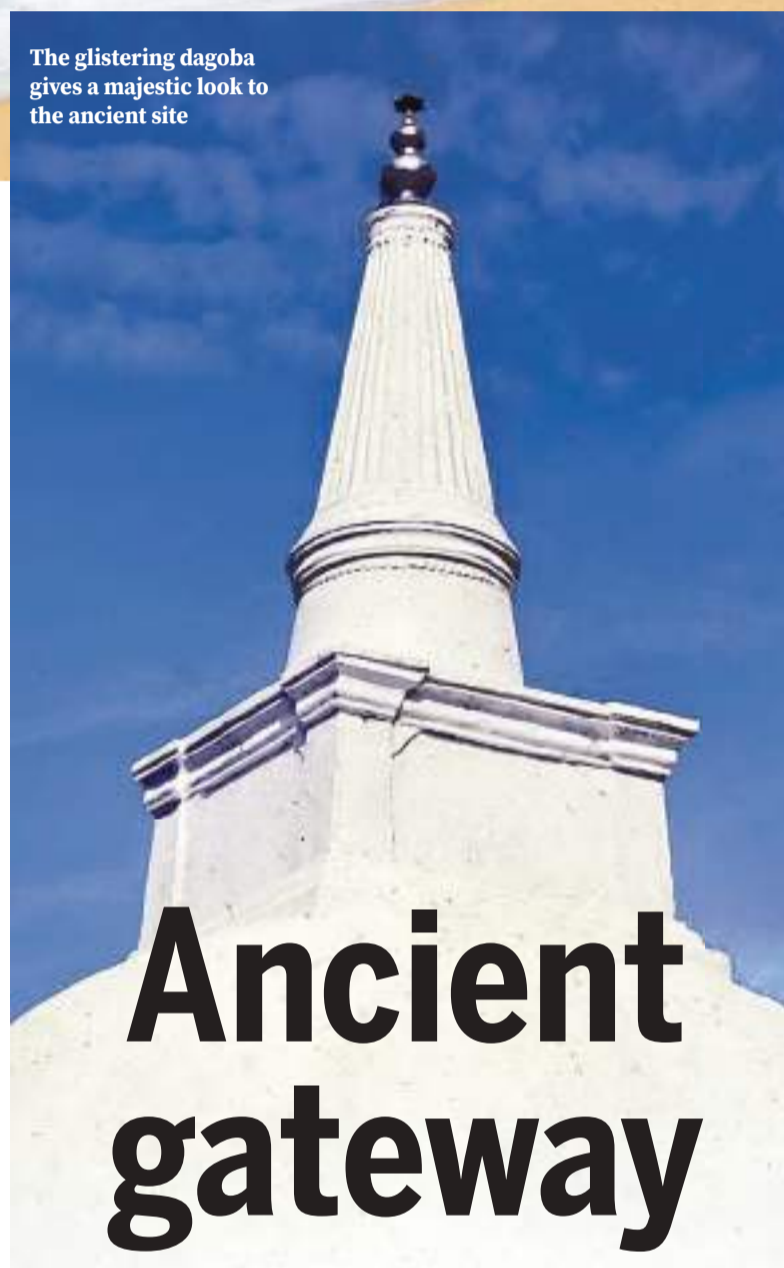
The records also state that King Gamini Abaya donated the Customs duties of the port of Godawaya to the nearby Vihara at this site. Initially, the Godawaya temple was attributed to King GotaAbhaya of Ruhuna, in 3rd Century BC. History records that Godawaya came to be called Gota Pabbatha Rajamaha Vihara as a result of this association.

According to ancient chronicles, Godawaya had been on the Silk Route, where ships had anchored to take precious stones, spices and ivory, in exchange for clothing and porcelain.

The most picturesque site that adorns Godawaya is the estuary of the Walawe Ganga. Its mouth was sealed for all time by a mountainous sand

ACCORDING TO ANCIENT CHRONICLES, GODAWAYA HAD BEEN ON THE SILK ROUTE, WHERE SHIPS HAD ANCHORED TO TAKE PRECIOUS STONES, SPICES AND IVORY, IN EXCHANGE FOR CLOTHING AND PORCELAIN.

THE MOST PICTURESQUE SITE THAT ADORNS GODAWAYA IS THE ESTUARY OF THE WALAVE GANGA



Ancient gateway GODAWAYA

From an old sea port on the Silk Route to rock inscription



Standing stone pillars lie buried in the premises of the Gota Pabbatha Rajamaha Vihara



The large outcrop boulder overlooking the old port of Godawaya and a kuti (abode) built by the Dutch bhikkhu



Old port of Godawaya with rock outcrops peeping out, now a thriving fishing centre

THE BRAHMI INSCRIPTION ON THE ROCK AT THE TEMPLE PREMISES, STATES THAT THE OLD PORT OF GODAWAYA IS ALSO CALLED GODAPAVITA. IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE WALAVE BASIN WAS CONSIDERED A PROSPEROUS RICE PRODUCING AREA IN MAGAMA, AND THE WALAVE GANGA WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN NAVIGABLE FOR TRANSPORTATION

dune of yesteryear. The strip of seashore flanked by the flowing Walawe Ganga is a fascinating spot, with its scenic deep blue sea, resembling a picturesque islet.

Walking along the white sandy sea shore of Godawaya bay, I found it adorned with numerous sea shells.

The sea is very turbulent around the rocky boulders and it is not advisable for visitors to enter the sea at the Godawaya bay.

According to the chronicles, Godawaya is referred to as Diyanaganatota.

The Brahmi inscription on the rock at the temple premises, states that the old port of Godawaya is also called Godapavita. In ancient times, the Walawe basin was considered a prosperous rice producing area in Magama, and the Walawe Ganga was said to have been navigable for transportation. It is said that, in ancient times, the paddy harvest was transported by boats along the Walawe Ganga, which also had a ferry service, transporting paddy and spices to be shipped abroad from the ancient port of Godawaya.

During World War II, a Dutch bhikkhu resided at the Gota Pabbatha Rajamaha Vihara.

He had lived in a small *kuti* (abode) built with cement blocks in the rock boulder facing the Indian Ocean on the shore at Godawaya, which portrayed a fascinating view of the sea. The ruined abode where the bhikkhu dwelt could still be seen at the rocky boulder of Gota Pabbatha Rajamaha Vihara premises.

Extensive excavation

In 1993, a group of archaeologists from the Department of Archaeology, in collaboration with the Bonn University of Germany, carried out an extensive excavation at the Gota Pabbatha Rajamaha Vihara, and found several ancient coins, which indicated that Godawaya was an ancient port along the Silk Route.

It points to significant trade between foreign countries, and also that the kings who ruled the country in ancient times, paid great veneration to Buddhism, paying Customs duties to the ancient Gota Pabbatha Rajamaha Vihara.

A visit to this remarkable place built by ancient kings whose monumental achievements are treasured centuries on, is a must, where one can enjoy the tranquility that prevails surrounded by an endless seascape.

Supun Athukorala launches a collection of poems



Supun Athukorala, a promising poet of the new generation, launched his second book on poetry and prose titled *Sarada Nuba Tharu Wela* at the Mahaweli Centre, Colombo 7 recently. Here Athukorala presents his book to the Chief Guest at the launching ceremony, People's Bank Chairman Sujeeva Rajapakse.

Big Bad Wolf Book Sale returns to Sri Lanka



Taking an innovative approach, The Big Bad Wolf Book Sale 2020 will move to an online platform this year, "The Readers Portal" live for 24 hours a day from October 1 to 4. The website was launched at a press briefing in Colombo by Director of ProRead Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Nishan Wasalathanthri, along with Co-Founders of the Big Bad Wolf Books Andrew Yap and Jacqueline Ng as well as the Partner of Big Bad Wolf Book Sale Sri Lanka Dipak Madhavan joining the audience through live web conferencing from Malaysia.

Readers in Sri Lanka will experience 50%-90% discounts and will have access to three times more book titles with 70% of the titles this year being new. Readers of all interests can find bestseller titles, novels, science fiction, romance, literature, graphic novels, business books, self-help, architecture books and cookbooks. The Online Sale includes a wide collection of children's books: story books, activity books, board books, colouring books, picture books and featured interactive books at discounted prices.

The website will give fans a seamless and efficient method of purchasing books from their homes, which is mobile-friendly. Popular titles that will be showcased include book from the Disney, Star Wars and Harry Potter franchises. A recommendation section on the website will help readers and non-readers alike choose the books based on their interests. The easy-to-navigate site will allow shoppers to search via keywords, ISBN, titles and authors.

"Online sales are common, but Online Book Sales are rare, and taking the World's Biggest Book Sale online is a challenging but exciting task. While key global events scheduled this year have been cancelled due to

the Covid-19 pandemic, we did not want to disappoint our fans. The safety of the fans is our top priority—which is the primary reason why the Sale is returning via an online platform this year. It is not only to overcome safety concerns but opens a new avenue for customer convenience in Sri Lanka," Big Bad Wolf Book Sale Co-Founder Andrew Yap said.

ProRead Lanka (Pvt) Ltd Director Nishan Wasalathanthri said, "Innovative Disruption was a key value proposition from the inception of the Book Sale, back in 2009. Even though the books are being shipped from Malaysia, local courier charges are expected to be at a minimum rate, while any book purchase above Rs 8,000 will be free of courier charges. What this means is a hassle-free shopping experience in which users no longer need to wait in traffic, queues and worry about safety from Covid-19. It's as easy as ordering books and getting them delivered to your doorstep."

Visitors to the Big Bad Wolf Online Book Sale Sri Lanka 2020 can keep a look out on the website's banner for promotions. Customers can access the Magical Books, Horrible Book series and Classic Fairytales by White Star Kids series promotion by clicking on the banner. Under the Horrible Book series section, customers can choose to purchase 3 books at Rs.640. As for the Magical Books promotion, customers can choose to purchase 2 Magical Books and get 1 free Magical Book, or purchase 3 Magical Books and get 2 free Magical Books. The Classic Fairytales by White Star Kids series is a buy 1 Classic Fairytales book and get 1 free Classic Fairytales book in return. Customer are also advised to stay updated from our social media pages for the latest contest and promotion announcement.



Star Latino's Dance Academy

Achala Gamage, Nishan Rajakaruna and Pradeep Jayasinghe.

The academy's lead dance instructor is Kasun Dias who has been training dancers since 2012 along with Anastasia April.

Courses are conducted at the Movenpick Hotel in Colombo. Star Latino's have won over 60 competitive dance medals and from 2016 to 2019, they have won more than 80 percent of Street Latin medals. Kasun is not only Asia's 1st Alma Latina certified *salsa bachata* Instructor, but is also Sri Lanka's first Nelson Campos certified Kizomba Instructor and Asia's first level 5 Kizomba Instructor.

"We have plans to open three more Latin Dance training centres across the country and strategic partnerships with leading corporates whereby classes can be offered as an incentive while cross promotional activities can be done through the Academy and within the Club," said Achala Gamage.

Newly opened Star Latino's Dance Academy aims to become Sri Lanka's premier Salsa and Latin American Dance institute. The academy was founded by three leading entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka;

Features

Peradeniya writers tried to implant exotic theories here - Gunasena Withana



BY RAVINDRA WIJEWARDHANE

Veteran writer Gunasena Withana's autobiography in Sinhala titled *Dasaka Ataka Mataka* (Memories of Eight Decades), published by Sarasavi Publishers, was launched recently. *Dasaka Ataka Mataka* is his second autobiographical book while the first, *Galin Malin Bandi Piyaman*, published by Fast Publishing in 2007, was written to mark his 75th birth anniversary. The *Sunday Observer* discussed his book and shared his views on Sinhala literature.



Gunasena Withana

Excerpts

Q: How do you introduce the book, *Dasaka Ataka Mataka*?

A: This is my second autobiographical book. It consists of some of the details not included in the first book, *Galin Malin Bandi Piyaman*. In the new memoir, I describe my life in my hometown, Wanduramba, Galle, my education, political affiliations, literary activities with world literary organisations and my life with writers. I finished the book six or seven months ago, but it was published in parallel to the BMICH book fair.

Q: Your previous book was *Garu Maanchu*, a collection of short stories, published in 2017?

A: Yes, it was my last fiction. I am 89-years-old. Now, I have no idea to write fictions. My focus is on literary criticism. There are reasons for it. One is that we have no accepted literary criticism for all. We see many reviews on newspapers, but we cannot expect justice for a book by them. Critics don't have the requisite knowledge and the vision. Readers and writers get lost in such criticism. We should develop a progressive readership. That's why I focus on criticism now.

Q: You always say Sinhala literature has deteriorated?

A: Yes. Writers tend to write quickly, like a novel per year. Some write more per year. Though they are prolific writers, their novels will not remain among the readers for at least ten years. Readers are fed up with them and not enlightened by those books.

Q: Why did you go against the Peradeniya school of literature?

A: I was not against the whole University. I opposed just three writers: Sarachchandra, Siri Gunasinghe and Gunadasa Amarasekara.

They created defeated characters through their literature, which budding writers imitated. As a result, many deteriorated novels came about such as *Hevaneli Ada Minissu* by Sunanda Mahendra, *Adhishatana* by K. Jayathilake.

Many youth who didn't have any literary taste or awareness about the society, rallied around them and look down upon traditional values. I don't mean to avoid the theme of sex from literature, but it should have discipline in portrayal.

Peradeniya writers tried to implant inappropriate, exotic literary theories in Sinhala literary criticism. They eventually helped create a nasty society in Sri Lanka. This is

why we went against the Peradeniya school of literature.

Q: You were sided with Martin Wickramasinghe though the Peradeniya school promoted Wickramasinghe's fiction?

A: The Peradeniya school started to decline mainly because of Martin Wickramasinghe's critical works, such as *Japan Kama Katha Sevanelle* (Shadow of the Japan obscene novel). The book was a bold step taken by Wickramasinghe. He attacked Sarachchandra through newspapers. The argument between them went on. Finally, I went to meet Wickramasinghe and said that's enough and stop writing against Sarachchandra because he had rendered a great service in terms of theatre in Sri Lanka. Wickramasinghe stopped the argument and exchanged handshakes with Sarachchandra amid applause by the crowd at the Kularatne hall, Ananda College at a literary conference.

Q: According to Gunadasa Amarasekara, it was not the obscene novels of Japan that influenced the Peradeniya school, but those by D.H. Lawrence, Andre Jide and other European writers?

A: No, not at all. Lady Chatterley's Lover by Lawrence is not an obscene novel. There is great discipline in portraying sexual relationship in the novel.

The Peradeniya school was mainly influenced by the obscene novels of Japan. Many Japanese committed suicide after reading those books. Even the main protagonist of Sarachchandra's two novels, *Malagiya Athto* and *Malawunge Awurudu daa* committed suicide in the end.

Q: You founded a literary association called the Janatha Lekaka Paramuna (People's Writers Front) in '70s?

A: The *Janatha Lekaka Paramuna* was founded in 1968. Its main objective was to face the challenge of the Peradeniya school and to develop progressive literature in Sri Lanka. I was the Secretary of the Association and the President was Prof. P.E.E. Fernando, a lecturer in the University of Peradeniya.

It was partly because of our effort that Gunadasa Amarasekara defected from the Peradeniya school. He confessed that it was a great mistake by him to write novels, such as *Karumakkarayo* and *Yali Upannemi* which were highly praised by Dr. Sarachchandra.

Q: But there is no literary value in the progressive literature that the Janatha Lekaka Paramuna tried to establish?

A: No, not at all. The foundation of pro-

gressive literature is humanism. That's why people embraced Soviet literature. It was because of the humanistic value in the Russian literature that the people of Russia accepted socialism.

Q: Critics rejected socialistic realism in literature?

A: The term socialist realism was promoted by Prof. Sucharitha Gamalath. I advocated socialism. After setting up a socialist society, we can create realistic fiction.

There is a socialist realism in literature. Without acquiring socialism, we cannot talk about socialist realism. The main value of the socialist society is humanism and equality. We cannot say socialist realism in literature is bad or low quality. There was great progress in society due to socialism and still is. Socialist qualities in literature never deteriorated.

Q: There is a notion that no service was rendered to Sinhala literature by the *Janatha Lekaka Paramuna*?

A: I was one of the Secretaries in the Asia Pacific Writers' Association during the '70s. We were offered foreign tours to participate in writers' conferences.

I have facilitated 32 students in Sri Lanka to join Soviet universities. Most of them were my friends' children, even my daughter and son joined Soviet universities, but they were qualified students.

Q: You have written many novels on reconciliation?

A: I wrote seven books on ethnic reconciliation. *Yaapanayata Paalamak* (Bridge to Jaffna) was one such book, published in 1986. It won the State Literary Award. It was published in India too.

Q: Who is your favourite writer?

A: In Sinhala, it is Martin Wickramasinghe. He had a great vision and skills in literature. In foreign literature, I admire Leo Tolstoy most. I value Tolstoy not only in terms of his literary works, but in terms of his personal life.

Though he is from a rich, high class family, he worked with farmers and died at a railway station. In Wickramasinghe's fictions, I like *Gamperaliya* very much. I also like his books on anthropology.

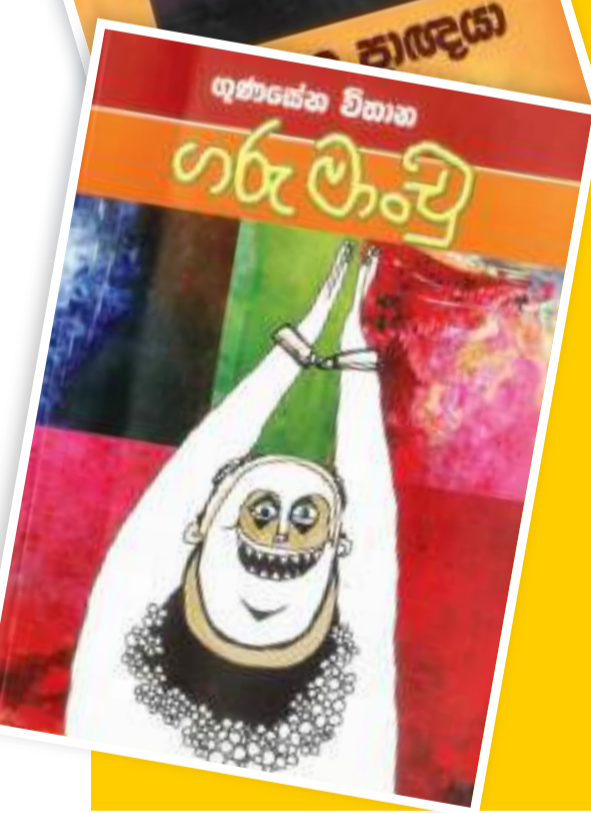
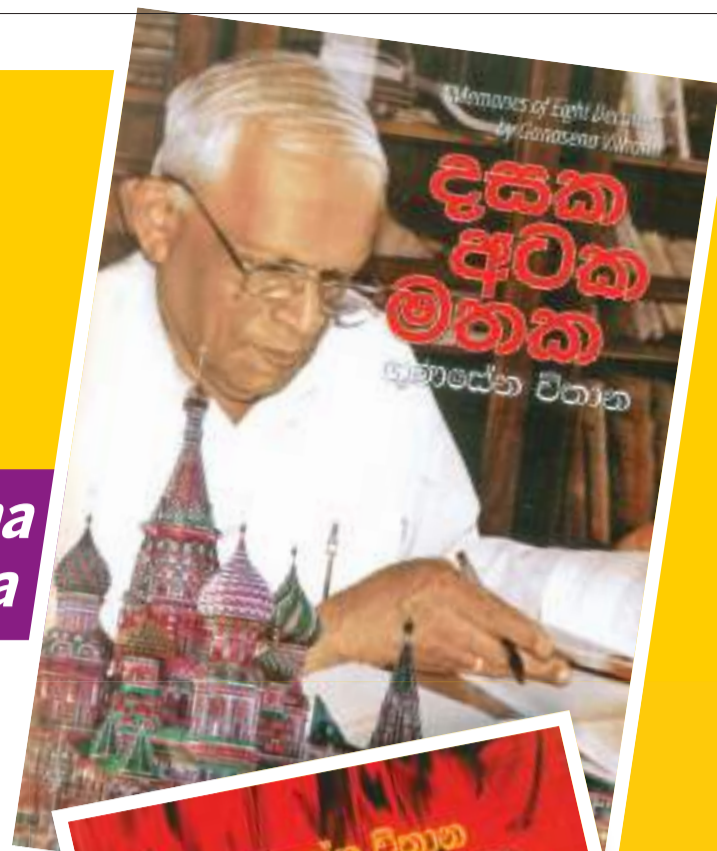
Especially, I admire his book, *Satwa Santatiya*. He discussed the evolution of man kind with other animals in the book. Ninety nine percent of his books advocate a progressive society.

Q: You have other writer friends too?

A: I associated three writers closely: A.V. Suraweera, Cyril C. Perera and K. Jayathilake. Some people called us as *Hataradenage kalliya* (group of four). After *Gamperaliya*, the novel I like most is *Charitha thunak* by K. Jayathilake.

Q: How about Gunadasa Amarasekara's fiction?

A: I don't like his fiction. I reject his early fiction that was part of the Peradeniya school.



Solius Mendis Award for Shantha K. Herath



Veteran artiste Shantha K. Herath has been awarded the Solius Mendis Commemoration Award for his services to the arts in Sri Lanka at the Buddhist literary festival 2020 at the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress in Colombo recently.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was the Chief Guest. State Ministers Vidura Wickramanayake and Sarath Weerasekera and All Ceylon Buddhist Congress Chairman Jagath Sumathipala were also present.

Book launch



Two books in Sinhala, **Eleena Jayawardhane: Story of a character** by Sagarika Dissanayake, a veteran journalist and **Prajathantrawaadaye Ekadipathiya** (Democracy's Dictator) by Pradeep Jayawardhane, grandson of the late President J.R. Jayawardene, will be launched on September 29 at 4.00 pm at the BMICH. The event will be presided over by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Sisilaagni, debut novel by Ananda Gunathilake, was launched at the BMICH. The book was published by Fast Publishing. The novel is set in 1971 era and deals with love, separation and social struggles. *Sisilaagni* is available at the Surasa stalls at the BMICH book fair.



Eththatama Rawana Hoda Ekek Wenna Ethi, a poetry book by Suranga Kuruppu Arachchi was also launched recently. Sanath Wimalasiri, a veteran artiste delivered the keynote address. The book was published by Sayura Prakashakayo.



MONTAGE

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2020



Sujith Rathnayake



Get involved. Get to work



Model, 2020



Female performer, 2020

THE JOUISSANCE OF DRAFTING

BY ANURADHA KODAGODA

Drafting Desire is the latest collection of paintings by Sujith Rathnayake, one of the most reputed artists in Sri Lanka and is a series of works that pays homage to both the process and the joy of drafting. At a time when he feels that some of the fundamentals of the visual art skills are being overlooked in Sri Lanka, Sujith immerses himself in the natural rhythm, sound and feel of the drafting process. This exhibition is the result of his drafting jouissance.

The exhibition, now on at the Barefoot Gallery, will continue till October 10. The *Sunday Observer* recently spoke to Sujith Rathnayake about this exciting collection of art and his desire for painting.

Q. In your catalogue essay of your Drafting Desire exhibition, you specifically differentiate between drafting and drawing which advocates that it represents a substantial change of direction for you. How do you elaborate the difference between drafting and drawing?

A. In basic terms drawing refers to lines, shapes, finishes, sizes and colour combined to construct objects or structures. It will be a heavy task narrating an idea. Drafting refers to the creation of a drawing providing correct dimensions and it is the fundamental stage of a painting which shows the organic character and the skill of an artist. Drafting is a quick sketch with details but not a finished version of a painting. All the drafts are subjected to reviews, changes in the working progress which needs to be processed to form a complete painting. Drawing is the representation of our imagination of a model or object combined with the artistic notion of an artist. Drafting consists of dimensions but drawing doesn't have any dimensions.

However, after the 1990s, the visual arts in Sri Lanka, were reduced to mere effects and concepts and became superfluous. It seems unnatural and contradictory.

This may be the reason why most contemporary artists do not reveal the path of their art. On the one hand, I wanted to re-explore the dynamics and emotions associated with the elements of visual art, in a context where visual art is dominated by semantic influences, and on the other hand, mere visual effects created by visual artists with the help of a group of people. As I explored 'the line' in my previous exhibition, in this exhibition I tried to highlight the visual drafting. Therefore, through Drafting Desire I actually wanted to go back to the fundamentals of art and mark my organic skill and identity as an artist.

When drawing with a piece of charcoal held in the hand, the natural rhythm of the person who's doing it and the rhythm of the person's trained hand as an artist are both being drafted on the surface of the canvas. This 'drafting moment' cannot be obtained from painting.

Nor is it something that can be obtained from multimedia materials. It is in the drawing.

Q. Can you elaborate on your thoughts about the relationship you had with improvisation while you were creating these paintings?

A. I see the whole process of painting as improvisation. The Drafting Desire series consisted of 30 paintings and it is an extension of my previous work. I keep improvising until it feels finished.



My head hurts, 2020



Watching Society, 2020

What I chose to do can be based more, or less, on the recent past of my work, the older past of my work, other art, other things of any sort that I have seen, thought, felt or experienced, and all of the above and often it is something that just pops into my mind and I try it out.

Manobranthi, my previous exhibition was based on socio-political subject matter and through the One line and Drafting Desire series I tried to bring out the technical aspect of the subject of art. Mostly, I try to let my

unconscious guide my work, because there is much more in the unconscious than in the consciousness.

This is done via visual response to the unconscious momentum, not via psychological or literary analysis. I think artists have to practise this kind of response to get it naturally and fully, because the general course of education and modern art trends always tend to erase it from your abilities, though it is primary and primal.

It is also a broad experience of visual art denied by much academic

criticism. This is because these writers simply do not understand, or see the visual and explain everything in art through literary, political, or literal approaches.

There are of course, writers who do understand the visual but they analyse art based on other subjects without having a proper understanding of the aesthetics of visual art.

Q. The works in Drafting Desire strikes me as an expression of your own inner conflicts. What feelings

of conflict and or cooperation did you experience during the process of their creation?

A. Conflict or cooperation didn't come into play, at least not in my conscious experience. I'm always weighing how well different things work.

There is also an ultimate negotiation, I guess you could call it, when you have to decide between whether to keep an amazing part of the picture, or sacrifice it in order to make the painting as a whole better.

This is a frequent occurrence with

any artist I think. Overall, in my artistic career as to using varied abstract techniques, I see them as all part of my inheritance as an artist. It gives me the freedom to do what I can or do what I want.

My paintings are rarely driven by the concepts. But most of them are based on emotions. Concepts can be captured but emotions can't. To feel it, you have to live in it.

Q. You are popular for your choice of colour which is black and white and your medium is mostly charcoal. Can you share your obsession with this choice of colours and medium?

A. Generally, black and white are my theme colours and I use charcoal, pencil, oil paints and I have used mixed media too in my art. My sense of colour comes from many sources. Firstly, I am sure there is a native colour sense that each person has and that is different.

When I enrolled for the degree at the University of Visual Arts in Colombo, I chose sculpture as my main subject. Sculpture is quite a technical subject.

Therefore, most of my drawings had the characteristics of sculpture. Drawings are mostly sketched in black on a white surface. Any sculptor visualises his/her sculpture in black and white 3D mode without colours, because sculpture is mainly based on shapes and not colours like paintings.

I used to draw my sketches using charcoal which led to the creation of an obsession within me unconsciously. And with time it was an artistic realisation to accept this sketch as my signature artistic expression.

Therefore, I think my choice of colours comes from an unconscious interaction that tells me what colour to use. However, I have mostly stuck to black and white which carries powerful feeling and meaning.

Q. Can you share the ways in which you perceive your art works as an aesthetic statement, and the ways in which you perceive it as the beginning of a conversation with viewers. Do you believe these works are in need of finishing by viewers?

A. Any art is an aesthetic statement. I think that is the whole of it. Anything else in it such as politics, literary ideas is sentiment and reduces or makes the art incomprehensible.

The emotion in a Vincent Van Gogh, for example, comes from the artist's aesthetic skill and his inner conflict of being, more than from his political beliefs.

His aesthetic skill allows him to embody his agony into the visual. The moment the viewer can feel the emotion behind my art and start to live in it, he or she will start the conversation with my works.

In the process of creating my art I do have a conversation with the painting as a viewer. I don't think the painting needs to be finished by having a viewer.

It is finished when I'm done with it. This does not mean the viewer cannot have his/her interpretation about the painting. I do hope the viewers will engage with the paintings, in a visual conversation and I'm glad if the paintings attain a life in the viewer's mind. But for me life is close to what I had in my mind and my feelings when I finish the painting. It can vary from artist to artist.

Q. Have you arrived yet at the judgment phase about the work on view in Drafting Desire?

A. I'm often in the judgment phase, about all the work I've ever done so far. I'm quite satisfied about my journey as an artist and appreciate the genuine involvement of the Barefoot Gallery for organising this exhibition.

Art is my freedom of expression and my existence depends purely on the art I do.



Please release me, 2020

Features

BY ANURADHA KODAGODA

Malaka Dewapriya is an aspiring filmmaker, award winning radio play-writer and visual artist who has had ample exposure locally and internationally. His debut cinematic endeavour

Undecided (*Bahuchithawadiya*) which is yet to be screened, is a promising debut effort which clearly demonstrated his mature understanding of cinema aesthetics as a new generation filmmaker. Although it is becoming uncomfortably clear that this new generation of cinema is yet to strike a chord with the mainstream movie going local public, Malaka tries to take his stance with his audience with great effort.

The second episode of Dream-catchers of local cinema is done with Malaka to discuss his experience of making his debut film *Undecided* (*Bahuchithawadiya*) and his future prospects as a filmmaker.

Q: The theme of *Bahuchithawadiya* is about the undecided mindsets of youth who have been born and bred in the time of social media, which is quite unique and contemporary. Tell us about the inspiration behind the theme of *Bahuchithawadiya*?

A: It was the first quarter of the last decade, when social media has invaded society and the concept came to my mind at the same time. It is a certain type of reflection on social life and the young contemporary Sri Lankan generation who has a default mode of mind. In the Sinhala language Bahu means multiple and Chitha means thoughts.

Bahuchithawadiya simply means 'one of many minds' or 'one who lacks single-mindedness'. In other words, 'an undecided mind'. The term *Bahuchithawadiya* signifies the nature of middle-class youth in Sri Lankan contemporary society. The theme of the film gravitates around a young man and his cynical and violent destiny in life. It is a representation of the collapse of contemporary Sri Lankan society, victimising the life of the young generation who suffer from the frenzied mentality of going abroad to earn money, looking for easy livelihoods due to the lack of job opportunities and formal education.

For the past ten years, there has been a great improvement in modes of social media and telecommunication compared to the time that I wrote the script. Skype has been replaced by various other much more developed apps such as WhatsApp, Viber, Zoom, Imo, Messenger and many others. Although, some who watched the film had mixed ideas about the uniqueness of the theme. Because they argued that due to this change of telecommunication modes, the film may look out dated which I don't agree with. *Bahuchithawadiya* is not about the progress of telecommunication but it is about what youth do with these most updated versions of telecommunication and how it has affected contemporary life and its relationships.

Q: Although *Bahuchithawadiya* was made a few years ago, it has not yet hit the big screen. Is there anything that delays the release of the film?

A: I started this project in 2011 and completed it in 2017. It took so many

Is local cinema really dying?

ALTHOUGH IT IS AN INAUSPICIOUS TIME FOR THE CINEMA INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS FOR MANY OTHERS DUE TO THE UNEXPECTED NEW NORMAL WORLD, IRONICALLY IN SRI LANKA THE CINEMA HAS BEEN SOCIALLY DISTANCED EVEN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC. DREAM-CATCHERS OF LOCAL CINEMA, IS A FEATURE SERIES DONE WITH SRI LANKAN FILMMAKERS ABOUT THEIR POINT OF VIEW OF THE STATE AND FATE OF LOCAL CINEMA AND DISCUSSED WITH THE PERCEPTION OF CAN IT EVER AWAKEN FROM THE DREADFUL SLUMBER

years to complete due to many production and producer issues that we had to deal with in the process, which is the unfortunate fate of the local cinema mainly due to lack of resources and funding. However, in 2017, the film had been selected for a few local and international film festivals and had a few screenings for selected international and local audiences where I think was able to create a dialogue about the film internationally and locally.

It is a strenuous process that I have been going through from the beginning of making the film and the battle is yet to be accomplished.

However, as a first time filmmaker I learnt so much throughout the process which I don't think anyone would be able to learn or experience from any of the leading cinema schools in the world. I hope to share my knowledge for the benefit of young filmmakers in future.

It was with a leading film company that I started producing this film but unfortunately, they gave up the project halfway due to their various internal issues. As the director and the script writer of the film, I had no choice but to buy the film from the company and complete the project. With the help of my friends, I managed to secure the funds to buy the film and complete the production with the generous contribution of forty people. Ultimately, I had to become the producer of the film too even without knowing a thing about producing.

That is the key issue behind the delay of releasing the film. However, I hope to release the film as soon as possible.



Scene from the *Bahuchithawadiya*

Q: During the pandemic, people are inclined to look into things differently and as a result different viewpoints and suggestions appeared on social media networks regarding the future of cinema in the new normal world and many argued that this will be the end of the traditional cinema theatre culture. What is your opinion in this regard?

A: This kind of argument came along at the time when photography, radio, cinema and TV had been introduced. When photography was introduced people thought that would be the end of paintings. When television was introduced people argued that it will be the end of cinema. But were any of these industries eradicated due to the rise of another medium? Absolutely not! So, today people are arguing that due to the pandemic and the rise of online platforms will mark the end of the cinema.

This is absolutely a myth. It is true

that the digital online platform culture is invading the globe and due to the pandemic the usage of digital platforms have skyrocketed over night but the magical experience one can have from cinema cannot be replaced by the digital platform.

Also we shouldn't forget the fact that the affordability of these digital platforms is quite low in Sri Lanka. Although these new mediums may be popular among urban communities, it is not going to be an easy task to make it popular or available island wide considering the economical and technical factors of the country. In 2018, a study by the Learn Asia Institute showed that only 46 per cent of the 5.5 million households in Sri Lanka can afford a smartphone.

The Department of Census and Statistics shows that computer literacy in Sri Lanka is only 23 per cent. It is true that the Corona pandemic estranged the public much more from cinema. In order to win the situation, new health care measures should be introduced. The Government should cooperate with the owners of the film halls to avoid setbacks.

A few months ago the Independent Cinema Forum had an online discussion with the participation of veterans of Sri Lankan cinema to discuss the crisis in cinema due to the pandemic. At the discussion, very important views and ideas were revealed by participants such as Prasanna Vithanage, Anuradha Rakawa and Anura Jasenthuliyana.

However, from time to time all Governments in power have changed the policies related to the cinema industry. In 1999, Dr. Tissa Abeysekera

WE NEED A HUGE CULTURAL CHANGE AND WE MUST ADMIT THE FACT THAT WE DON'T HAVE A CINEMA CULTURE IN THE COUNTRY. CINEMA HAS NEVER BEEN PART OF OUR CULTURAL EVENTS. IT HAS BEEN APPRECIATED BY A VERY LIMITED AUDIENCE. THE SITUATION IS QUITE CONTRARY IN THE OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD



Malaka Dewapriya



took an appropriate measure to distribute films under a private mechanism and he took this decision in good faith for the betterment of the film industry in the country. However, we have seen how the private sector has been working for the past 20 years considering only the fact of profit maximisation. It is paramount to have formal government regulations by understanding the importance of both commercial and artistic cinema.

Q: On the other hand filmmakers also have been accused of making films forgetting the local audience and without proper understanding of the industrial values and that caused the crisis of local cinema. What is your opinion?

A: That is a baseless argument. The crisis in the local cinema is not because of the filmmakers making films without considering the needs of the audiences but there's no proper mechanism to screen and publicise films. In any country does the public request what kind of cinema they want to see? No; but different genres of films are available for them to choose and there is a proper mechanism set by the private as well as the government sector.

Any society can be influenced by any art if there is a proper publicity mechanism available. Cinema is a form of art that depends on experimental works of different structures, narrative styles and approaches. No professional person is able to recreate things as a casting model. Every film is different to the other. There should be a mechanism and infrastructure developed to bring both commercial and art house cinema for its audiences.

Q: Considering the alternative platforms which are available in the film industry in the outside world, what are the changes that you expect for the development of the local cinema?

A: We need a huge cultural change and we must admit the fact that we don't have a cinema culture in the country. Cinema has never been part of our cultural events. It has been appreciated by a very limited audience. The situation is quite contrary in the other parts of the world.

There are so many opportunities for filmmakers to make films for various platforms. There are many film production companies and funds which are sponsoring young artists to create short films, documentaries, feature films as well as there are thousands of film festivals out there to encourage filmmakers and facilitate them to get involved with the industry regularly. There are many other alternative platforms that provide the opportunities to the public to watch films by displaying films in buses, trains, planes, supermarkets and common public places. However, although there are so many alternative modes to engage with cinema has never demoralise the cinema theatre culture as well.

However, here in Sri Lanka although we talk about seven decades of Sinhala cinema history, we don't even have a formal mechanism for the restoration of films. The late Dr Dharmasena Pathiraja once tabled a film restoration proposal and the then Chairman of the National Film Corporation declared that there would be no use in reserving a separate place for the protection of films and the authorities paid no attention. It is quite ironic to appoint such senseless people for decision making positions because no progress can be expected for the cinema from them. The right people with industrial knowledge who have a vision for the progress of the cinema should be appointed as authorities and huge reforms need to be taken for the betterment of the cinema industry in the country.

Retro reviews: Cinema of yesteryear

The Miracle of the White Stallions

BY DILSHAN BOANGE

The Spanish Riding School in Vienna founded in 1572 is a great equestrian treasure of the western world. And the true story of the survival of this great institution through the tribulations of World War II is projected in the movie *The Miracle of the White Stallions* was directed by Arthur Hiller. Produced by Walt Disney Studios, and released in 1963, this movie provides an enjoyable story of a lesser known event of World War II.

The plot begins as the threat of Allied air raids cast ominous shadows over Nazi occupied Vienna, and the Director of the Spanish Riding School, Colonel Alois Podhajsky, played remarkably by Robert Taylor, decides to defy strict orders from Berlin not to evacuate the Riding School.

Tacit support for Podhajsky from various levels of military and civil institutions in Vienna unfolds since they consider the Riding School a national treasure and should be relocated for safety. It is a battle of conscience and a battle of institutions that foregrounds the decision making for Podhajsky while he is unwaveringly supported in his decisions by his devoted wife Vedena, portrayed memorably by Lilli Palmer.

Through tact and guile, Podhajsky, his wife and his staff, transport



out of Vienna the treasures of the Riding School, the prized white Lipizzaner horses which have a long and illustrious history of being bred at the mounts of The Royal House of Hapsburg in Austria and admired in Europe as skilled show horses with unmatched quality.

Soviet advance

Being granted safe haven in the large estate of the gracious Countess Arco-Valley in Sankt Martin, along with a large group of war refugees, Podhajsky, his wife and his staff soon realise that the Soviet advance of the Allied Forces are hostile and if they reach Sankt Martin the future of the

Lipizzaner horses would be grim.

Following a series of events that bring courage and hope to the fore, they soon see an opportunity to save the Riding School by appealing to the contingents of the U.S Army that arrive on the scene. The reputation of the Riding School and Podhajsky's own accomplishments as an Olympic medalist in dressage are recognised by the U.S soldiers who sympathise with Podhajsky's concerns of needing to preserve the Lipizzaner horses

by rescuing the mares of the breed who are trapped in a Nazi held part of Czechoslovakia which will imminently fall to the Soviets who have a tendency to slaughter horses for meat as food was becoming scarce.

Podhajsky explains that obtaining the mares is imperative for the survival of the Lipizzaner breed which will otherwise die out. After preparing with little time on their hands and putting on an impressive dressage show with the Lipizzaner horses for Gen-

eral George S. Patton of the U.S Army, who himself is a renowned horseman, the Spanish Riding School is officially placed under the protection of the U.S Army.

Daring operation

What follows is a daring operation to rescue the Lipizzaner mares from hostile territory by the U.S. Army while executing a mission to free over a thousand Allied POWs held in the very area the Lipizzaner mares are being held.

The movie ends in a triumph that shows the great cultural treasure of dressage cultivated with Lipizzaner horses by the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, continuing its journey as a great institution of continental Europe. *The Miracle of the White Stallions* is a movie with historical and cultural knowledge that can be appreciated today as an entertaining classical film for the whole family.



Most heart illnesses are due to unhealthy lifestyles, wrong diets and lack of exercise

Make healthy hearts your goal

Admit patients with suspected symptoms to the nearest hospital as soon as possible

By
Carol Aloysius



In two days, heart specialists will focus their attention on a subject that is now of serious concern – namely, the rise in heart diseases globally and in Sri Lanka.

Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Karapitiya Teaching Hospital Dr Namal Gamage shares his views with the *Sunday Observer* on the importance of raising more awareness on heart diseases to minimise risks to this common but preventable disease that causes major health impacts on patients in Sri Lanka.



Excerpts:

Q: World Heart Day will be observed in two days, on September 29. What are the main issues that heart specialists across the globe will focus on that day regarding heart illness?

A: In a country such as ours tertiary or advanced care for heart illnesses is not widely available free throughout the country. So, the main focus must be on prevention of heart diseases. In addition, doctors caring for heart patients are trying to establish advanced heart care centres throughout the country but economic and man power issues remain a big obstacle.

Q: Sri Lanka has its own unique reasons for the rise in heart disease. What are they?

A: Lifestyle problems such as the lack of exercise, excessive eating of unhealthy foods such as, oily foods, red meat, butter, margarine made out of saturated fat and high consumption of salt, starch or starchy foods, sugar or sweets and inadequate or reluctant intake of fresh vegetables, fruits and cereals. Living in a stressful environment is also very harmful.

Q: Genetic factors – do they also contribute to heart diseases?

A: Yes, genetic factors play a big role. If a person's first-degree relative has a history of heart disease that person has a 50% risk of developing acquired heart diseases such as, ischemic heart disease and cardiomyopathy which is a disease involving the heart muscle or myocardium. In addition, congenital or inborn heart diseases such as, hole in the heart also are more prone to pass on to offspring.

Q: Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) – is there a link to heart disease?

A: Most heart diseases are non-communicable diseases except for a few infective diseases caused by germs, such as, various viruses and bacteria (like TB). The majority of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have very big genetic or familial tendency.

Non-communicable diseases in general are caused by the patient's lifestyle, dietary habits, surrounding environment and are secondary to other non-communicable preexisting diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus, elevated blood cholesterol levels and other uncommon metabolic syndromes in the body.

Genetical predisposition or family background play a special role so that heart diseases are common among people who have non optimally controlled high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus and elevated blood cholesterol levels.

Q: Commonest heart diseases one sees in Sri Lanka today?

A: There are two types of heart dis-

eases, Congenital or inborn heart disease where the baby is born with some heart disease and Acquired heart diseases which the person acquires late in his life due to the factors mentioned above. Of the congenital heart diseases, hole in the interventricular septum or VSD is common followed by hole in the interatrial septum or ASD.

Of the acquired heart diseases ischemic heart diseases or coronary heart disease is far more common not only in Sri Lanka but the world over. They are followed by acquired valvular heart diseases or diseases of heart valves which are situated inside the heart.

Q: Are they different from the cardiovascular disease (CVDs) you saw a decade ago?

A: Yes, ischemic or coronary heart disease is on the rise and is the biggest workload of contemporary cardiologists and cardiac surgeons. Valvular heart diseases a decade or two ago were mostly caused by a childhood infective disease called rheumatic fever leading to rheumatic carditis. Rheumatic fever is rare now and therefore the valvular heart diseases are less in number these days.

Congenital or inborn heart diseases are also less now due to the recognition of causative factors and health education of the population to avoid these things.

For example, causative factors for these are, rubella virus infection during early months of pregnancy, using harmful drugs during pregnancy, consanguinity or marriage between close blood relatives, smoking actively or passively and elderly onset of pregnancy beyond the age of 35 years for the mother.

Q: Those most at risk of getting CVDs age wise?

A: Acquired heart diseases increase with maturing age unless there is a familial tendency for coronary heart disease. They start appearing in the 5th and 6th decades of life.

Degenerative heart valve diseases occur a little late in life. Congenital heart diseases are there from birth and every 5 out of 1,000 live births have this problem.

Q: Gender wise is it true that women, especially, in this part of the world are more vulnerable to heart disease. Why?

A: Women are less prone to coronary heart diseases before menopause due to the protective activity of their hormones like estragon but after menopause they also run the same risk as their male counterparts.

Q: Recent hospital statistics in Sri Lanka have shown that younger persons, some in the early forties and even thirties are now being warded for heart attacks. What is the reason?

A: Coronary heart diseases in genetically predisposed people start very early in their life, that is, in late teens itself and obstruction of coronary artery

gradually increases then onwards. To become symptomatic the artery lumen should be about 70% obstructed.

Other factors like sedentary lifestyle, bad food habits or stress can aggravate and expedite the process and significant blockade of coronaries causing symptoms could occur in much younger age.

Q: Symptoms of heart disease?

A: Symptoms of heart diseases vary according to the type of the disease. However, symptoms common to all heart diseases are: chest pain, angina which is work related chest pain, shortness of breath and swelling of legs.

For example, in coronary heart disease chest pain and angina are predominant symptoms. In valvular heart diseases shortness of breath could be the predominant symptom, in late congenital or inborn heart diseases a patient can get bluish or cyanosed. So, there is a wide array of symptomatology.

Q: How is heart disease diagnosed?

A: Coronary heart disease is diagnosed both in already affected patients and in high risk, not yet affected patients. An already affected patient's coronary artery imaging by means of a coronary angiogram or a CT coronary angiogram is better than other diagnostic methods. In high risk people screening tests such as, ECG, exercise ECG are used



Dr Namal Gamage

THE TERTIARY CARE FOR CARDIAC PATIENT IS EXPENSIVE AND DEMANDING. THE AIM SHOULD BE TO MAKE AVAILABLE PRIMARY CORONARY ANGIOGRAPHIC INTERVENTIONAL FACILITY PROVINCIALY. WE MUST ENSURE THAT EXISTING CARDIAC SURGICAL CENTRES FUNCTION FULLY BEFORE CONSIDERING TO INCREASE THEIR NUMBER

as they are non-invasive. Valvular and congenital heart diseases are mainly diagnosed by echocardiography tool.

All these world-class equipment and techniques as well as well-trained doctors are available in Sri Lanka. But there are long waiting lists as there is a big mismatch between the demand for these services and their supply.

Q: Treatment- What is the best time to admit a patient with symptoms of heart or stroke to hospital?

A: As soon as possible, within what we call the golden hours. Unfortunately, most remote hospitals do not have cardiac care centres. Patients having their own transport mode should thus be brought to a big hospital with a coronary imaging or angiographic facilities, as soon as possible.

If these facilities are not available at a close by hospital the patient should be admitted to the nearest available hospital promptly.

The difference is the hospitals with cardiac catheter laboratory could immediately take the patient for coronary angiogram and immediately unblock the blocked coronary artery before the patient suffers a full-blown heart attack.

Q: Until help arrives what can be done in the house to ease the symptoms?

A: The only recognised first aid is a soluble aspirin (but not enteric coated ones) and TNT tablets or spray under the tongue. Getting the patient quickly to the nearest hospital is the most important thing.

Q: Are young people more likely to survive a heart attack without much adverse after effects than older persons?

A: Yes, because they have a big systemic reserve in their bodies which enables them to stand a heart attack.

When you grow older your systemic reserve gradually depletes and you may also acquire other concurrent diseases like hypertension, diabetes, bronchial asthma, renal problems, neurological problems or obesity which make one's body more vulnerable.

Q: What are the most pressing needs for heart patients in the future in Sri Lanka? How do you suggest they could be solved?

A: The tertiary care for cardiac patient is expensive and demanding. The aim should be to make available primary coronary angiographic interventional facility provincially. We must ensure that existing Cardiac surgical centres function fully before considering to increase their number.

Unfortunately, cardiac surgical centres at the Kurunegala and Anuradhapura hospitals do not function at all despite surgeons being appointed for those units for years now and patients from those areas have to come all the way to functioning cardiac surgical units at Karapitiya, Kandy and Colombo where there are very long waiting lists.

A big percentage of these patients die before getting the surgery done while being in the waiting list. This is the horrendous truth.

Q: Your message to the public on Dos and Don'ts to minimise heart risks?

A: Prevention is the most important thing. As coronary heart disease is an acquired heart disease, minimise modifiable risk factors.

Eat less oily, less starchy, home cooked food and avoid fast foods. Do more aerobic exercises. Avoid smoking both active and passive and enjoy your job and family life without stress.

Medi
snips



Rubella eliminated in Sri Lanka:

Vaccinations must continue with schools re-opening-
Epidemiology Unit

The WHO last week declared Sri Lanka had eliminated rubella in 2020, and that endogenous rubella transmission has already stopped in the country. South East Asia Regional Commission of the World Health Organization declared that the Regional targets of Rubella elimination expected to be achieved in 2023, had already been achieved by Sri Lanka three years ahead of the expected target.

Consultant Epidemiologist, Ministry of Health, Dr Deepa Gamage told the *Sunday Observer* that despite being certified as a country that has eliminated Rubella, the challenge was to maintain the country's Rubella free status.

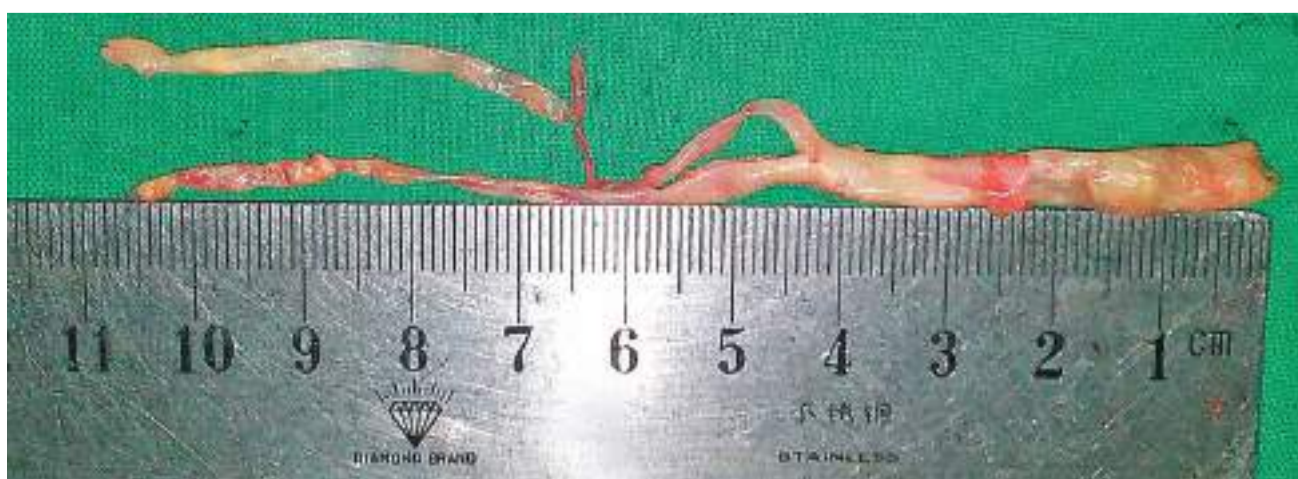
"Rubella is a viral disease which transmits easily from person to person. Earlier the rubella disease was called 'German measles'. Rubella disease usually appears as a mild illness but its impact on a newborn baby is devastating if it was contracted during pregnancy. Considering the critical effects which would lead to a social and economic burden on the country, the rubella vaccine was introduced to the National Immunization Program, for the reproductive-aged women in 1996, with the aim of preventing rubella disease and Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) in the newborns.

This vaccine-preventable disease is successfully eliminated by vaccinating other young children and school-aged children using rubella-containing vaccines from time to time to get the achievements that we see today", she said. With schools now reopened, she said it was specially important to raise awareness among parents on this subject.

She said the rubella virus transmits through respiratory tract secretions during sneezing and coughing. Once the virus enters the body, it fights with the immune system of the body and infection occurs after 14-21 days. This means initial signs and symptoms occur after the virus is acquired into the body and after the elapse of the incubation period. These persons start spreading the disease even seven days before the appearance of the initial clinical signs of fever and rash and continue to transmit 2-3 days after the appearance of rash.

She said that if a country is having continued transmission of rubella infection, susceptible or un-immune pregnant mothers can get affected and deliver Congenital Rubella Syndrome affected babies with congenital abnormalities. If a woman gets the infection during the first 3-4 months of her pregnancy, severe and even fatal devastating effects occur in the baby. There is a 90% chance of passing the virus to her unborn baby during pregnancy which can result in miscarriages, still-births and a range of birth defects including eye defects such as cataracts (white spots), glaucoma (pressure in the eye), *microphthalmia* (abnormally small eyes), heart problems, ear problems and many other neurological problems including mental retardation and developmental problems of the baby. This condition is collectively called 'Congenital Rubella Syndrome' (CRS). If a woman gives birth to a baby with such congenital abnormalities, she has to look after this baby throughout her life causing a social and economic burden to the family and to the country", she said.

Dr Gamage said most of these dangerous complications could be prevented through the Rubella vaccination and every woman should be aware of such complications before becoming pregnant. "She should be encouraged to ensure adequate protection against the rubella virus by receiving rubella vaccination at any age before reaching child-bearing age as recommended by the National Immunization Program." She said that Sri Lanka has achieved a very high vaccination coverage for rubella which led to the country accomplishing the Rubella elimination status. Sri Lanka provides two doses of rubella containing vaccines (as MMR vaccination) at nine months and three years as per the current schedule in the National Immunization Program. The vaccination and disease surveillance for rubella and CRS are nationally coordinated and implemented by the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health, through the field health staff and with hospital health staff as a coordinated activity. It was this team effort that led to the country achieving its current success status of certification of rubella elimination in 2020," she said.



Feature

BY R.S. KARUNARATNE

I think that folk should carry bright umbrellas in the rain, To smile into the sullen sky and make it glad again.

—Margaret E. Sangster

When the late and noble statesman, Neville Chamberlain was about to depart from the fatal Munich Conference, Herr Hitler told him, "Mr Chamberlain, vud you be so kind as to gift me your umbrella for a keepsake?" "No, no," said Chamberlain, "I can't do that." "But, Mr Chamberlain, it vud mean so much to me. I request it of you. Please!" "I'm sorry I can't oblige you," said Chamberlain. Hitler flew into a rage. "I insist!" he screamed, stamping on the Prime Minister's foot. "No," said Chamberlain firmly. "It's impossible. You see — the umbrella is mine."

Because of the intermittent rains everybody seems to be carrying umbrellas of various colours and sizes. Women carry folding umbrellas while bhikkus are with big yellow or black umbrellas with curved handles. Some people carry umbrellas whether it rains or not. But those who carry um-

brellas may not know who invented them. Uncertainty surrounds the question that has obsessed historians for many centuries. There are, of course, references to Egyptian nobles walking under parasols borne by slaves in 1200 B.C.

According to Chinese legend, the umbrella was invented by the wife of a carpenter, known as Lou-pan, who boasted that she could make portable roofs. History tells us that a Chinese emperor carried an umbrella with four storeys which looked like a pagoda. Not to be outdone, a Siamese king used an umbrella of seven storeys.

Ancient Romans used the umbrella mainly to protect themselves from the Mediterranean sun. In India the umbrella was associated with the gods of fertility and harvest, death and rebirth. The Hindu God Vishnu brought a rain-giving umbrella from hell. When Indian princes died their umbrellas were either buried or cremated with them.

Colourful umbrellas
King Louis XIII in France had about 11 different colourful umbrellas. Three of them had been decorated with gold

and silver lace. In the 18th century, a company in Paris used to rent out parasols. Gignese, a hillside village in Italy, was known as a "Region of Umbrellas." Many umbrella makers flocked to the village to sell their products. Sometime before World War II broke out, Gignese started selling a special brand of umbrellas known as "Museodell'ombrello e del parasole."

In 1938, the museum authorities asked the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain whether he was willing to donate his world-famous umbrella. It was the umbrella Hitler wanted from him. At the time the umbrella came to be called 'Chamberlain'. However, Chamberlain did not wish to part with his umbrella. When a new museum was put up in 1969, all the dignitaries who were invited for the opening ceremony were under umbrellas.

The English word 'umbrella' is derived from the Italian 'Ombrello', an offshoot of 'umbra', Latin for 'shade' or 'shadow'. Jonas Hanway (1712-'86) is credited with introducing the umbrella to England for everyday use. Hanway's

memorial in Westminster Abbey pays tribute to his work for foundlings and prostitutes, but not his pioneering efforts to introduce the umbrella.

'Stick in petticoat'
When Hanway was carrying an umbrella, people jeered at him, some youngsters threw stones and coachmen seeing their livelihood threatened eyed him balefully. At the beginning most Englishmen were reluctant to carry an umbrella because small boys called it a 'stick in petticoat.'

With the dawn of the 19th century, companies began to produce umbrellas on a large scale. Umbrellas of different sizes and colours were manufactured. In addition, the companies made automatic opening umbrellas which had a ready market. British soldiers carried umbrellas even to the battlefield. The Duke of Wellington who disapproved the practice carried an umbrella with a concealed sword!

At the Battle of Waterloo, a French marshal was surprised to see English officers on horseback carrying umbrellas. However, when the battle began they folded their umbrellas and fought

valiantly to defeat the enemy.

Mass scale production
England started manufacturing umbrellas on a mass scale using cheap raw materials coming from its colonies. In 'The Pickwick Papers' Charles Dickens says voters of Eatanswill were bribed with expensive gifts to their wives of green parasols. Dickens also introduced Mrs Gamp, in 'The Life and Adventures of Marin Chuzzlewit', who kept her elaborate umbrella beside the fireplace.

According to superstition, if you drop an umbrella, it is bad luck to pick it up yourself. If you open an umbrella on a nice sunny day, it would bring rain. Your umbrella should not rest on beds or opened indoors. If opened indoors the action may be construed as a direct insult to the sun which is revered in many countries. If a single woman drops an umbrella, she will never get married.

If you walk with an umbrella on a rainy day, it does not necessarily attract lightning. However, if there is no option, get as low as possible and avoid being near a 'path of least resistance.'

Among other uses, the umbrella comes handy for lovers sitting on the Galle Face Green to hide their faces. Some bold women who do not tolerate sexual advances from males use their umbrellas to beat them.

There is a wealth of poetry written on the umbrella. Of them I found Jaymie Gerard's little poem quite fascinating:

*Under my umbrella
Under my umbrella
I like to feel the drops
Of rain — its happy tapping
Of pitter — patter plops
Under my umbrella
I like to feel a dash
Of water as it hits the ground
And rises with a splash
Under my umbrella
I like to stay all day
And enjoy the rainy weather
As it falls down from the sky*

The umbrella is a clear example of how a simple thing such as an umbrella can tell a powerful story about how people have changed throughout time and the progression our race has made and is making currently towards the values we assume as most important at the time. The umbrella is not just an inanimate thing. It reminds us that even inanimate objects have some power over humans.

karunaratners@gmail.com



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			

- ACROSS**
- City of the Taj Mahal
 - (K) Aids for concertgoers in the back row
 - (K) Do more than just feel very sad
 - (K) Like music that's cranked up
 - (K) Winnie in a forest
 - (K) Word that can be attached to "one" or "how"
 - Half a stereo?
 - Totally fill up with food
 - (K) Letter near the end of the alphabet
 - Few and far between
 - (K) Flowery thing to wear
 - "___ the games begin"
 - (K) Word that means there are more words coming
 - (K) Mysterious sighting in the sky
 - Legendary Himalayan creature
 - (K) What you get after turning in a test
 - Certain tall timber of North America (2 words)
 - Lily of Utah
 - Little mischief-makers
 - Kroc who founded McDonald's
 - (K) Moving trucks
 - (K) Needing to see a doctor or nurse
 - Headquartered
 - (K) Common secretion by humans
 - (K) Solicit responses
 - (K) Top point
 - Once again
 - (K) Insect with five eyes and two stomachs
 - (K) A long, long way from wealthy
 - A city in Arizona
 - Twist in the sky or swerve off course
 - (K) Any large reference book
 - Like a museum picture that needs to be explained

- DOWN**
- Old-fashioned charitable donation
 - (K) Gloppy, slimy, gooey stuff
 - "Now git!" updated (2 words)
 - (K) Love tremendously
 - Vaulted area of a house of worship
 - Bird that left New Zealand long ago
 - (K) It sits on the range
 - (K) Common storage structures
 - (K) Stat for the last reliever
 - (K) Eleven is made of two of these
 - (K) Things for the top seeds
 - Affliction of the eyelid
 - (K) Easy, overwhelming win
 - (K) Units smaller than molecules
 - (K) Speech problem dealing with esses
 - (K) They deliver
 - (K) Strong competitor going against you
 - "___ go brag!"
 - (K) Provider of a panoramic view
 - Genetic info carrier
 - (K) Writer of "The Star-Spangled Banner"
 - (K) Bird of peace
 - (K) World's largest continent
 - (K) Adjust to fit
 - Cud-chewing animal
 - (K) Little infant
 - Traveling between Washington and Hawaii, in a way
 - Apply spin to your view
 - Bone-dry
 - (K) Part of some suits
 - (K) Out of town
 - (K) Pigeons do what?
 - (K) Lady of the house

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

1	2÷		2-
7+	6×		
	4	2÷	
2÷		7+	

CHALLENGING

4	10×	1-	6+		11+
3+			2÷		
		11+		6	1-
90×	9+		3+		
		5	5+		
5-		1-		2	

TODAY'S ANSWERS

4	3	2	1
3	4	1	2
4	3	2	1
1	2	4	3

WORKSPACE:

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

O	R	E	S	P	Y	B	A	B	E	T	
Y	O	R	E	C	I	A	A	L	T	O	
E	V	E	N	R	E	X	A	R	O	D	S
R	E	D	S	E	A	I	S	L	E	T	S
E	S	F	I	S	H	E					
A	D	D	T	E	R	H	P	E	D		
S	O	Y	S	A	G	I	R	A			
P	E	E	L	S	T	U	N	P	A	D	
W	A	L	I	D	A	R					
U	T	A	H	A	R	E	R	D	I	L	
S	P	A	S	T	A	N	D	A	M	E	
S	P	A	S	T	A	N	D	S	N	O	W

SUDOKU 224

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.

	4	2	8					1	
	9		6	2				7	
	8			1	9	5			
	6	5						9	
2								1	8
		8	1	9				2	
6			5	7				1	
3				2				7	9

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Riddle:

Tremendous amount of volume?

Last week answer:
37-A) Atlas

Last week's solution

4	3	6	7	2	8	5	1	9
5	2	9	6	1	3	4	7	8
1	8	7	9	5	4	3	6	2
3	1	2	4	6	5	9	8	7
8	6	5	2	9	7	1	4	3
9	7	4	3	8	1	6	2	5
2	5	1	8	4	9	7	3	6
7	9	8	1	3	6	2	5	4
6	4	3	5	7	2	8	9	1

OBSERVER EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Sri Lanka, a future education hub

– Prof. G L Peiris



Prof. G L Peiris

Sri Lanka is keen to establish itself as an education hub in Asia, trading on its strategic location, tourism and cultural appeal and significant development planned which will be developed, a striking example being the establishment of the first branch campus Edith Cowan University Sri Lanka.

As a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo and currently the Minister of Education, I am very proud of the "long history" of tertiary education in the country and a priority

for the government to ensure that the country's 13 universities offer career-ready education.

"Universities are no longer isolated from the mainstream, on the contrary, a conscious attempt is being made to ascertain employment opportunities, what are the skills and aptitudes for which there is a practical demand and that international institutions have a part to play in improving livelihoods and bringing fulfilling employment opportunities within reach to our people.

Sri Lanka under the guidance of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is involved in an ambitious program of innovation in education and one of the features of that program is closer links with internationally reputed Universities and the business sector to ensure the outcome is a commercial ready employable graduate. I feel sizeable investment into Sri Lanka similar to the ECU Sri Lanka initiative would help the country to be noticed: "Students, universities, academics will be encour-

aged to look seriously at Sri Lanka as a place to study and to work."

I spoke and discussed this opportunity in 2018 with the management team of Navitas Ltd during the International Navitas Business Partners Conference, held in Sri Lanka in 2018 to coincide with the 20th-anniversary celebrations of Australian College of Business and Technology which has been in Sri Lanka for over 22 years. There are not many locations that you can compare [Sri Lanka with] for cultural

experiences, beaches and it is cost-effective, and with high literacy rates and English proficiency, it is easy for International students, especially from the SAARC Region to navigate linguistically, culturally and logistically to have a satisfying educational experience.

I congratulate NAVITAS and Edith Cowan University Australia for taking this very important step for Sri Lanka and I look forward to working together in the future and to closer collaboration.

Pioneering Australian Branch Campus in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka and Australia have a long and proud history of trade, education and of course, cricket.

Edith Cowan University with its local Navitas partner the Australian College of Business and Technology have been a cornerstone in Sri Lanka's education for over 20 years and over 10,000 students have graduated over the years.

This pioneer ECU Branch Campus aligns well with the Government's ambition of creating a future education

hub in Sri Lanka.

We, at the High Commission, are very encouraged that Navitas, an Australian Global Education company based in Perth WA, has taken the initiative and provided the necessary capital and resources to ensure that ECU provides Sri Lankan and International students the opportunity to complete their Australian Degree or transfer to Australia directly.

This will also provide strong links

for student exchange and semester abroad opportunities for ECU Sri Lanka students to Australia and other ECU partners globally.

Sri Lanka with its multi-cultural and multi-religious environment offers students a very attractive destination to spend their formative years and graduate with one of the premier Australian Qualifications.

I wish Navitas and ECU Sri Lanka great success.



David Holly, Australian High Commissioner

Navitas and ECU launch Sri Lanka campus partnership

A leading Australian university branch campus in Colombo will be offering exciting programs in time for students to commence their studies in November 2020.

The new programs highlight Edith Cowan University's (ECU) strengthened commitment to the country's education sector and producing job-ready graduates.

A range of undergraduate degrees will meet the current and future needs of Sri Lanka's industry-driven employment market and wider economy. They include Commerce, Cyber Security, Computer Science, Design, Biomedical Science and Nursing.

Navitas is investing in new purpose-built facilities and equipment to support the ECU branch campus.

In partnership with the Australian College of Business and Technology (ACBT) and ECU, Navitas has an established reputation for teaching excellence in Sri Lanka.

Navitas Chair Rod Jones said: "We are excited to be offering students the opportunity to study a



Professor Steve Chapman CBE ECU Vice-Chancellor



Rod Jones, Navitas Chair

full degree from a well-regarded Australian university without leaving Sri Lanka, and graduate with the skills and experience they need to start successful careers anywhere in the world."

For more than two decades, Navitas and ECU have together supported over 2,400 students to access education and graduate with a quality, tertiary qualification, while earning a reputation for delivering exceptional student experience and academic outcomes.

(Continued on page 52)

The future today

One of the key attributes of an Edith Cowan University Branch campus here in Sri Lanka is to cater to the local student needs but also to give opportunities to students from our neighboring SAARC countries.

The need for recognised high quality education is in strong demand all over this region, but the output is negligible due to the very high cost and visa systems of the developed countries. The parents and students are looking for quality education at a more manageable value proposition and simpler visa system. Very few countries have

managed to setup education hubs in the last 20 years. These countries have vastly helped their own students' education needs and also helped their neighbours. Some of these countries have taken it a step further by engaging in collaborative research with the parent University from

Erath Karunaratne

overseas.

As ECU is a public university and a strong research oriented university, ECU Sri Lanka will not only teach students but will engage in collaborative research with ECU in Australia in the coming years. I like to thank David Holly, ambassador for Australia and his staff for their support, Minister of Education Prof G L Peiris, staff from BOI and Ministry of Immigration and Emigration, Sri Lanka.

I would like to thank Professor Steve Chapman, Vice Chancellor and President of Edith Cowan University, Mr Rod

Jones Chairman (Navitas Ltd), Professor Simon Ridings Deputy Vice-Chancellor International, Professor Di Twigg, Professor Andrew Woodward, Professor Maryam Omari, Associate Professor Madeline Ogilvie, Associate Professor Helen Vella Bonavita, and Professor Daryoush Habibi Pro Vice Chancellor, ECU Sri Lanka for helping us overcome challenges and making this a reality. I must not forget the work done by the Navitas team in Australia and the ACBT team in Sri Lanka.

Erath Karunaratne, Executive Director - ACBT



SECURE YOUR FUTURE WITH ECU'S BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (CYBER SECURITY)

Obtain an Australian Cyber Security Degree with ECU in Sri Lanka.

Edith Cowan University's Bachelor of Science (Cyber Security) program provides students with an opportunity to obtain an Australian Bachelor degree in Sri Lanka. The program exposes students to concepts like ethical hacking, digital forensics and security which will enable students to apply creative thinking to identify and solve cyber security challenges in today's world.



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¹ Bachelor of Science (Nursing Studies) is a one-year top up program for Registered Nurses at Diploma level to obtain an Australian Nursing degree.

CRICOS IPC: 00279B, ECU200831-1700 0920_AW

CINEC CAMPUS HOLDS 2020 CONVOCATION FOR 600 GRADUANDS



The annual convocation ceremony of CINEC Campus was held on a grand scale in two sessions at the Main Conference Hall of BMICH on the 15th of September with a participation of over 1800.

A record number of 600 graduands received their Postgraduate & Undergraduate Degrees, Advanced Diplomas & Diplomas respectively in the fields of Maritime Science, Maritime Engineering, Marine Electrical Engineering, Engineering & Technology, IT, Management & Social Sciences, Logistics & Transport, Aviation, English Language and Teaching courses conducted at the CINEC Campus in Malabe and the Metro Campus in Nugegoda.

Secretary to the Ministry of Education Sri Lanka, Prof. Kapila Perera graced the occasion as the special guest of honor. Capt. Ajith Peiris, President of CINEC Campus

conferred degrees and higher diplomas whilst Chancellor of CINEC, Vice Chancellors and Presidents from affiliated universities from UK and China joined the ceremony online. Special awards for outstanding students were given away by the Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Special Invitees.

The scale and the diversity of the spectrum of much desired and quality higher education that had been accomplished by CINEC over last 30 years earned high praise and admiration from all distinguished invitees, parents, graduands and well-wishers.

In accomplishing this noble service to the nation, CINEC has partnered with prestigious and recognized institutions: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Port & Shipping, Civil Aviation Authority, University of Wolverhampton UK, Dalian Maritime University China,

University of Bedfordshire UK, University of Solent UK, Pearson Qualification International UK, Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport UK, in conducting their training course curricula employing highly qualified and experienced academic staff from Sri Lanka.

This unprecedented achievement is attributed to the vision of CINEC and its leadership to provide the best knowledge, professionalism and competence to its students in laying a solid foundation to their chosen field, maintaining 100% employability is a clear reflection of the work ready graduates that step out from CINEC.

Mr. Ajith Senaviratne - Director General Merchant Shipping, Gen. Daya Ratnayake - Chairman Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Mr. W. S. Weeraman - Chairman Ceylon Shipping Corporation, Mr. D.V. Abeysinghe - CEO Colombo Dockyard PLC, Engineer Neil Abeysekera - CEO Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, Mr. Channaka De Alwis - President CILT Sri Lanka, Mrs. Chandima Janaki - Acting Director of Non-State Higher Education Division, and Director Interest Free Loan Scheme Division Ministry of Education and Mrs. Premila Paulraj - Regional Director, Asia - Pearson Qualifications International were amongst the distinguished participants to recognise CINEC. Senior management of the Ceyline Group were also amongst them.

Prof. Kapila Perera addressing the audience referred to the CINEC song, the vision and values and stressed

how well CINEC has coined wisdom to the society for over 30 years with diversity and uniqueness, sailing through the storm and marching with wind to reach the skies with competence, a philosophy true to all walks of life.

Capt. Ajith Peiris who has given visionary leadership to CINEC since its inception welcoming the invitees hailed both academic and support staff of CINEC in molding and guiding the graduands to reach their goals. He also thanked the parents with gratitude for the confidence placed on CINEC.

He did not fail to pay tribute to all those who have played a part in the 30 years of CINEC's long journey. He emphasized to the students to make use of the opportunities provided at CINEC to derive best benefits of both academic and soft skills to become leaders to the future, with commitment.

Gracing the occasion from CINEC were Chairman/ President - Capt Ajith Peiris, Co Chairman - Dr. Parakrama Dissanayake, Joint Managing Director CINEC - Nilanthi Sivapragasam, Senior Consultant - Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe, Consultant Academic Affairs and Research - Prof. Veranja Karunaratne, Assistant Vice President Finance, Planning, Projects and Administration - Mrs. Tharanga Gamage, Assistant Vice President International Corporation, Foreign Projects & Local Branches - Capt. Peshala Medagama, Consultant - Mr. Ranjana Punchihewa, Dean of the

Faculty of Marine Engineering - Mr. Charith Senaviratne, Dean of the Faculty of Maritime Sciences - Capt. Krishan Perera, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology - Dr. Janaka Liyanagama, Dean of the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences - Prof. Lalith Edirisinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Health Science - Prof. Menik Hettihewa, Associate Dean Faculty of Engineering & Technology/ Head of CINEC Metro Campus - Mr. Chandima De Silva, Associate Dean Faculty of Humanities and Education - Mr. Lasantha Basnayake, Registrar - Mr. Duminda Gunasekara, Head of the Department of Marine Electrical Engineering - Mr. Ranjith Goonawardena, Head of the Department of Aviation - Cdr. V. C. Munindradasa and all other staff members.



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University of Wolverhampton - UK (November 2020 Intake)

- MEng/ BEng (Hons) Automotive Engineering
- MEng/ BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering
- MEng/ BEng (Hons) Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering
- MEng/ BEng (Hons) Mechatronics Engineering
- MEng/ BEng (Hons) Civil and Construction Engineering

Technology Foundation Programme

Pathway to above Degree Programme without A/L results.

CINEC Campus - Ministry of Education (March 2021 Intake)

- BSc Hons in Engineering in Civil Engineering
- BSc Hons in Engineering in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering
- BSc Hons in Engineering in Mechanical Engineering
- BSc Hons in Engineering in Automotive Engineering

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Management Studies

Dalian Maritime University - China (October 2020 Intake)

- BSc in International Transportation Management and Logistics

CINEC Undergraduate Foundation Programme

Pathway to above Degree Programme without A/L results.

CINEC Campus - Ministry of Education (October 2020 Intake)

- BMgt (Hons) in Retail Marketing & Branding
- BMgt (Hons) in Supply Chain Management
- BMgt (Hons) in Human Resource Management
- BMgt (Hons) in Business Administration
- BSc (Hons) in Business and industrial Mathematics
- BBM (Hons) in Banking & Finance
- BMgt (Hons) in Tourism and Hospitality Management
- BSc (Hons) in Logistics and Transportation (March 2021 Intake)

UCL – Sri Lanka’s Guaranteed Pathway to THE PRESTIGIOUS MONASH UNIVERSITY

Monash University is the only Top 100 University in the World and Group of Eight University in Australia to offer guaranteed pathways programmes in Sri Lanka. Monash University is ranked among the top one per cent of universities worldwide, and consistently listed as a preferred source of graduates by companies the world over.

Monash University, found in 1958, is now the largest university in Australia with over 83,000 students from 170 countries and having an Alumni of over 350,000. In line with its vision and strategy for the future, Monash University will continue to drive for improvement. The University now offers a broad selection of courses within 10 faculties: Business; Engineering; Information Technology; Science; Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Education; Art, Design & Architecture; Law; and Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.

A Founding Member of the Group of Eight, the coalition of Australia's most prestigious research-intensive universities, Monash University is ranked 58th globally according to the QS World University Rankings 2020 and is ranked 75th globally according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2020. The universities are ranked by their core mission, teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. They use 13 performance indicators to provide unbiased and comprehensive comparisons that are relied on by academics, industry leaders and governments in the world. These 13 performance indicators are further grouped into five areas: Teaching (the learning environment); Citations (influence for research); Research (volume, revenue earned and reputation); International outlook (students, staff and research) and Industry income (knowledge transfer). Data for the process is provided by institutions and the panel evaluates each performance indicator and allocates a score. An accumulated mark is given for institutions and finally, a version of Z-scoring is used to standardize scores. This transparent process further makes the ranks reliable and definitive.

University College Lanka (UCL) is the exclusive partner for Monash Education in Sri Lanka and we offer the Monash University Foundation Year and

Monash College Diplomas (Equivalent to the 1st Year of the Degree) in Science, Information Technology, Engineering and Business. Upon completion, students are provided a guaranteed pathway to Monash University in Australia or Malaysia to pursue their higher education at a Top 100 University in the world and a Group of 8 University in Australia.

UCL espouses a student centric approach and an uncompromising commitment to achieve, maintain and offer the most stringent international standards and highest quality of higher education in Sri Lanka. UCL possesses a highly qualified and competent faculty among the private tertiary education institutes in the country, enabling them to achieve academic excellence and offer their students a superior learning experience in a caring environment. It is also unique that the Programme Coordinators of the Monash College Diploma and the Monash University Foundation Year are both Monash Alumni, which contributes in no small measure to prepare their students to excel at a Top 100 University in the world.

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Advertorial



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa speaking at the discussion at the Presidential Secretariat



Education, Government's top priority – President

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said that one of the top priorities of the Government is to formulate and implement a strategy that will cover education from early childhood education to tertiary education to ensure that future generations will choose the right path.

The President said that since early childhood development and primary education are crucial stages in a child's life, special attention should be paid to that aspect.

President Rajapaksa was speaking at a discussion at the Presidential Secretariat recently on the future activities of the State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services.

"There has been no proper focus or monitoring on pre-school education. A plan has been formulated with the assistance of specialists in children's education," the President said.

"It is the responsibility of the parents and teachers to create an environment where the child will be able to receive education with a free mind as well as to constantly appreciate the child. Attention has been paid to grant an allowance to teachers of pre-school, which do not charge fees.

Another objective is to regulate and train them in a way that does not discomfit them. We also plan to provide pre-school children with a locally manufactured kit to develop their early skills. The primary responsibility of the officers and authorities is to identify and manage the resources of all schools in the island," the President said.

The officers of national and provincial schools should not be confined to their of-

fices. They should go to schools to identify and solve problems on the spot. The President stressed the need to introduce a system where officers visit schools to provide solutions to the issues of the teachers rather than teachers travelling to education offices, he said.

Head of the Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation Basil Rajapaksa expressing his regret over the hardships faced by teachers, who go to zonal offices for various needs related to their profession, said that the officials should support to resolve the issues faced by the teachers.

He emphasised the need to provide safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities to all schools.

The Government is focusing on setting up Special Education Units at the district level to develop the skills of children with special needs to socialise them. He said that families with such children should be supported with financial assistance to protect them from being the victims of psychological and economic constraints.

The need of passing legislations to establish a National Committee on Women was discussed at the meeting.

The attention was drawn to expedite the adjudication of child abuse cases and to provide closed court facilities to take testimonies in a manner which will not disrupt the child's wellbeing.

Prof. Ven. Medagoda Abhayatissa Thera, Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, State Minister Piyal Nishantha, Secretary to the President P.B. Jayasundera, Secretaries to Cabinet and State Ministries and officials of line institutions were present.

Metropolitan College

Metropolitan College's roots go back to 1999 when Dr.Siraz Mirasaheeb laid the foundation to establish this great institute which has expanded and developed over the years. Our Diplomas and Higher Diplomas are registered locally by the Tertiary Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) of Sri Lanka.

Girne American University (GAU)

Metropolitan College has been a long standing partner of Girne American University. GAU offers world class Degree, Masters and PhD courses. Being an American styled University in Europe, they also have branches in 6 other countries including the UK & USA. They are registered under the International Association of Universities and are recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka. Having their second largest branch in the UK has given them the opportunity of being recognized by the UK Naric.

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The world of business has evolved into a being one of the most competitive fields in the world, for the past 20 years Metropolitan College has proudly produced numerous number of graduates who have excelled academically and are now among the top tier professionals in Sri Lanka.

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Metropolitan College is also an approved centre for OTHM qualifications, UK, which offers Business Management courses starting from level 3 in Business Management to the Post Graduate Diploma (PgD) which leads to the MBA awarded by the University of Chichester (UK) combined with London Graduate School.

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The tourism industry is one of the largest and main sources of income in Sri Lanka and this would be

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Advertorial

Bristol Institute inducts sixth batch of MBA students

Started in January 2018 with its inaugural batch, the MBA program at Bristol Institute of Business Management awarded by the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, has been widely successful across the higher educational sphere of Sri Lanka.

Lauded for its strict quality in line with UWE Bristol's standards, time-relevant syllabus, holistic skill development and effective assessment criteria, the MBA program recently inducted its sixth batch of students – a commendable feat since its first intake just two years ago.

Spanning two years, the program has created an accumulated student population of over 250 MBA students at Bristol Institute of Business Management. Chief Operating Officer M.J.M. Dilshad said, "We have found that our MBA is a widely sought-after qualification, stemming from the fact that the fundamental core of the program revolves around preparing future managers to face the dynamism of the global market in the light of the many challenges of the contemporary business world."

He said the programme seamlessly integrates practical insights



COO of Bristol Institute M.J.M. Dilshad addressing the new batch of students

and theoretical viewpoints into key issues facing organisations, and encompasses investigative methodologies that are relevant and applicable to today's world. We also encourage our students to think about management in a responsible way to achieve sustainable value for organisations and the society at large.

"The business world is an ever

changing one, and our MBA program not only shapes students' thinking to be versatile, but also practises what it preaches," said Dilshad, explaining how the institute overcame the challenges of Covid-19 by investing in sophisticated digital platforms to have a seamless shift from physical lectures to digital learning while keeping delivery



Jameel Jabbar from Microsoft delivering the keynote speech

quality intact. "We offered a comprehensive digital platform that included webinars, online tutoring, student support and an all-inclusive virtual library," he said.

Structured to include a complementary mix of modules, such as Customer and International Markets, Leadership, Complexity and Change, Managing People in a Glob-

al Context, Strategy and Implementation, Digital Business Information Systems, Financial Decision Making and Conducting Evidence Based Research to name a few, the program also includes the completion of a comprehensive dissertation.

Delivered by a high powered lecture panel comprising PhD Holders, researchers, industry professionals

and subject experts, the MBA program at Bristol Institute of Business Management ensures that students receive a rounded experience combining theory, application and skills development. Its flexible approach to learning in tandem with the contemporary nature of business in today's world sets the Bristol MBA apart from the rest.

HNB launches revamped Student Savings Unit at Royal College



Ramping up efforts to encourage a flourishing savings habits among young Sri Lankans, HNB PLC, celebrated the opening of a fully revamped Student Savings Unit at Royal College, Colombo.

The new unit was opened at the school with the participation of Royal College Principal, B. A. Abeyrathna, together with HNB Deputy General Manager – Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne, Royal College Senior Deputy Principal, V. S. Gunathilake, Royal College Deputy Principal – Academics, Krishantha Silva, Royal College Assistant Principal – Primary, Yugantha Liyange, Royal College, Student Development Society – Secretary, Asanga Peiris, Royal College Union – Secretary, Mithila Mendis, teachers, parents and students.

"We are pleased and grateful to celebrate this important milestone with the opening of a brand-new HNB Student Savings Unit. With HNB's assistance, we will now be able to give students a powerful head start on essential skills needed to flourish in life, such as being financially responsible and developing a savings habit while gaining familiarity with new technologies that will be foundational for greater success in future," Royal College, Principal, B.A. Abeyrathna stated.

Student savings units were first introduced to the Sri Lankan banking landscape at Royal College by HNB in 1994. Since then, the Bank has expanded its service to cover



Royal College, Principal, B.A. Abeyrathna and HNB Deputy General Manager - Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne, opening the new Student Savings Unit, Royal College. Student Development Society Secretary, Asanga Peiris and HNB Kollupitiya, Customer Centre, Senior Manager, Samuddika Mendis are also in the picture.

162 Students Savings Units across Sri Lanka. Through the units, student managers are groomed to take leadership in running a mini-bank in school and get involved in promoting the savings habit among fellow students. The bank trains over 1,000 students annually in this capacity.

"It is an honour for myself and all of my fellow Royal College old boys to have launched our state-of-

the-art HNB Student Savings Unit. With continuous digitalisation, the future of banking and finance is changing at an increasingly rapid pace. Through these units, we are able to give our future leaders here at Royal an early, in-depth, first-hand experience of these systems. In this manner, we hope to give each of them a firm foundation for financial success throughout their life," HNB Deputy General Manager - Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne said.

The Student Development Society (SDS) of the College has continued to support the bank in revamping and developing the HNB Student unit at the school premises. Additionally, the unit will be managed by the HNB Kollupitiya Customer Centre.

Human body through photography

BY SEWWANDI SAMADARA, UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

Different subject fields expanded in the mid of the 18th century. When we talk about art and aesthetics, art comes first chronologically. The very word 'aesthetics' comes into academic discourse for the first time by Alexander Baumgartner.

He coined the term aesthetics and Kant baptized the subject in the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment. Today art is a massive subject. Here I am also going to analyze some kind of aesthetic appreciation in the art world. However, there were two types of arts as liberal arts and fine arts.

In fine arts, there were seven arts naming; sculpture, painting, architecture, music, dancing, drama and theatre and poetry. These identifications have a long history in both East and West. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the mode of production changed from feudal into an industrial society.

Great aesthetic episodes occurred during the industrial revolution. The nature and scope of arts too changed. After the 1890s, science dominated every field. Three new fields were added to the arts with the influence of science: cinema, fashion designing, and photography. Here my main aim is to look at how photography contributes to aesthetic appreciation of the human body.

The importance of art and beauty is hardly open to debate. Whether we consider the individual or the group, ancient or modern times, we cannot afford to neglect the aesthetic aspect of life. The men of the old stone-aged drew pictures on the walls of the cave. Since culture evolved, people have sung and danced. The first woman to be praised for her beauty was recorded in history. Life without beauty would be far duller than it is. Moreover, art and beauty offer a challenge to our curiosity like the origin of species. Therefore, Beauty is one of the significant subjects in art and later in aesthetics.

Pinning down a definition of beauty is not an easy task. It is undefinable at all. Sometimes, beauty is subjective and sometimes beauty is objective and at the same time, beauty is both objective and subjective. What is important is not the cobweb, the spider is important since it is the subject and therefore, the subject is important to create beauty.

However, the taste of beauty is al-



Photography in the philosophy of art

ways changing from one person to another and even within one individual. Beauty has been defined from various standpoints. We want mediation to have a sense of beauty; for example, paintings, and sculptures and human creations. As well as we do not have to have the mediation to have a sense of beauty for instance landscape, sun, and other natural components.

Many scholars have discussed the human body and its artistic beauty from ancient times. However, the human body was interpreted in a biological sense previously. Among the biological interpretations, some intellectuals observe the notion of beauty in the human body philosophically and in an artistic sense.

The emergence in recent years of postmodern and feminist thinking demands a reconsideration of how the body is represented in the visual arts. No longer is the body a simple object of visual delight and erotic pleasure, the body is now understood to be the site of a highly charged debate.

New theories insist that the representation of the body in the visual arts is central to society's construction not only of norms of sexual behaviour but of power relationships in general. Nevertheless, our 21st-century view of the human body is not only the relation between the individual and society, but also the relation between humanity and the world. While considering both the concept of beauty and the human body, I am going to explain how it relates to photographic expressions.

Photography is one of the best art forms man invented. There are different aspects of photography. The aesthetics of photography can be interpreted subjectively while determining what component of a photograph makes it beautiful to the viewer. However, there are many ongoing discussions about different facets of photography.

Here I am going to examine how the human body has been represented by photography throughout the history of this most modern of all media in the visual arts. Photography has been the most widespread means of visual communication of the past century and a half and has done more than any other medium to shape our notions of the body in modern times.

Photography and Modernism grew up together; as an industrial

product, photography stands as a metonym for the industrialisation that defines the modern era. Photography is also a metonym for the Enlightenment, the philosophical thinking that arose in the eighteenth century and that has dominated the Modern era.

The Enlightenment valued empiricism, the belief that experience, especially of the senses, is the only source of knowledge. Here photography plays an empirical role in modern society. Since the late 1980s, an extraordinary number of photographic practices and critical texts have taken the human body as their central subject. Reflecting the perceptions of gender and aging (Jo Spence, Cindy Sherman, Annette Messager), critical ideas on racial difference (Adrian Piper, Mona Hatoum) and other societal issues have been discussed by the photographers and they not only concentrate on how to represent bodies or what kinds of bodies should be represented, but also with the emergence of specifically photographic ways of seeing the body and with the role of photography in the production of desire.

In the 1990s, photography historians and theorists suggested that the new interest in the body in photography was linked to the critical theories and 'body politics'. The fascination with the body has also linked to the advent of new technologies and technical knowledge and new means of rapidly reproducing and disturbing photographic images. The beauty of the body is interpreted from different perspectives. They captured the human body from different angles, sportsmen and women, children, breastfeeding mothers and elders as their artistic taste of beauty through photography. Photographers provide various definitions for their captures and interpret societal issues and exhibit them into the outer world.

There is an infinite variety of textures, curves, shapes, forms, which is visually enriching and pleasing to the human eye. It is, therefore, true beauty is not 100% symmetrical, is not smooth, and youth is not always the most beautiful thing. The most beautiful trees are twisted and growing in all these asymmetric patterns. Also, of course, the older a tree is, the more we praise it. An older tree is a beautiful tree. We can apply the same philosophy to human beings and their bodies. The older the human, with more wrinkles, crevices, and texture in their skin, is better and more beautiful. That is why photographers focus on the snapshots of old aged people nowadays.

The bad trend we can see in photography is that everyone tries to make their photos perfectly symmetrical. However, according to my view, I think asymmetrical compositions are far more elegant, interesting, dynamic, and epic than static, symmetrical compositions. When we consider the body of sportsmen and women, we can relate this. They move and are not stable while playing, but it is an artistic capture to take a minute to look at the photograph. Although beauty is both subjective and objective, and how people look at the human body through photography are also both subjective and objective. So it is very difficult to come to a definite conclusion. Therefore, the above issues I have discussed here are to show how people in different periods interpret their ideas regarding the beauty of the body and my main focus was to manifest how photography contributes to prove this evidence. I limited my argument only to the western context. This aspect is different in the Eastern context. As in conclusion, it is clear that photography can manifest an aesthetic appreciation for the beauty in the human body descriptively.



Rob Woodcox photography



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World Tourism Day 2020



Celebrations of MSI students

SETTING AN EXAMPLE AT A TIME IT'S NEEDED THE MOST

At a point of crisis where the world is gasping for its final breath amid a non-reversible climate change catastrophe, acting to protect and conserve the environment needs to be made a priority of all beings. Last week, the New York City launched a 15-digit digital display countdown named as the "Metronome" which reads us time as to how long we have until the climate change effect upon Earth is irreversible. The countdown is currently dialing down at 7 years and little over a hundred days, which is time before the world gets to cut down its greenhouse gas emissions to give Earth a two-third of a chance of surviving below 1.5 degrees Celsius in comparison to pre-industrial age.

The key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions contributing towards climate change is to avoid deforestation. Deforestation has been an immense threat globally as well as locally making its way to the headlines brought under discussion over the past decade in Sri Lanka.

Ahead of World Tourism Day 2020, students who are following the Bachelor's in Hospitality and Tourism Management (BHTM) from the Management and Science Institute (MSI) Colombo recently made their educational tour to Anawilundawa Wetland Reserve and Bird Sanctuary.

Following the recent news of the wetland destruction at Anawilundawa and considering the importance of environmental protection towards the local biodiversity and tourism growth, the students extended their hands to help-out the wetland reserve that came under threat. The first step of this initiative was the understanding that the students built as responsible citizens of what they are required to provide the world in exchange for



all it's done for us.

Management and Science Institute became the First University to engage in the Mangrove tree plantation at Anawilundawa as a step towards creating awareness and revitalising the wetland reserve. Anawilundawa wetland and Bird Sanctuary spanning over 1,397 hectares is the calm and quiet home to water birds, threatened fish, Amphibians and Reptiles. The sanctuary comprises 7 manmade tanks that have been benefitting the natural habitat and the biodiversity of the area. Environmental Organisations educated the students regarding the biodiversity and the natural habitat of the sanctuary and as to why it plays a vital role towards the environment. Towards the end of the session, the Wildlife Conservation Authority and the Environmental Organisations engaged in protecting the wetland reserve made a request from the students to provide their contribution

and to act responsibly where necessary, to protect and preserve the environment.

A special Thank You needs to be extended to many persons who provided their valuable time and effort to make this a success. The Department of Wildlife Conservation acted as the key guidance to provide resources to implement this initiative. The Assistant Director of the Department of Wildlife conservation Eranda Gamage coordinated and set the platform for the students to engage in this project.

Buddhika Upananda and Thushan Wijesingha, the Assistant Rangers of the Department of Wildlife Conservation at Anawilundawa wetland reserve were the key personnel on-site that paved the way to a successful project which was the start of setting a great example. We specially thank to Prof Tan Sri, the President and Prof. Puan Sri, the Vice Chancellor of MSU for their guidance for students' activities towards their development. Director of Management and Science Institute, Colombo Samantha Peiris and lecturers Vajira Ratnayake and Dr. Sharmini Perera, guided the students throughout the planning and initiation of the project. The students of the Bachelor's in Hospitality and Tourism Management need to be appreciated for going out of their way to recognise the importance of such an initiative, not just to the country but to the world.

Along with the rapid development of Tourism industry in Sri Lanka, MSU & MSI offers the most recognised, the Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management program leading to the Bachelors (hons) Degree that bestows students with the knowledge in the combined disciplines of Hospitality, Tourism, Event and Management. In addition to being educated in these fields, students will also learn about the state-of-the-art technologies used in the fields of economics, management and marketing, enabling graduates of this program, to not only be competent in Hospitality and Tourism, but also to have a knowledge on complex strategic issues in the Business decision making in any changing environment

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Advertorial

Horizon Campus introduces E-learning for Early Childhood Education Degree

Horizon Campus that carries a strong reputation for excellence and in topping the list for offering the best degree in Early Childhood Education in the country, recently introduced e-learning mode for this well renowned degree due to popular demand.

The CEO of Horizon Campus, Ajitha Wanasinghe said that an encouraging demand for early childhood educators prevailed at present. He said that both national and international shortages in the early childhood education sector have been prevalent for years and looked set to continue. Today, with a renewed focus on the importance and benefits of a strong pre-school education, and with the recognition that early childhood educators can make a difference in the lifelong learning experiences of their students, the field of early childhood education was growing at a relatively faster rate for the first time in several decades, thereby making the outlook and prospects even better for the next generation of teachers.

He said that today's aspiring early childhood educators had a robust career ahead of them, with a wave of new jobs and opportunities to advance and grow professionally within individual employment settings across the sector. Henceforth, it was decided by the management of Horizon Campus to conduct this part



time program virtually.

Those who obtain their undergraduate degree in early childhood education have career options open to them, with great employment prospects that include a good balance of both public teaching positions and private institutions and even overseas. This means that an investment made in training and education in this field will be rewarded with plenty of career opportunities, as there is virtually zero unemployment in this field, which is not expected to change any time soon.

The normal career path in early childhood education will generally follow an upward path of promotions. One can start by working in a preschool and then move on to designing curriculum

or working for private education companies that will need the guidance of teachers to develop learning tools and products aimed at young learners and can even eventually move to a policy or management position in education.

He added that Horizon Campus's Early Childhood Education Degree, keeping in line with industry requirements, covers a comprehensive curriculum that gives a foundation in speciality training in childhood development, literacy, diversity and behaviour. Through the coursework, participants will learn how to establish expectations, develop teaching plans, work with developmental needs, partner with parents, and set their students on the path to a life full of success.

The aim, he said, was to enable their students to become outstanding early childhood teachers, decision makers, intellectual and ethical leaders.

He said that by gaining the right qualifications and with plenty of concentrations and many career avenues to pursue, early childhood education today is stated as a really great choice for those who relate well with children and have a passion for teaching and has become a career for life, with opportunities for progression into leadership positions in the field of education.

For further information or Registrations, call Ishara 071-5563288 or visit the Horizon Campus website on www.horizoncampus.edu.lk.

WORLD TOURISM DAY

By
Vasana
Abeynayake



World Tourism Day falls on today. It is commemorated each year on September 27. It is an event held annually by the tourism industry all over the world. Tourism can help us build a better future for everyone.

Its purpose is to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value. Tourism is travel for pleasure or business; also the theory and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating and entertaining tourists and the business of operating tours. It is the entire activity that deals with tourists and the business of attracting and taking care of tourists. The 2020 edition of World Tourism Day, with the theme of "Tourism and Rural Development", will celebrate the unique role that tourism plays in providing opportunities outside of big cities and preserving cultural and natural heritage all around the world.

Around the world, the tourism sector is a leading source of employment, supporting many millions of jobs and driving economies forward, at local, national and international. It is a channel for equality and inclusivity. Tourism provides employment for men and women, offering them a chance to support themselves and their families and to integrate fully into a wider society.

Tourism is a popular industry to develop local economies. Tourism can also bring many advantages to local governments and residents. Governments want to develop tourism to get its maximum benefits; even some governments spent much more energy and money on the development of tourism than others. The development of tourism can drive economic growth and working unit increase.

Developing tourism is beneficial to the education system. Tourists offer useful advice to forest or facilities management systems. They provide an endless supply of people from around the world, who can be educated on everything from forest stewardship to local history and plans for the future.

Tourism can help fundraising. Governments can raise money to build some public facilities or invest on needy children. It is good for the government's credibility, and fundraising is also beneficial to the local economy. Tourists provide an easy target for fundraising. Tourists pay fees for everything from camping sites and park entry fees, to licences for fishing and hunting. The more tourists in a controlled area, means the more money that can be collected for things like education, policing and maintenance of national wilderness areas. Developing tourism is promoting cultural exchange, and local residents can communicate with foreigners.

Celebrating this day helps establish prosperous tourism among nations. It would not only lead to exploration of the beauty of the globe but also bring harmony among people. World Tourism Day is celebrated even in the schools by organising program, such as drawing posters, doing hospitality programs, campaigns and arranging explorative events with speeches. They are the events based on multi-cultural facets of activities.

Tourism also brings many negative effects for local residents and the environment. Pollution is the biggest negative factor concerning tourism. For example, people use cars or planes to travel to their destination, causing air pollution. It damages the environment and affects local residents. Trips to distant conferences can have serious environmental impacts, especially if made by airplane.

Because of the aggressive impact of greenhouse gas emissions in the upper atmosphere, their threat to the global climate is more serious than similar trips made at surface level. Plastic pollution is a serious problem from tourism. Many people drop litter carelessly, especially, plastics. It causes soil pollution and ruins the environment. Noise pollution also affects the local residents. Loud noises can scare animals out of the area and possibly even disrupt the local ecosystem. Water pollution is the most negative effect for local residents. People cannot live without water. Visitors often put litter into streams or sometimes spit into the water.

Many people worry about the problems of tourism to the environment. There are ways to solve the problems caused by tourism, first of all, improving the environment management and planning. The local governments should carry out effective environment management to develop tourism.

DEVELOPING TOURISM IS BENEFICIAL TO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. TOURISTS OFFER USEFUL ADVICE TO FOREST OR FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS. THEY PROVIDE AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD, WHO CAN BE EDUCATED ON EVERYTHING FROM FOREST STEWARDSHIP TO LOCAL HISTORY AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE



Education sector revolutionised with Rubik.lk

E-FUTURE TECH SYSTEMS CELEBRATES THIRD ANNIVERSARY

E-Future Tech Systems which is poised to revolutionise the education sector with Rubik.lk says that Sri Lanka's education sector must innovate and adapt to workplaces as the Covid-19 Global Pandemic has brought forward a transition in to on-line work practices while creating new vistas for learning.

E-Future Tech Systems (Pvt) Ltd celebrates the third anniversary with a bang. Anjana Rathnayake, the mastermind behind rubik.lk, jobpal.lk andwork.lk which continue to disrupt the job market and the gig economy; said that in addition to ensuring a safe and healthy working environments, institutions must increasingly utilise Learning Management Systems (LMS).

"The Covid-19 Global Pandemic has directly and indirectly affected over billions of both formal and informal workers. Compared to pre-crisis levels (Q4 2019), a 10.5 percent deterioration is now expected, equivalent to 305 million full-time jobs, International Labour Organization (ILO) has cautioned. This is a staggering 14 times the population of Sri Lanka, which is much higher than the previous projections, due to the prolongation and extension of lockdown measures all over the world. Although Sri Lanka has been safe so far due to far-sightedness of the Government, the 'new normal' birthed by Covid-19 is here to stay whether we like it or not," said Rathnayake, Director / CEO of E-Future Tech Systems (Pvt) Ltd, which celebrated its third anniversary recently.

"As a result of the economic crisis created by the pandemic, almost 1.6 billion informal economy workers (representing the most vulnerable in the labour market), out of a worldwide total of two billion and a global workforce of 3.3 billion, have suffered massive damage to their capacity to earn a living, as per ILO. According to Forbes, Twitter, Facebook, Google and many other global giants are transforming and redefining their enterprises towards enabling a majority of employees to continue or shift towards working from home. According to Gartner Survey in March 2020, 74 percent of CFOs expect to shift some employees to remote work permanently. These new trends have forced Sri Lankan employers also to adapt and redefine how their employees work," he said. "Jobpal.lk is the first fully-fledged job platform offering seamless solutions between job seekers and employers that does not charge employers and as such, it revolutionised the job market," Rathnayake said.

An engineer with over 11 years of experience at a leading telecommunication operator in Sri Lanka, Rathnayake following his entrepreneurial instinct and passion to innovate, quit his job and gave birth to E-FutureTech Systems (Pvt) Ltd in June 2017.

"Our main target segment or value proposition would be the job-seeker category. In addition to offering the basic services of searching

for jobs and applying for vacancies absolutely free of charge, the applicants may opt for our premium service, where Jobpal Team would apply for jobs aggressively on behalf of the jobseeker," Rathnayake said.

E-Future Tech Systems in 2018 launched work.lk, which is a freelance marketplace open for a range of services from high tech services such as web or mobile development to documentation related work like content writing, proof reading, translations, data entry to even day-to-day household work such as gardening, plumbing, painting, masonry, electrical etc.

Due its innovativity and creativity, jobpal.lk won numerous accolades, such as SLT Zero One Awards, e-Swabhimani Award for Inclusion and Empowerment.

"Our innovativity and creativity is the number one of reason why, although so many online recruitment and freelancer portals have sprung up in Sri Lanka, we are cut above the rest as our core business is catering to the needs of the jobseekers and service providers," he said.

Once registered as a premium job seeker, he or she may upload his CV, fill basic details, then receives a five-digit CV ID. After dialing the registration code, the jobseeker may enter the CV ID whilst all other details will be automatically collated from his or her profile. Jobpal extensively uses Facebook and other social media tools for marketing, along with direct marketing methods.

The portal is free for all employers and it is also the only site in Sri Lanka which is 100 percent operative through mobile phones even without a data connection in order to offer seamless convenience to jobseekers.

Currently, vacancies and gigs could be posed while Team E-FutureTech Systems keeps in constant touch with employers and service providers to obtain all available vacancies and services, both local and foreign, to serve jobseekers and service seekers.

In November 2019, to assist teachers and lecturers to conduct online classes, E-Future Tech Systems launched, the first Sri Lankan-owned Learning Management System (LMS) - Rubik.lk where course content in English and Sinhala media can be made available on the platform. E-FutureTech Systems has also created an e-Commerce platform - 999.lk where electronic items, fashionables and wearables, health and beauty products, home and garden items and phone accessories could be purchased online.

Venturing into mechatronic engineering, the Company in 2017 acquired Divor Automations (Pvt) Ltd., which is specialising in mechatronics and automation. Marking its third anniversary in 2020, E-FutureTech Systems will announce the launch of its own visual content production house with a further view to disrupt how visual content is consumed in Sri Lanka in the near future.



University of Sri Jayewardenepura

EXTERNAL DEGREES AND EXTENSION COURSES UNIT

Enrolment for the B.Sc. Business Studies (General) External Degree Programme - 2020

Applications are called for the BSc Business Studies (General) External Degree Programme offered by the External Degrees and Extension Courses Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on or before 02nd November 2020.

Degree Course:

B.Sc. Business Studies (General) External Degree Programme offered by the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce

- > Medium : Sinhala / English
- > Duration : 3 years
- > Total Course fee (for three years) : Rs. 185,000/= (can be paid in three instalments)

Qualifications Required for the application process:

1. Should have obtained minimum three "C" passes at the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in one sitting including one of the following subjects.

Accounting	Economics
Business Studies	Higher Mathematics
Business Statistics	Information and Communication Technology
Combined Mathematics	Mathematics
2. The age should not be less than 18 years and not more than 35 years at the time of closing applications.

Selection for Enrolment :

Since only a limited number of students are selected for the enrolment of the above course, the students will be selected through a selection test or any other method decided by the Department in the event that the number of applicants exceeds the expected number.

Procedure for Submitting Applications:

1. An amount of Rs. 1300/= should be credited to following account number through any People's Bank branch and application should be submitted online via the website : www.external.sjp.ac.lk (It is advisable to keep a photocopy of the receipt with the applicant).
Account Number : 072010007127
2. Duly completed application should be sent to **The Assistant Registrar, External Degrees and Extension Courses Unit, P.O. Box No. 10, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegoda** on or before 2nd November 2020 with the following documents.
 - I. The Bank receipt (keep a photocopy of the receipt)
 - II. A certified copy of the birth certificate.
 - III. Certified copies of certificates related to educational qualifications
 - IV. A certified copy of the NIC.

(Note: "B.Sc. Business Studies (General) External Degree" should be mentioned on the top left-hand corner of the envelope).

Instructions to Candidates:

1. There is no affiliated unit or institute that undertakes / performs the duties and responsibilities of the External Degrees and Extension Courses Unit (EDECUC) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Candidate himself / herself should send the application. The EDECUC does not take any responsibility for applications sent by any third parties.
2. The application fee of Rs. 1300/= is non-refundable.
3. Delayed and incomplete applications will be rejected.
4. For further details please refer to the website of www.external.sjp.ac.lk
5. Those who applied for this degree programme as per the advertisement published on 10th February 2019 and 07th July 2019 are not required to reapply.

Registrar
University of Jayewardenepura

Inquiries:
External Degrees and Extension Courses Unit
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegoda.
Telephone : 112801481, 113132496, 112758233
Email: ext.certi@sjp.ac.lk

PATHE Academy stands tall in Health Science Education

PATHE Academy offers medical programs that will bring you many rewarding dividends.

PATHE Academy has been a leader and in the forefront of offering excellent value-added programs in medical science for the discerning students who have aspirations to make great strides for humanity.

Medical diplomas and degree are much sought after in the modern world, and wher-

ever you are placed, you will be an asset, be in a hospital or a laboratory. You can also have a sense of being self-actualised as you will be helping scores of people to lead healthy lives.

For students who have a passion for Health Science and have not been able to pursue their dreams in an efficient manner, PATHE Academy has just the 'right medicine'.

Students can enroll in to a Foundation Diploma in Health Science and thereafter progress in to the Diploma or Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences. The small, intensive class-rooms will make you feel right at home and the teaching methods are both holistic and interactive.

Many students have enjoyed our classes and have had good student experiences, and will vouch for our program delivery and quality.

Students who have a penchant for healing and physiotherapy can engage in our Physiotherapy related programs that will create a pathway to further qualify in the dynamic world of Sports medicine, Physiotherapy per se, Spa, Gymnasium and Massage Therapy.

As a qualified Physiotherapist, one day you will help people affected by illness, disability and injury, through your special learning of exercise, manual therapy and also give advice.

You can join the Advanced Diploma in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine which will give you an impetus later on to gain globally valuable qualifications in the future. Our trained staff will give you

invaluable insights and information to become a catalyst in the medicine field.

Another area that is much sought after is Medical Laboratory Technician, which gives you specific insights in to the latest medical techniques related to laboratory. Our goal is

to educate clinical lab personnel of the future in the latest theory, leading to practice. Your learning and qualification in Medical Laboratory Testing will be invaluable to aid the experts in the medical profession, such as doctors and nurses and help save lives.



Horizon Campus opens doors to E-Learning

MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.ED) AWARDED BY ASIA E UNIVERSITY, MALAYSIA

Horizon Campus, Malabe has now opened its doors to current or prospective educators to read for a Post-Graduate qualification in the field of Education. The Faculty of Education is the largest Faculty of the Campus, which has been recognised by the Ministry of Higher Education as a degree awarding body in 2015/16.

The Faculty was established to cater to the growing need of education related qualifications in Sri Lanka. The Faculty offers a 4-year Education (Honours) degree program as well Education degrees specialising in Biological Science, Physical Science and Early Childhood Education. It is with this sound background that Horizon has endeavoured to launch a Post-Graduate qualification in the field of Education. The MEd program is awarded by Asia e University, Malaysia. Asia e University is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and is recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka.

The Master of Education will take an advanced approach, where the students will be given the opportunity to carry out in-depth research supervised by specialists in the field of education and gain an overall knowledge on their coursework through professionals in respective disciplines. Earning a master's degree in Education helps you gain specialised knowledge to advance in your education field. As the workforce evolves, a graduate degree shows you're dedicated to enhancing your education system expertise and credibility.

The benefits of a master's degree in education can also help you build on your current abilities, gain new skills, or even transition to an entirely new field. The benefits of a master's degree also help you improve your researching, writing, and analysing skill set. As a result, you can become a better problem solver and more easily handle complex projects. By earning a Master level Educational degree, you continue to expand upon a wealth of knowledge, preparing you for a life of constant learning.

The program is designed to a broad range of audiences including educational administrators and managers, training professionals, HR practitioners, higher education lecturers and school teachers, Principals, Education Leaders, Teacher Educators or Managers who work in schools, colleges or universities. The program, although demanding, is designed to meet the requirements of busy working professionals as it combines intensive cohort-based blended learning support from the academics of the Horizon Campus.

It is also intended for those who work (or hope to work) as educational planners, policy makers for national, regional or global organisations. The course will enable students to contribute toward the improvement of educational systems and institutions, and to reflect on the quality of teaching and learning they manage. Those who possess the Masters in education qualification with good grades may progress onto doctoral-level studies (academic or professional) or with other leading universities across the world.

The course is designed to provide a foundation whereby students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the field of research in education as well as the Research Methods in Education, Qualitative Research methods in Education, Statistics in Education, Learning and cognition, Fundamentals of Instructional Technology, Philosophical and sociology in Education, Curriculum design and development, Educational Assessment and Models of Instruction in the context of globalisation.

Students will critically assess new trends and innovative attempts that have been made to address Educational Assessment and Fundamental of Instructional Technology. Students will also get hands on training in quantitative, qualitative and mixed method research designs to conduct educational research. The MEd. Degree program is also expected give students an appreciation for the value and utility of educational research, and provide them with the skills to become competent in their analysis and application.

A master's degree in Education can make it easier to transition into more senior positions, such as educational management and leadership. Upon successful completion of the Master in Education, participants can progress onto senior managerial/administrative and/or teaching/training/academic careers, Directors of Education, Education Consultants, Principals in all private sector schools, Curriculum Developers and Educational Researchers within a broad range of knowledge-based sectors of employment, locally and internationally.

Use strategic thinking to lead the design and implementation of educational programs, Project managers, Be responsible for the oversight and delivery of projects related to education, University lecturer or tutor, Use your knowledge and experience to provide invaluable guidance to students on their journey to becoming competent professionals with well-rounded education.

For further information on admissions and course commencement, call Sanjeeva on 0716 593 593 or 0114 365 555 or visit www.horizoncampus.edu.lk. You could also visit Horizon Campus at No. 482/B, Suhada Mawatha, Millennium Drive, Chandrika Kumaranathunga Mawatha, Malabe.

Engineering faculties get 405 more students



Education Minister Prof G.L. Peiris and others at the discussion at the Higher Education Ministry

Education Minister said Prof G.L. Peiris said that six main Engineering Faculties will take 405 more students this year.

The Minister told a discussion at the Higher Education Ministry that the Peradeniya, Jayawardenapura, Jaffna, Ruhuna, Moratuwa and South Eastern universities will take 405 more students to their faculties this year.

Minister Peiris said, "I do not expect to interfere into the administrative activities of the universities.

What we want is to work according to the "Vision for Prosperity," the Policy Statement of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The admission of 405 more students to job oriented Engineering courses, is a forward step to

find solutions to the mismatch between the job market and the university education."

Secretary to Education Ministry Prof Kapila Perera, University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Sampath Amarantunga, its Secretary, Dr. Priyantha Premakumara and the Vice Chancellors of the universities and Deans of Faculties were present.

Duration : 15 Months (Inclusive of Project)

Entry Requirements :

- ✓ Recognized Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualifications with minimum CGPA of 2.50.*
- ✓ A Recognized Diploma / Advanced Diploma accepted by the university with a minimum of 5 years of working experience in related fields.*

Career Prospect :

- Director of Education
- Principal
- Curriculum Developer
- Educational Consultant
- Child Care Director
- English Education Specialist
- Educational Assessment Specialist



0114 365 555
www.horizoncampus.edu.lk
info@horizoncampus.edu.lk

For more information
0716 593 593

(*Conditions apply)

WALKING TOWARDS GREENERY



Upholding the momentum of making our mother nature beautiful and green, the Green Task Force of NSBM carried out another tree-planting project, under the theme, "LET THE GREEN BE SEEN", on the 11th of September 2020, Friday from 4.00 pm

onwards. The event was held with the participation of Prof. Baratha Dodankotuwa, Head of Academic Development and Quality Assurance, members of the Green Task Force team, Academic and non-academic staff, and the students.



SEPTEMBER- WHERE NSBM THRIVED WITH SPORTS

The newly constructed Volleyball court of NSBM Green University was ceremoniously opened on 17th September 2020. Two friendly matches were held by NSBM male and female Volleyball teams to mark the event. Further, upstaging the talents of the sports enthusiasts at the university,

NSBM Inter Batch Basketball Tournament concluded with batch 18.1/18.2 team emerging as champions. The energy-filled tournament was held on 16th September 2020, at the university Basketball court. Heightening the sports spirit of the undergraduates, the first-ever Inter-batch Relay



Championship was organized by the Athletic Club and Rotaract Club of NSBM which took place at the NSBM grounds on 14th September 2020. Teams representing all the batches of the university participated in various relay events. Moreover, the inter batch badminton tournament which was organized by the Badminton Club of NSBM was held on the 9th of

September at the Recreational Centre. These events were graced by the Vice-Chancellor of NSBM, Prof. E.A Weerasinghe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chaminda Rathnayake, Head of Academic Development and Quality Assurance, Prof. Baratha Dodankotuwa, and members of the academic staff.

TALENT SPECTRUM OF NSBM



The English Literary Association of the Faculty of Business kicked off its first official event with "Drop the Mic" on 15th September 2020. It was a celebration of performance that showcased NSBM's talent pool, from musicians and singers to poets and stand-up comedians. Moreover, the academic talents of the NSBM student

population were displayed at the grand finale of the Inter Batch Academic Decathlon- IBAD 2020, organized by the Association of Business Management. The event took place on the 21st of September 2020 at the NSBM Auditorium. Student Circle of Accounting and Finance (SCAF) of NSBM Green

University Town, also organized a panel discussion on "NSBM Green University's response towards the COVID -19 Pandemic". The discussion was held as the first of a series that involves business leaders, academics, and administrators to upgrade the knowledge regarding the latest developments of the industrial and

academic world. The event was broadcasted on 18th September 2020, via NSBM's YouTube channel, "Youth TV". These events were held under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. E.A. Weerasinghe, and the senior management of the NSBM Green University.

Wycherley International School, moulding disciplined students to the nation

BY LAKMI NANAYAKKARA

Wycherley International School, a leading International school of the country since its inception in 1985, has proved to be a mentor for moulding disciplined and good natured students to the nation excelling in many subject areas taught in English.

Speaking to the Sunday Observer Education, Director/Principal, Wycherley International School, Kingsley Jayasinghe said that the foundation of Wycherley is built on tradition, simplicity and discipline.

What is Wycherley International School?

Founded on January 7, 1985, by Dr. Frank Jayasinghe who was the first principal of the school, Wycherly is one of the pioneer International schools of the country. The school started with around 100 students and after three years, with the increase of the number of students, Grade 9 to 12 were moved over to No. 5, Queen's Road, Colombo 3, keeping the primary grades at Baudhaloka Mawatha.

After partnering with the ANC and coming under a new management, we received a lot of support especially to improve the school's infrastructure and other modifications of the school.

One of my main aims is to produce disciplined children. Our students adhere to strict rules and regulations with respect to their physical appearance and behaviour and parents have faith in us.

At Wycherley, we have two main objectives. The first is to provide good education with an improved education standard and encourage students to get good results. The second is to mould good citizens with virtue so that they could face any challenge in the society after the completion of their secondary education. These are the basis on which we operate.

Among international schools, what are the special features of Wycherley?

Wycherley is the first school to start the Cambridge System of curriculum among the other International schools



Kingsley Jayasinghe



from Grade one which would open new paths for students as they progress, heading towards higher education. Initially, we had the Edexcel System of Education which we changed to Cambridge to provide more opportunities to our students allowing them to have choices of entry into foreign universities and diverse fields of specialisation.

We also initiated the teaching of Sinhala, Tamil and Social Studies, especially, the History of Sri Lanka in

our school before the Ministry of Education insisted on the mandatory implementation of those subjects to the International school education curriculum. Ethnic diversity is promoted among our students. We encourage students to be free from language barriers with the teaching of all the three main languages; English, Sinhala and Tamil.

Our students at Wycherley, have added advantage since they have different attitudes and good language provision.

How many students and staff members are there at the school?

There are around 1,300 students in both primary and upper school and about 130 staff members.

What are the extra-curricular activities available for students and how the school encourages such activities

among students?

We offer a wide variety of sports activities to build physically and mentally strong children, including Tennis, Basketball, Cricket and Swimming. There are established associations within the school and to especially promote ethnic diversity, there are associations from all four religions which collaborate together at functions. Students are been taught to help each other regardless of which ethnic group they come from and allow them to learn the culture of other ethnic groups.

What are the achievements of the school?

The school has excelled in both education and sports activities and in fact, at the Cambridge examinations, our students have achieved excellent results. The only thing that I can say is

that we are progressing day by day.

Do you follow a criterion when recruiting teachers to the school?

We are very considerate when recruiting new teachers to the school since they play a major role in providing a good quality education. About 50% of the staff has been with us for the past 10 years. Generally, we conduct a series of interviews and then select the best candidates as the new recruitments, considering a wide variety of skills available within them.

What kind of support is given by the staff members for the progress of the school?

The staff members are very supportive. They operate as a team. Especially with implementing the government's health regulations during post lockdown period due to the Covid-19

pandemic, my staff supports a lot to maintain the safety measures among students. Staff members work tirelessly to bring a good reputation to the school.

Are there plans for the expansion of the school throughout the country?

We, at present, have another branch in Gampaha and hope to expand a network of Wycherley International School since positive light is thrown on the progress of the school from both parents and students, and they have faith in us. The lack of space is the major issue that we face. Plans have been approved to expand the school premises at Baudhaloka Mawatha along with a Swimming pool. Construction work has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope to commence it sooner.

SLASSCOM launches Transformative Teacher Training program for ICT instructors



Damitha Wickramasinghe-Chairman VTA, Channa Manoharan-Chairman SLASSCOM and Charles Conconi - Project Director at YouLead at the launch

Driven by its overarching goal of enhancing Sri Lanka's potential in terms of ICT talent, SLASSCOM recently launched a comprehensive training program for ICT instructors in collaboration with Vocational Training Authority (VTA) and YouLead.

With the objective of improving teaching standards and skills to deliver superior learning experiences to existing and prospective students, this Transformative Teacher Training program initiated by the SLASSCOM Capacity Forum is an extension of the multitude of projects conducted by the forum targeting the local teaching domain in the past few years.

The two-day program is conducted as a residential experiential learning exercise every Thursday and Friday for seven consecutive weeks. Aiming to train about 250 ICT instructors, the program encompasses several areas, such as teaching techniques, use of digital teaching tools, novel assessment criteria and student centric learning experiences to name a few.

"The Transformative Teacher Training program is a landmark initiative for VTA and a move in the right direction to pave the way for ICT graduates to receive best in class training to hone their talents for tomorrow's global arena," Damitha Wickramasinghe, Chairman of Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka said. He said, "VTA has trained over 5,000 graduates in the recent past and is looking at doubling this amount through partnerships, such as that with SLASSCOM, which is a major stepping stone in our undertaking to uplift local talent."

SLASSCOM Chairman Channa Manoharan avers that this partnership is a proud moment for SLASSCOM given that it is a humbling opportunity to contribute to national talent development.

He notes: "SLASSCOM is proud and excited to be a part of this endeavour which will help transform the ICT landscape in Sri Lanka.

By harnessing a well-trained talent pool of educators, we are paving the way to produce work-ready ICT graduates, trained to

international standards, who would soon be the innovators and tech leaders shaping the future," Charles Conconi - Project Director at YouLead said that the Transformative Teacher Training program is an excellent initiative that addresses one of the most pressing issues of the day.

"We position ourselves as a collaborative and youth-driven movement that strives to empower young people to build pathways to success in their careers and gain the skills that are relevant to drive future businesses, and this program aligns with our mission," he said, adding that, partnerships of this nature are the way forward for Sri Lanka. Echoing its Vision 2025 of achieving US\$ 5 billion in revenue, 200,000 jobs and 1,000 start-ups, SLASSCOM considers skill development as a major strategic pillar in its mission of upskilling Sri Lanka.

The Transformative Teacher Training program hence has both the potential and the capacity to be a gamechanger in the local education sphere and is an inspiration for teachers and students alike.

Master Degree Programs 2021
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Commencement JAN 2021
Medium ENGLISH

Offered by Faculty of Graduate Studies through the Department of Public Administration of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce

Degree Programs	Master of Public Management (M PM) 2021/2022	M.Sc. in Public Policy and Management (MSc(PPM) 2021/2023
Duration	One Year	Two Years
Investment	Rs. 250,000/-	Rs. 335,000/-
Target Group	Administrators, Executive officials & Professionals	Policy Analysts, Academics & Professionals

Entry Qualifications

- ✓ One-year Master in Public Management Degree from a recognized university (Only for MSc(PPM); or
- ✓ A Special Bachelor's Degree with a class standing in Management/ Law from a recognized university; or
- ✓ A General Bachelor's Degree with a First Class or a Second Class (Upper division) standing in Management from a recognized university; or
- ✓ A Bachelor's Degree in any subject area from recognized university with the three (03) year's post-qualifying experience in the related field/s; or
- ✓ A Postgraduate Diploma of a duration of not less than one year or Higher degree in Management Studies from a recognized university; or
- ✓ Professional qualification/ membership with three (03) years post-qualifying experience approved by the Senate (SLIATE, HNDIA, HNDM/C, ACASL, CIMA, ACCA, CIE, Attorney at Law); or
- ✓ Professional qualification with five (05) years post-qualifying experience approved by the senate (SLI/MPM,CIMA/IE)

How to Apply

APPLY ONLINE: www.graduate.sjp.ac.lk
 POST: Submit properly filled application downloaded from the website with relevant documents before 31st October 2020.
 TO: Deputy Registrar, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegoda (The correct name of the degree program should be indicated at the top left corner of the envelope).
 APPLICATION FEE: Rs. 1000/- (Any People's Bank Branch)
 ACCOUNT NUMBER: For MPM: 053010006749 For MSc(PPM): 053010006756

Coordinator (Postgraduate Programs)
 Department of Public Administration
 Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce
 University of Sri Jayewardenepura
 Gangodawila, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

011 2802006 (Office)
 071 4289375 (Mobile)
www.pub.sjp.ac.lk
www.graduate.sjp.lk
mpm_ppm@sjp.ac.lk

Registrar, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegoda

Admission of students to intermediate Grades suspended

The Education Ministry has suspended until further notice the admission of students to

intermediate grades in all national schools in the island under the existing method

of reviewing the admission of students to intermediate classes.

Advertorial

ACCA Sri Lanka appoints new chairman and director board

ACCA Sri Lanka appointed, Nandika Buddhipala, CFO of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC as the Chairman, ACCA Sri Lanka Member Network Panel, for 2020/2021 at the ACCA Annual General Meeting recently. Jehan Perinpanayagam CEO of Infomate was selected as the Vice Chairman.

Buddhipala has over 25 years experience in the Banking, Telecommunication and Audit and Assurance industries. He has a degree in Bsc in Business Administration and Post Graduate Diploma in Management from the Sri Jayawardanapura University and has his MBA, MA in Financial Economics and MSc in Financial Mathematics from the University of Colombo.

He is a fellow member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA) and member of the Chartered Institute of Securities & Investment (MCISI) of UK. He is also a Senior Associate of Financial Services Institute (SA FIN) of Australia, a member of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) of USA and the Senior Deputy President of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka.

The rest of the committee for 2020 /2021 comprised Suren Rajakarier - Immediate Past Chairman of Member Network Panel ACCA Sri Lanka and Partner, Head of Audit KPMG in Sri Lanka, Adrian Perera GCEO - Sascon Holdings Ltd., Rathnakala Kumaragurunathan - Associ-

ate Director, Acuity Knowledge Partners, Prasanna Balachandran - Chief Risk and Control Officer, Hemas Holdings PLC, Shehan Fernando - CEO/ Senior Lecturer, Alpha Business School (Pvt) Ltd, Dasun Mendis - Cluster AGM Finance, Ceylon Biscuits Limited- Food Cluster, Channa De Silva - Chairman, Sarvodaya Development Finance Ltd, Nisreen Rehmanjee -Executive Vice President, John Keells Holdings PLC and Rakitha Jayatunga- Attorney-at-Law and Director - Icon Business School.

ACCA Sri Lanka also outlined their vision for the year ahead which was to develop the accountancy profession that the future world needs. This included their network of members and partners delivering value by acting in the public interest, promoting ethical businesses and supporting economic growth.

To meet these strategic outcomes, the ACCA Sri Lanka had organised activities that comprised organising online seminars on topics relevant to the current business context for students and members, renewing MOU's with local Universities and other professional bodies, such as COYLE and SLID and also expanding their learning provider network by appointing three silver Learning Providers over the last couple of months to provide further accessibility of their qualifications to students across the country.

The Sri Lanka office also worked closely with the learning provider



Seated from left - Nilusha Ranasinghe, Head of ACCA Sri Lanka, Nandika Buddhipala - Chairman, Member Network Panel, ACCA Sri Lanka, Suren Rajakarier - Immediate Past Chairman of Member Network Panel ACCA Sri Lanka, Jehan Perinpanayagam - Vice Chairman Member Network Panel ACCA Sri Lanka and Ruchera Jayawardana Peries - Business Development Manager ACCA Sri Lanka. Standing from left - Members of the Member Network Panel Adrian Perera, Rathnakala Kumaragurunathan, Prasanna Balachandran, Shehan Fernando, Dasun Mendis, Channa De Silva, Nisreen Rehmanjee and Rakitha Jayatunga

network in Sri Lanka and the Maldives to ensure market readiness and digital transformation in re-

spect of teaching, education resources. Several futuristic competitions were rolled out for students

and leading educational institutes to participate and enhance their soft skills and talents.



Nandika Buddhipala, the Chairman, ACCA Sri Lanka Member Network Panel

With need to continuously upgrade one's skills to remain relevant at the workplace that has undergone a dramatic push during this pandemic, ACCA as a forward thinking professional body aims to take a lead role in encouraging and training their students and members to adopt and refresh their skills and to navigate successful career paths in the "new normal".

CA Sri Lanka champions companies to adopt integrated reporting

President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka), Manil Jayasinghe recently continued to push companies in Sri Lanka to adopt integrated reporting and integrated thinking if companies were keen in remaining sustainable and successful on the long term.

Addressing a forum on integrated reporting organised by CA Sri Lanka recently, Jayasinghe urged companies and professionals to adopt the integrated reporting framework for their maximum benefit as it is an important stepping stone that will not only help organisations to bring about integrated reporting but also the key element behind it, which is integrated thinking.

"The world has shown us that profits alone is not the real driver, and we have so many things happening around in the world right now and today health and safety is the key priority for companies, and tomorrow it can be something else," he said.

Jayasinghe elaborated that profit is no longer the key benchmark of success as there were many other factors to consider in benchmarking success including environment, human capital, and society, among other factors.

"It is important to make sure that your business is a sustainable business and for this integrated thinking needs to come through and by adopting integrated reporting, corporates will achieve this," he said.

Jayasinghe shared these thoughts during a discussion featuring John Keells Holdings PLC on their 'winning story' in adopting integrated reporting within the organisation.

He highlighted that since the in-



A team from John Keells Holdings PLC discusses the benefits of integrated reporting with IRCSL Chairman Asite Talwatte.

ception, CA Sri Lanka has recognised the importance of integrated reporting and has taken the leadership in popularising the concept of integrated reporting among corporates in Sri Lanka.

"With new events around the world as well as in Sri Lanka, I hope integrated reporting will have better visibility and companies will start adopting integrated reporting as one of their forms of reporting," he said.

He added that CA Sri Lanka has taken steps to provide technical, financial and institutional support to the Integrated Reporting Council of Sri Lanka (IRCSL) headed by Asite Talwatte to carry out the task of promoting integrated reporting and integrated thinking among corporates in Sri Lanka.

Delivering his company's success story in adopting integrated reporting, Mohan Thanthirige, Group Finance Controller of John Keells Holdings PLC highlighted that integrated reporting is articulating the different business processes where everyone can accept it.

"We felt that with our stakeholders getting more sophisticated, we too needed to step up in our reporting," he said. During the forum, it was highlighted that at numerous stakeholder engagement related studies conducted by John Keells Holdings, more and more stakeholders were asking questions in relation to non-finance that the conventional financial reporting seen in annual reports.

Thanthirige said that it was im-

portant to look at what is best for one's organisation in terms of culture and infrastructure.

"We did so many test runs and it was a long journey with failures and wins, to get here in terms of ensuring our integrated reporting was a success story," he added.

The forum concluded following a panel discussion which was moderated by Asite Talwatte, Chairman of the IRCSL. The panel session featured Mohan Thanthirige, Kalpa Munasinghe, Manager Group Finance, Eneeshya Perera, Manager Corporate Finance, Devmi Jayaweera, Assistant Manager - Sustainability, ERM and Group Sourcing, Daniella De Mel, Assistant Manager - Corporate Finance and Mayurika Silva, Assistant Manager - Group Finance.

Education Minister focuses on university education modernisation



Education Minister Prof G.L. Peiris, University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Sampath Amaratunga and the Vice Chancellor and Deans of the Peradeniya University

Steps needs to be taken to transform the university system to create a future generation equipped with modern technology to rise to the highest point in development as stated in the policy statement "Vision for Prosperity" of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Education Minister Prof G.L. Peiris said.

Physical and infrastructure de-

velopment relevant to admission of 405 more students to the Engineering Faculties and 360 more students to the Medical Faculties this year compared to previous years, was focused on, at a discussion at the Peradeniya University, attended by Education Minister Prof Peiris, University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Sampath Amaratunga and the Vice

Chancellor and Deans of the Peradeniya University.

The discussion paid attention to set up a program to let schoolchildren use the best books that come out of universities.

It was proposed to appoint consultants for vocational guidance within the universities.

It was agreed to set up a program

to discuss with the General Treasury to uplift the dental and veterinary hospitals in the Peradeniya University premises.

The Minister instructed the officials to find out how to conduct external degree courses and to plan the future actions to raise the standards and quality of the external degree courses.



RISING IN CRISIS

A new strategy book for entrepreneurs

Rising in Crisis, a book comprising a wide range of strategic insights for entrepreneurs and managers has been published by Shanta Rajapaksha Yapa. This book, probably the first in the world to focus on the post pandemic economic crisis, offers several brand new tools. Among them is the R Hexagon which can be used to test strategies of a firm before they are implemented. Interestingly, this tool has been developed by looking at how Sri Lanka's Covid-19 task force fought against the deadly virus to safeguard the people of the country.

During the recent soft launch of the book at the ICBT Campus main auditorium, the author said, "We often rely on management theories, concepts and tools coming from the west. Reversing the trend, here is a tool from Sri Lanka to the rest of the world. It has been developed by studying how the world class operation of a dedicated and competent pool of Sri Lankan professionals managed the consequences of the pandemic. There are no comprehensive strategy testing tools and this fills the vacuum. Born in a crisis, the tool is robust and can help your organisation to be resilient." Dr Jagath Alwis, Chairman of ICBT was the chief guest. Professor Nalin Abeysekera from the Open University of Sri Lanka delivered the keynote speech.

The book is written in a reader friendly style. It bridges the gap between theory and practice. *Rising in Crisis* is a book that acts as an MBA pill for practitioners. It seamlessly integrates various functional areas



of a business organisation. The book is available at Avonet Technologies and interested readers can also order it through WhatsApp on 0773 908 262. You can also reach the author via shanta@theavo.net.

Author Shanta Rajapaksha Yapa has used his extensive experience of over three decades in progressive positions in diverse industry sectors covering engineering, manufacturing, banking and ICT sectors in writing the book. Being a visiting faculty member teaching strategy, technology management, organisational behaviour and research methods in postgraduate programs of 20 local and international universities for 20 years, he has been able to give a comprehensive academic flavour to each chapter and topic discussed. The book offers over 200 strategic insights that will be immensely useful to managers who are struggling to ensure survival and growth of their companies amidst the biggest economic crisis of which the magnitude is not yet known.

Importance of education

First of all, Education teaches the ability to read and write. Reading and writing is the first step in Education.

Most information is done by writing. Hence, the lack of writing skill means missing out on a lot of information. Consequently, Education makes people literate.

Above all, Education is extremely important for employment. It certainly is a great opportunity to make a decent living. This is due to the skills of a high paying job that Education provides. Uneducated people are probably at a huge disadvantage when it comes to jobs. It seems like many poor people improve their lives with the help of Education.

Better Communication is yet another role in Education. Education improves and refines the speech of a person. Furthermore, individuals also improve other means of communication with Education. Education makes an individual a better user of technology. Education certainly provides the technical skills necessary for using technology. Hence, without Education, it would probably be difficult to handle modern machines.

People become more mature with the help of Education. Sophistication enters the life of educated people. Above all, Education teaches the value of discipline to individuals.

Educated people also realize the value of time much more. To educate a person, time is equal to money.

Navitas and ECU... (Continued from page 41)

ECU Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Chapman CBE said: "ECU is absolutely thrilled to support the ongoing education of students in Sri Lanka across a greater range of disciplines and we look forward to working with Navitas in Sri Lanka in the future."

"We are confident in the growing accomplishments of our students and look forward to seeing them achieve and contribute to success

in the Sri Lankan economy, and our global community."

"At ECU, we are strongly committed to our teaching and research. This year and for the 14 year in a row, our graduates have given us a 5-star rating for teaching quality - the only public university in Australia to achieve such a consistently high endorsement."

For further details and to apply now, visit ecu.edu.lk

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We are looking for an energetic, self-motivated and hardworking teacher on behalf the parents of the child attending our school to join our team in the following position with immediate effect.

One-to-One Learning Support Assistant - Junior School -

- Relevant teaching qualifications and experience.
- Experience with supporting Speech and Language development or a willingness to learn.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Employment contract will be administered by the parents, following a successful interview with the school.

Please email your CV together with a letter of application to **humanresources@britishschool.lk**

or post them to
**Head of Human Resources,
 The British School in Colombo,
 No. 63, Elvitigala Mawatha,
 Colombo-08.**

Applications must reach us by **6 October 2020**

acbt

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- Community Health Care in Nursing and Midwifery Practice

Applicants are advised to send CVs to **erath.karunaratne@acbt.lk** within 7 days.

Address: 442, Galle Road, Colombo 03.
 Web: www.acbt.net

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Manager - Engineering (MM -1-1)

External Candidates (1 or 2 below):

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Civil or Mechanical or Electrical which is recognized by the U.G.C. or Part I/II/III in IESL with Associate membership of IESL.

AND

01 year post qualifying service experience in the subject area relevant to the post.

2. 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.

AND

01 year post qualifying service experience in the subject area relevant to the post.

Internal Candidates (1 or 2 below):

1. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
2. Completion of five (05) years of satisfactory service in Assistant Managerial Level (JM) in the subject area relevant to the post.

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.)

Salary Scale: MM 1-1 2016 Rs. [53,175 - 10 x 1375 - 15 x 1910 - 95,575]
 Basic Salary Rs.53,175/- (in addition allowance approved by the Government will be paid).

Other benefits: (Transport Allowance Rs. 12,500/- + Mobile phone reimbursement Rs. 3000/-)

Assistant Manager - Engineering (JM -1-1)

External Candidates :- (1 or 2 or 3 or 4 below):

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Civil or Mechanical or Electrical which is recognized by the U.G.C. or Part I/II/III in IESL with Associate membership of IESL.

2. 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.

3. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 6, issued by a Technical /Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission.

AND

5 years working experience in relevant field at Corporation, Statutory Board/Institution or a reputed private institution.

4. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 5, issued by a Technical /Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission.

AND

10 years working experience in relevant field at Corporation, Statutory Board/Institution or a reputed private institution.

Internal Candidates

Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.

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.)

Salary Scale: JM 1-1 - 2016 Rs. [42,600 - 10 x 755 - 18 x 1135 - 70580]
 Basic Salary Rs.42,600/- (in addition allowance approved by the Government will be paid).

Other benefits: (Mobile phone reimbursement Rs. 2000/-)

The Ideal Candidates should also:

- Have excellent analytical, Problem solving and organizing skills with the ability to evaluate, review, interpret data and should be highly self-motivated individual;
- Possess strong leadership qualities, interpersonal communication skills;
- Be able to demonstrate good IT skills.
- A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams. Experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources.

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 post your curriculum vitae with copies of certificates under registered cover within 14 days of this advertisement to below mentioned address:
 (The post applied should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.)

(The organization will correspond only with the shortlisted candidates)

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POST	QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE	COMPETENCIES REQUIRED
PROJECT MANAGER COVID-19 Operation 01 Position Based in National Headquarters in Colombo HRM 771 Attractive Remuneration, depending on the Qualifications, Experience & Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Master's Degree in either Sociology, Public Health, Health Promotion, Health & Care, Agriculture, Disaster Management, Development Practice, Community Development or related discipline from a recognized institution. <p style="text-align: center;">with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 years' post-qualification experience in project management or implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent conceptual & analytical skills in relation to community development. • Proven skills in technical project designing, implementation, monitoring, and reporting. • Demonstrated experience in project administration and resources management (human, assets and logistics). • Sound skills in coordination with local and international organizations (INGOs, NGOs and CBOs) in support of programme implementation. • Well-developed skills in staff training / coaching and community mobilization. • Excellent public relations, leadership and interpersonal skills. • Well-developed language skills in oral and written Sinhala/ Tamil and English. • Proficiency in MS Office Applications.
ASSISTANT MANAGER COVID-19 Operation 02 Positions Based in National Headquarters in Colombo HRM 772 Attractive Remuneration, depending on the Qualifications, Experience & Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Degree in either Sociology, Public Health, Health Promotion, Health & Care, Agriculture, Disaster Management or related discipline from a recognized institution. <p style="text-align: center;">with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 years' post-qualification experience in project implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated experience in project administration, human resources, logistics and assets management. • Sound planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting skills. • Excellent in external and internal coordination relevant to project implementation. • Excellent public relations, leadership and interpersonal skills. • Well-developed language skills in oral and written Sinhala/ Tamil and English. • Proficiency in MS Office Applications.

General Requirements

- Sound understanding of humanitarian, community and volunteer-based service interventions.
- Should be a quick learner with the ability of following SLRCS management guidelines and procedures.
- Should be a team player who is self-motivated with the ability of working in challenging circumstances.
- Abide by and work according to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Fundamental Principles.

The SLRCS conducts its general administrative and operational affairs in English Language and the appointment will be on fixed term contract basis. Only short-listed applicants will be called for interviews.

Please email your application to; **jobs@redcross.lk** OR post to Director General, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, No. 106, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07 on or before 09.10.2020 (HRM 771 & 772)

SEC SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA



The Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC), established by the SEC Act No. 36 of 1987 as amended, is statutorily empowered to regulate and facilitate the development of the capital market. As the apex regulator of the capital market, the primary objectives of the SEC include the creation and maintenance of a fair and orderly capital market; ensuring professional standards are maintained in the industry and the protection of the interest of investors.

The SEC is looking for self-motivated team players with integrity, self-discipline, positive work attitude with strong interpersonal skills to fill a limited number of vacancies which exist in the Divisions of Legal and Enforcement, Corporate Affairs, Capital Market Development, Investigations, Supervision and Human Resources for the below position:

Assistant Manager

The successful candidate should be less than 32 years of age and shall;

- be an Attorney-at-Law preferably with a Bachelor's degree in Law, Management, Economics, or Commerce;
- have a professional qualification from a recognized accounting body or a Bachelor's degree in Finance/Accountancy, Business Administration, Management, Economics or Human Resources
- having a class for the Bachelor's Degree and the possession of a Master's Degree will be an added advantage.
- have an excellent command of English and Sinhala languages and/or Tamil languages and be computer literate.

Please apply with names and contact details of two non-related referees indicating position on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach the following address by registered post on or before 9th October 2020.

The Director General
Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka
Level 29, East Tower, World Trade Center
Echelon Square, Colombo 1
Website: www.sec.gov.lk

The selection will be by way of an interview and only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

EMPLOYEES' TRUST FUND BOARD

(Under the purview of Ministry of Finance)

VACANCIES

The Employees' Trust Fund Board formed by Parliament Act No. 46 of 1980 and functions under the Ministry of Finance provides social security for members. It is the second largest super annuation fund in the country. The fund base is over Rs. 380 Billion and has 19 Regional Offices island wide. At present the contributing membership of the fund is approximately 2.8 million and covers 83,000 Employers.

The Board wishes to recruit qualified and dynamic professionals who are citizens of the Sri Lanka to fill the following vacancies.

1. Deputy General Manager (Administration & Human Resources)- (HM 1-3)

Qualifications and Experience

External: A Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management /B.Com/ Sociology/B.Sc (Science Stream) /BA /LLB/ B.Sc. (Public Administration/ Business Administration) from a university recognized by the U.G.C. and a postgraduate degree qualification (Masters') in the relevant field or Corporate Membership of a recognized relevant professional institution with minimum of 18 years experience in Managerial Level out of which 03 years should be in the senior managerial level in a Corporation, Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

Internal: Minimum of three (03) years satisfactory service in a post in the Senior Manager Category (HM 1-1) in the subject area relevant to the post.

Salary Scale - Rs. 86,865/- 15x2,270= Rs. 120,915/-Salary Point - Rs. 86,865/-

Age: Age should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years

2. Deputy General Manager (Finance)- (HM 1-3)

Qualifications and Experience

External: A Bachelor's degree in Commerce /Accounting or Finance with appropriate subject combinations from a university recognized by the U.G.C. and a postgraduate degree qualification (Masters') in the relevant field or Corporate Membership of a recognized relevant professional institution with minimum of 18 years experience in Managerial Level out of which 03 Years should be in the senior managerial level in a Corporation, Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

Internal: Minimum of three (03) years satisfactory service in a post in the Senior Manager Category (HM 1-1) in the subject area relevant to the post. Salary Scale - Rs. 86,865/- 15x2,270= Rs. 120,915/-

Salary Point - Rs 86,865/-

Age: Age should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years.

The selected candidates are entitled to the Government approved cost of living allowance and other fringe benefits enjoyed by state organizations of similar status.

The other benefits enjoyed by the employees in above salary categories of ETFB currently are:

- Annual Bonus
- Monthly Incentive on performance and attendance
- Medical Bills reimbursement (Routine and Hospitalization)
- Housing and Vehicle loans at concessionary interest rates

In addition, Vehicle and fuel allowance as per Public Enterprises Circulars would be provided. Applications containing brief Bio-Data with copies of certificates and names and contact details of two non-related referees should be sent under registered cover marking the post on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach the undersigned on or before 12.10.2020. Applications from employees in Govt Departments, Corporations, and Boards etc. should be forwarded through the Heads of such institutions, indicating whether the applicants can be released if selected.



Chairman/CEO
Employees' Trust Fund Board
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Colombo 5.

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DEPARTMENT HEAD - REINSURANCE

The ideal candidate shall be required to:

- Ensure all ground preparation in respect of Treaty Renewal Placements, Facultative negotiations and arranging necessary support from various markets for General Insurance business.
- Preparation of Treaty statistics, Risk profiles, Claim details and all other relevant reports.
- Manage Reinsurance Settlements / Recoveries, Cash Management Reconciliations and Risk Surveys.
- Ensure efficient and effective internal and external professional relationships.
- Ensure department milestones / goals are met adhering to approved budgets.
- Train, develop and motivate the technical and sales staff.

The applicant should possess the following:

- Over 10 years executive level experience in Re-Insurance and Regulatory Compliance.
- A university degree / MBA and full qualification in Insurance.
- Age below 45 years.

Attributes and experience:

- Strategic approach in Treaty Negotiations.
- Arranging specialty lines of Reinsurance.
- Excellent analytical, numerical, interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills.

The position would be considered based on results achieved.

Please forward your complete resume with contact details of two non-related referees to mslrecruitment@sltnet.lk within 10 days of this advertisement quoting **MSL Reference No.7527** in the subject column.

MSL Management
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No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08.
mslr@sltnet.lk
www.bposrilanka.com



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. Our three main goals are: the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all; and, the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Job Title :	Climate Change Specialist
Duty Station :	Colombo (FAO Representation)
Duration :	11 months (with possibility of extension)
Remuneration :	Based on the required qualifications for the position

The number of undernourished people in the world has been on the rise since 2014. The global response to climate change today will determine how we feed future generations tomorrow. By transforming their agriculture sectors, countries have the chance to achieve food security for all. At the same time, agriculture, including forestry, fisheries and livestock production, generate around a fifth of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. This must be reduced by 2030 to achieve the goal of limiting global warming to 2°C.

To meet these challenges, FAO's strategy focuses on adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture sectors and advocates for better management of synergies and trade-offs between the two. FAO supports its member countries in these efforts offering technical guidance, data and tools for improved decision making and the implementation of adaptive measures. FAO has also embedded these tools and approaches in broader frameworks such as climate-smart agriculture and in the promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction policy and action.

The Organization's assistance to developing countries focuses on integrated approaches to agricultural development. It facilitates the design of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and supports climate actions that countries have publicly pledged to achieve, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through coherent policy frameworks.

FAO has a long history of working with countries to improve policy coherence in order to achieve national agricultural objectives. The establishment of inter-ministerial working groups to review national bioenergy programs is an example of this. In response to increasing demands, FAO's climate change portfolio has expanded. From 2009 to 2017, more than 300 programs and projects addressed the problems caused by climate variability and extremes in the agriculture sectors.

To this end, FAO is recruiting a Climate Change Specialist, to support the implementation and delivery of FAO's Climate Change Thematic Program in Sri Lanka and Maldives. As a core member of the Policy and Knowledge Management Team, the Climate Change Specialist will directly report to the FAO Representative in Sri Lanka and Maldives and receive technical advice from the Lead Technical Officers at FAO Regional Representation in Asia and Pacific and other relevant technical officers at HQ.

How to Apply

To view the detailed Terms of Reference and to apply, visit the FAO Sri Lanka website at the following link <http://www.fao.org/srilanka/fao-in-sri-lanka/employment/en/> and create an online profile through the FAO Career Portal to submit your application. Only applications received online will be considered. Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile. Vacancies will be removed from the recruitment portal at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the closing date for applications. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline. If you need assistance, or have queries, please contact: Careers@fao.org.



ARE YOU THE ONE ?

GOURP HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER - MACKSONS HOLDINGS

Macksons Holdings, established in the early 1970's, is truly a premier Sri Lankan household name with a diversified product portfolio ranging from "Lead Safe" Paint, Tiles, General Hardware, Power & Energy, Tourism, Real Estate, Automobile, Plastics, Skin Care and Retail.

Objectives and Responsibilities

- ✓ Build an HR team that personifies professionalism, competence, efficiency responsiveness and compassion
- ✓ Support departments in development and delivery of strategic HR plans to fit with overall business strategy and direction
- ✓ Bridging management and employee relations by addressing demands, grievances or other issues
- ✓ Managing the recruitment and selection process
- ✓ Support current and future business needs through the development, engagement, motivation and preservation of human capital
- ✓ Deliver training plans to create an efficient, flexible, dynamic and learning organization
- ✓ Emplace human Resource management system which is proactive, pragmatic, interactive, accessible, and ever evolving to stay in harmony with business dynamics
- ✓ Oversee and manage a performance appraisal system that drives high performance
- ✓ Report to management and provide decision support through HR metrics
- ✓ Identify and recommend areas of improvement to internal standard operating procedures, including lean restructuring and morale

Experience and Qualifications

- Proven working experience, 10 years or more as HR manager
- People oriented and results driven
- Demonstrable experience with HR systems and databases
- Ability to architect strategy along with leadership skills
- Excellent active listening, negotiation and presentation skills
- Build and effectively manage interpersonal relationships within the company
- Should be conversant with all aspects of industrial labour laws, familiar with modern HR strategies, administration procedures, and exposure to ISO 9001/ISO14001 will be an added advantage
- Degree in HR related field is a must and MBA would be an added advantage

Please send your CV to reach us within 10 days of this advertisement to below stated address or forward it to the email: careers@macksons.com

Macksons Holdings (Pvt) Ltd
Macksons House
6th Floor, 443, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.

www.macksons.com
careers@macksons.com



If You Are A Real Achiever, We Want You..!

Vacancies at SALES EXECUTIVES
Decorative, Woodcare and Automotive

We are looking for high achieving Sales Executives to strengthen our sales force. Multilac leads the industry as Sri Lanka's largest exporter of paints and surface coatings. In existence for the last 35 years, the Multilac product range has competed with global giants and emerged a winner. As a member of our winning Sales Team, you are expected to sustain this growth momentum and propel the company full steam ahead. Although we expect you to reach for the stars, you too can expect a pleasant and professional workplace, rapid career progression and an above industry remuneration package. If you have a track record of not just good but great professional achievements, we want you in our team.

SALES EXECUTIVES

- Requirements**
- Below 35 years
 - Should have G.C.E. O/L Qualifications
 - Experience - Those with an excellent track record from FMCG & Building Material sector are most welcome to apply.
 - Excellent PR and communication skills and ability to speak in all 3 languages will be an added advantage
 - Ability to work long hours

Ideal candidates will receive an above Industry remuneration package with company maintained vehicle and a mobile phone with other incentives and medical facilities and foreign tours.

Please send your CV with names, addresses and telephone numbers of two non-related referees along with a latest passport size photograph to reach us within 10 days of this advertisement by email or post to the address below. Please indicate the post applied for on the top left corner of the envelope:

Group Manager
Human Resources & Administration
Macksons Paints Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd
No. 78, Diggala Road,
Keselwatte, Panadura.

www.multilac.com
careers@multilac.com
/multilac



Facility Administration Manager

- 3+ years of supervisory or managerial experience in a facility management company
- 40-55 years in age range, male candidates are preferred
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in Sinhala and English is mandatory

Facility Administration Coordinator / Executive

- A Degree or equivalent qualification in Facility Administration or Business Administration / Management
- Age below 35 years
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in Sinhala and English is mandatory

Attractive remuneration package on par with the industry standards, along with a growth friendly work environment is awaiting the right personnel.

Interested individuals can forward their CV via Email to careers@homelandslk.com within 07 days of this advertisement.

Skyline Facility Management (Pvt) Ltd.,
No. 1060, Pannipitiya Road, Battaramulla.

VACANCY

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

- AAT partly qualified
- Minimum 2 years experience

CLERK

- A/L commerce subjects
- Computer literacy (compulsory)
- Willingness to work long hours with a minimum supervision.
- Age below 25 years

Salary negotiable.
Send CV by mail for immediate recruitment to mpransol@gmail.com



No.314, Maharanugegoda, Kadawatha.
0777 681 965



NĀGĀNANDA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES

VACANCIES

Applications are invited from a qualified, dynamic and result oriented person with recognized experience, academic exposure for the post of Registrar / Assistant Registrar.

POST OF REGISTRAR

- Should possess a Degree with First or second Class and a Postgraduate Degree of not less than two (02) years duration at Masters' level in Administration or Management from a recognized University /HEI with not less than twelve (12) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree.

OR

- A holder of the post of Deputy Secretary/Deputy Registrar of a University/a Higher Educational institution/Institute who has completed three (03) years of satisfactory service in that post with a Degree and a Masters' Degree in Administration or Management of not less than one (01) years duration from a recognized University/HEI with not less than fourteen (14) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. At least five (05) years of such experience should be at the level of Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar and/or Senior Assistant Secretary/Senior Assistant Registrar of a University / a Higher Educational Institution / Institute.

OR

- A holder of the post of Deputy Secretary/Deputy Registrar of a University/a Higher Educational institution/Institute who has completed three (03) years of satisfactory service in that post with a Degree and a Postgraduate Diploma of not less than one (01) year's duration in Administration or Management from a recognized University/HEI with not less than Fifteen (15) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. At least 5 years of such experience should be at the level of Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar and/or Senior Assistant Secretary/Senior Assistant Registrar of a University / a Higher Educational Institution / Institute.

OR

- A holder of the Post of Deputy Registrar who is a graduate from a recognized University /HEI with eighteen (18) years of administrative experience at a University or a Higher Educational Institution out of which at least three (03) years should be in the post of Deputy Secretary/Deputy Registrar and confirmed in the post.

- Age : Not more than 60 Years

POST OF ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

- Should Possess a Bachelor's Degree with first or Second class from a recognized University/ Higher Educational Institute.

OR

- Should Possess a Bachelor's Degree with a Postgraduate Degree / Postgraduate Diploma in Administration/Management from a recognized University/ Higher Educational Institute.

- Candidates who has experience in Management / Administration from a Recognized University / Educational Institute will be an added advantage
- Age: Not less than 24 Years and not more than 35 Years.

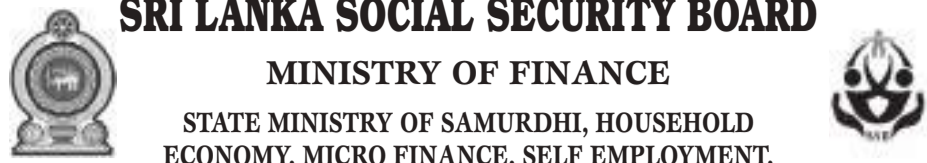
- **Salary and other benefits are negotiable and depend on the selected candidate's qualification and experience.**

Duly Completed applications should be forwarded under registered cover indicating the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach "The Director, Nāgānanda International Institute for Buddhist Studies, Manelwatta, Bollegala, Kelaniya" or hand delivered to office of the The Director on or before the closing date of Application. **OR**

Please email self-prepared completed application containing CV, photocopies of relevant certificates, names and addresses of two non-related referees known to the candidate on or before 12th October 2020 to careers@niibs.edu.lk stating "Registrar / Assistant Registrar" in the subject line of the email.

The Director
Nāgānanda International Institute for Buddhist Studies (NIIBS)
Manelwatta, Bollegala, Kelaniya.
www.niibs.lk





SRI LANKA SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

STATE MINISTRY OF SAMURDHI, HOUSEHOLD
ECONOMY, MICRO FINANCE, SELF EMPLOYMENT,
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND UNDERUTILIZED
STATE RESOURCES

VACANCIES

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka who have fulfilled the basic qualifications for the following permanent posts for which vacancies exist at the Sri Lanka Social Security Board.

GENERAL MANAGER - 01 POST

Qualifications (1 or 2 below)

- Should have obtained a degree in the subject field of Management / Business Administration / Commerce / Economics / Law recognized by the University Grants Commission

With

A postgraduate degree (Masters) in the relevant field / An Associate Membership of a reputed Chartered Professional Institute compatible to the subject field relevant to the post

And

Should have at least fifteen (15) years experience in the relevant field in a Managerial level post in a Government Corporation, Board, Statutory Institution or in a reputed private institution (out of this, 3 years should have been in a Senior Managerial level)

- Should have obtained the Full membership of a reputed Chartered Professional Institute compatible to the subject field relevant to the post

And

Should have at least fifteen (15) years experience in the relevant field in a Managerial level post in a Government Corporation, Board, Statutory Institution or in a reputed private institution. (Out of this, 3 years should have been in a Senior Managerial level)

Additional Qualifications:

- Ability to work in English language
- Knowledge in the use of the computer and should have relevant professional educational qualifications

Qualifications for Internal Applicants (Should have fulfilled 1 or 2 below)

- Should have fulfilled the qualifications for the External Applicants mentioned above
- Should have completed a satisfactory service period of 03 years in the Senior Management Service Category (HM 1-1) of the Board

Age Limit: Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years. The maximum age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.

Salary Scale: Salary Scale entitled to the post as per the Management Service Circular No. 02/2016 dated 25.04.2016 will be HM 1-3 2016 - Rs. 86,865 - 15x2270 - 120,915.

Salary point at the time of recruitment will be Rs. 86,865.00 and government approved allowances will be paid.

Facilities and other Allowances:

Transport Facilities - An allocated vehicle with driver and an allowance equivalent to 150 litres of fuel monthly or Transport Allowance and Fuel Allowance are entitled.

Telephone Facilities - Entitled to Monthly Office Telephone, Mobile phone and Rs. 10,000.00 for housing.

Entitled to government approved allowances

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE) - 01

Qualifications

External Applicants (1 or 2 below)

- Should have obtained a degree in the subject field of Accounting / Management / Commerce / Business Management / Public Management recognized by the University Grants Commission

And

Should have at least a year's experience in the relevant subject field after obtaining the degree

- Should have obtained the Licentiate Certificate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL) or the Certificate of Passing the Intermediate Examination / Certificate of Passing the Professional Level 1 of CIMA/ACCA or the Diploma Certificate in Advanced National Accountancy of the Sri Lanka Technical College and at least one (01) year's experience in Accounting / Auditing field after obtaining the relevant qualification.

Internal Applicants

Qualifications (1 or 2 below)

- Should have fulfilled the qualifications for the External Applicants mentioned above
- Should have completed a satisfactory service period of 05 years in the relevant field in Junior Management (JM) Service Category

Age Limit: Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The maximum age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.

Salary Scale: Salary Scale entitled to the post as per the Management Service Circular No. 02/2016 dated 25.04.2016 will be MM 1-1 2016 - Rs. 53,175 - 10x1375 - 15x1910 - 95,575.00.

Salary point at the time of recruitment will be Rs. 53,175.00

Facilities and other Allowances -

Telephone Facilities - Entitled to Monthly Office Telephone, Mobile phone and Rs. 5,000.00 for housing.

Entitled to government approved allowances

COORDINATING OFFICER - 08 POSTS

Qualification

Should have obtained a degree in the subject field of Marketing / Management / Commerce / Economics / Statistics / Sociology / Social Work / Demography recognized by the University Grants Commission

Age Limit: Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The maximum age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.

Salary Scale: Salary Scale entitled to the post as per the Management Service Circular No. 02/2016 dated 25.04.2016 will be MM 1-1 2016 - Rs. 32,200 - 10x445 - 11x660 - 10x730 - 5x750 - 54,960.00.

Salary point at the time of recruitment will be Rs. 32,200.00

Other Allowances

Entitled to government approved allowances

(Note: Preference will be given to applicants from Colombo, Gampaha, Ratnapura, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts)

GENERAL CONDITIONS (FOR ALL POSTS)

Every applicant,

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties entrusted to the post
- Should have an excellent moral character
- Preference will be given to applicants who have the ability to work in Sinhala, Tamil and English or in Sinhala / Tamil and English and the knowledge in the use of computers
- Copies of all certificates equivalent to qualifications should be certified as true copies by a Justice of the Peace and submitted with the application.
- Priority will be given to applicants who have secured highest qualifications and will be called for the interview.
- Preference will be given to applicants who have the ability to conduct Power Point Presentations in Sinhala or Tamil and English successfully in an attractive manner.
- Applications of those trainees in the Government Graduate Trainee scheme will not be taken into consideration. Should submit an affidavit that the applicant will not undergo training in year 2020.

This post is permanent. Should contribute to the Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund. Will be made permanent after a probation period of three (03) years. Self prepared applications mentioning the names and addresses of two non related referees may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Sri Lanka Social Security Board, No. 18, Rajagiriya Road, Rajagiriya" or hand delivered to the Administration Division of the Head Office to receive before 12.10.2020. Applicants who are already employed in the government sector or in a Statutory Institution should direct their applications through the Head of the Institution. Post applied for should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application. Further details may be obtained from www.ssb.gov.lk website.

Saman Handaragama (Senior Lecturer)
B.A. (Special) Sociology (Hons) (CMB), MA in Sociology (CMB) CTHE (CMB)

Chairman

Sri Lanka Social Security Board

"Samaja Arakshana Piyasa"

No. 18, Rajagiriya Road,

Rajagiriya.

27.09.2020



VACANCIES FOR PETTAH BRANCH



JEWELLERY SHOP IN-CHARGE (Male/Female)

- Previous experience in the Jewellery Shop is a prerequisite.
- Good communication skill in English.
- Should have ability to maintain an accurate accounts details and Jewellery Stock.
- Age below 40 years.

SALES EXECUTIVES (Male/Female)

- Previous experience in the Jewellery Shop is required.
- Good accounts and cashing knowledge are preferred
- Age below 40 years.

Walking interviews on Monday to Friday from 10.30am - 5.00pm Beverly Jewellers Panadura

Beverly Jewellers.

No.350/B, Galle Road, Panadura. (In front of Post office Panadura) Tel - 038-2238925

E-mail: beverlyjewellers@gmail.com Web: www.beverlyjewellers.com

VACANCY FOR AN ENGLISH TEACHER

Duties:

- Candidates will be responsible for designing and delivering an English language program sponsored by the Access Program.
- The candidates must be able to adopt a student-centered teaching method for the approved course content.
- The selected candidates will be invited to a training where all teachers will be taught student centered training and leadership skills.
- Selected candidates will have the opportunity to participate in online courses, seminars, webinars and other training programs conducted and administered by experts.

Benefits:

- The compensation will be determined on an hourly basis. Rs.1,100 per hour.
- Selected candidates will have to commit to a total of 440 hours within a 2 year period.
- All expenses (food, lodging and accommodation) related to official travel will be reimbursed.

Minimum Requirements:

- BA in English - 3 years of experience and good command of IT skills
- Teacher Diploma - 5 years of experience in teaching and good command of IT skills
- Location of program - Kandy
- Time period - 2 years

To apply, email your CV to vacancies@srilankaunites.org before the 30th of September 2020, stating the position in the subject field.



UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

VACANCIES

The University of Kelaniya will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following posts up to 15th October 2020

PERMANENT POSTS

Faculty of Social Sciences

1. Department of Sociology

Lecturer (Probationary) / Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Senior Lecturer Gr. II/I

2. Department of Geography

Lecturer (Probationary) / Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Senior Lecturer Gr. II/I

Faculty of Science

1. Department of Statistics & Computer Science

Lecturer (Probationary) / Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Senior Lecturer Gr. II/I

2. Department of Industrial Management

Lecturer (Probationary) / Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Senior Lecturer Gr. II/I

Career Guidance Unit

Career Guidance Counsellor Gr. II

How to Apply :

Prescribed application forms and details regarding the above Posts could be obtained from the Deputy Registrar/Academic Establishments Division during office hours or could be downloaded from the University Website: www.news.kln.ac.lk. Requests for application forms by post should be accompanied with a self-addressed stamped envelope of 23x10 cm in size. All applications together with copies of relevant certificates should be forwarded to the Deputy Registrar/Academic Establishments, University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya, under registered cover to reach him on or before 15th of October, 2020. Candidates should submit separate applications for each post applied for. Incomplete, illegible, or late applications will be rejected. The post should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Applicants who have applied for the post of Career Guidance Counsellor for the advertisement published on 12.04.2019 are requested to submit fresh application.

Applications from employees in the Government Departments, Corporations, Statutory Boards, UGC and Higher Educational Institutions should be channeled through their Heads of Institutions. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Registrar
University of Kelaniya,
Kelaniya.

23.09.2020



SRI LANKA LIFE SAVING (SLLS)

Vacancy for OPERATIONS MANAGER

About the Role

As the Head of Operations, we expect you to play the primary role of structuring, planning and strategizing the activities of SLLS.

Qualifications & Experience

- MBA or Bachelor's Degree in a related field
- Minimum of 5-7 years of work experience in similar capacity.
- Excellent command in English (Bi/Tri linguistic skills will be an added advantage)

If you think you have what it takes to take on this role, please submit your CV with a covering letter to - info@srilankalifesaving.lk within 7 days of the advertisement.

www.oadz.lk
it's what you want

Vacancies for Yoghurt Factory

We are looking for an experienced and dynamic personality for our proposed yoghurt factory located in Central province

Yoghurt Factory Manager
Responsibilities:
Oversee all plant activities including production processing, quality and maintenance. Over look the daily operation of the factory Manufacturing pasteurized plain/ flavored milk set yoghurt, drinking yoghurt, cheese & butter. Preparing daily and monthly reports Maintain & monitoring the hygienic conditions and safety

Qualifications & Requirements :
Should have a degree in food science or agriculture from a recognized university. Age between 40-50 Minimum 6 years experience in Sri Lanka or abroad in similar capacity. Should be able to work under pressure.

Hiring following positions too:
•Food Chemist •Trained Mechanics •Lab Chemist •Quality Controller

Apply within 10 days of this advertisement by sending your latest cv to careersgrouphc@gmail.com

TECHNICAL OFFICER

Seeking a Technical Officer with knowledge and experience of Civil Engineer construction works and Quantity Surveyor work for a factory building project at Wadduwa.

Email address:
venorpharma.director@gmail.com

VACANCY

Site Supervisor/ Technical Officer

with NDES/ NCT Qualifications.
with or without experience
retired army persons (Engineering) preferred with dual purpose D/L

Salary Negotiable
Apply: mackworldorg@sltnet.lk
Tel: 0112 280 987 on week days

SALES COUNTER ASSISTANT

Applications are invited from persons who possess a knowledge in English & Mathematics

SALARY Rs. 25,000/ to Rs. 30,000/-

Please forward your Cv with contact details of two non-related referees to info@semageglass.lk or post your application to the address given below:

SEMAGE & CO (PVT) LTD
No. 431/1A, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya
T: 0112865535
Email: semage@eureka.lk, info@semageglass.lk

Consolidated Printing Private Limited **CONSOL**

Post of Accountant

We are looking for a Capable and Hardworking Accounts Professional to take on the role of Company Accountant

Requirements:

- Age between 23 – 45 years
- Qualified in AAT or part qualified in a Recognized Professional Accounting Institute.
- Min. 3 years accounting experience in a private limited company. Auditing experience is an advantage.
- Experienced in Taxation and in Inland Revenue Matters.
- Proficiency in QuickBooks accounting platform and MS Office.

Please send your CV with details of two non-related referees before the 7th October 2020.
Email your CV's to inquiries@consolprinting.com
Contact us at 115 054 468

VACANCY

Hensmans Haulage (Pvt) Ltd is one of the prestigious Logistic providers in Sri Lanka. We are into both Sea and Road operations. We are looking for a following people presently.

Assistant Accountant
Qualifications:

1. CA, CIMA, ACCA partly or AAT full qualification
2. Minimum two years experience
3. Passionate to work in Logistic field
4. Age between 25 and 35 (Female or Male)

Logistic Coordinator
Qualifications:

1. GCE A/L with B pass for O/L Mathematics or Accounts and Commerce
2. Age between 20 and 30 (Male)
3. Energetic character with positive thinking

Please send your CV to: prageeth.wijethilake@edhensman.com on or before 30th September 2020.

Hensman Haulage (Pvt) Ltd.
No. 26, Templer's Road, Mount Lavinia.

VACANCY

NEEDED URGENTLY FOR A WELL - ESTABLISHED TRADING ORGANIZATION IN COLOMBO, A SENIOR IMPORT EXECUTIVE WITH THE FOLLOWING CAPABILITIES

SENIOR IMPORTS EXECUTIVE

(MALE / FEMALE)

Qualification / Skills Required

- Good knowledge & relevant experience in all banking matters of import or export together with all import & customs procedures.
- Should be a Team Leader to manage staff under him or her.
- Good Communication skills English, Tamil & Sinhala.
- Highly proficient in MS Office Package & Report writing skills.

Forward your CV to : slk.vacancy@gmail.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are a leading organisation importing & distributing motor spares by using its islandwide dealer network now expanding it's business. We are seeking suitable persons with academic qualification and practical experience for below mentioned vacancies in Kegalle, Colombo and Islandwide Delivery Network (Retired persons also would be considered).

Position

MARKETING MANAGER
WORKSHOP MANAGER
ACCOUNTS & HR EXECUTIVE

Candidates who have qualifications for above posts please apply
Please send your CV to the following Email address
cronsriautomart@sltnet.lk

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ILMA INTERNATIONAL GIRLS' SCHOOL

Ilma International Girls' School, one of the leading educational institutions, which has been in existence since January 1988, invites applications from qualified, dynamic and energetic team players to fill the following vacancies in the Non-Academic section of the school.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

JOB ROLE- Chief Operating Officer is responsible for securing the functionality of general operation of the non-academic unit to drive extensive and sustainable growth which promotes culture and vision of the school. He/she will be overseeing day to day non-academic operations of the school while coordinating necessary activities with the Heads of Departments.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree / Master's degree/ Professional Qualification in Business Administration.
- Proven 10 years' experience in managerial level, including 3-5 years recent experience as a Chief Operating Officer or in the relevant field.
- Experience in educational institute would be an added advantage.
- Understanding of business functions such as Compliances, Finance, HR, Marketing, and general office administration.
- Should possess strong business acumen and exemplary work ethics.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Aptitude in decision-making and problem-solving.

LEGAL OFFICER

JOB ROLE- Legal Officer is responsible for delivering the legal services and resources to accomplish corporate goals, strategies, and priorities of the school. He/she will be responsible for providing legal counsel to the Board of Directors, Chairman, Principal, and other Senior Management of the school with regard to the legal affairs of the school.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Should be an Attorney-at-law, having a Degree in Law would be an added qualification.
- Possess at least 03 years post-qualifying experience involving the law.
- Strong communication skills in English, Sinhala languages and being trilingual would be an added advantage.
- Good judgment, negotiation skills and self-confidence.
- Experience in maintaining records and legal documentation in an organized manner.
- Knowledge on the industry and the ability to interact with all levels in the society.

Visit www.ilma.edu.lk web page to see the Job Descriptions of each position.
Please forward your comprehensive resume with a recent photograph along with the names and contact details of two non-related referees to hr@ilma.edu.lk on or before 10/10/2020.

4/100, Thalakatuwala Road, Colombo 5. | Tel: 0114339879 | Web: www.ilma.edu.lk

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POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF PALI AND BUDDHIST STUDIES

University of Kelaniya

Post of Management Assistant (Shroff) Grade III

NUMBER OF VACANCIES - 01

The Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of Management Assistant (Shroff) Grade III up to 15.10.2020.

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.

Employees Trust Fund
Contribution by the employee an amount equivalent to 10% of the salary to the Universities Provident Fund.

Cost of Living Allowance
Rs.7800/- per month (as per present regulations)

Other Allowances approved by the Government.

Preference will be given to those who possess the following.

- (a) An acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.
- (b) Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.

And

- Out of the three passes expected at the G.C.E. (Advance Level) Examination under the general educational qualifications mentioned in the Schemes of Recruitment, one shall be for Accountancy.

Note:

- (a) A Security Deposit to be furnished as determined by the University Grants Commission/ Higher Educational Institution.
- (b) Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- (c) Should be of good character

Age: Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age at the closing date of applications.

Salary Scale :
U-MN1(III)-Rs.30,725 - 17x300-35825p.m.

Method of Recruitment : Selection by Written Examination and an Interview.

Other benefits applicable to the above post.

Senior Assistant Registrar
Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies
113, Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwala.
27.09.2020

Web : <http://pgipbs.kln.ac.lk>

Jayaratne Group of Companies **JAYARATNE GROUP OF COMPANIES**

SENIOR MANAGER

Kandy Branch

Sri Lanka's premiere florists and funeral directors with a long history and a trusted brand name is in search for a Senior Manager to head the branch operations in Kandy

The ideal candidate should possess the following

- Age Between 40 to 60 years
- Ability to communicate fluently in Sinhala and English Languages
- Possess qualities of honesty, integrity and a pleasant personality
- Should be well connected with the Business Community and Professionals in Kandy
- Retired or officially discharged officers from the Tri forces of Sri Lanka
- Residing in Kandy or close proximity to Kandy

If you are confident that you have what it takes to be leading a team of professionals in Funeral Directors in the hill capital, please forward your curriculum vitae with two non-related referees within seven days of this advertisement to,

Jayaratne Funeral Directors (PVT)LTD
2B, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 8
Email: jvp3pho@gmail.com

Software Developer

The world 4th largest and Asia's No. 1 paint manufacturer is seeking well qualified candidates for Software Developer positions to support their Information Technology Services across 20 countries in Asia-Pacific (APAC).

Team will be based in Colombo and will be handling the software development, architectural design and software testing tasks for APAC regions.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Primary role of the selected candidate is to cover the major Group IT software development projects, serving countries spanning across Asia Pacific region.
- Design, build, test, implement and maintain Web Application in PHP.
- Provide maintenance support to existing web application by investigating and rectifying system shortcomings.
- Perform system integration with third-party services.
- Gather and refine specifications and requirements based on technical needs.
- Complete the assigned tasks on time and with high quality.
- Work cross functionally with various teams & people of different skillsets.

Requirements

- Strong knowledge and more than 5 years experience in Object Oriented PHP Programming & Laravel PHP framework is mandatory.
- More than 5 years experience in MySQL, LINUX and Apache.
- Experience in web interface design implementation, HTML5, Bootstrap/CSS3, AJAX and JQuery/JavaScript.
- Experience designing or using RESTful APIs.
- Experience in server configuration and PHP version upgrade will be a strong advantage.
- Self-motivated & able to work independently with minimum supervision.
- Required language(s): English

Candidate will be guided appropriately and accustomed himself/herself into the job.

Successful candidate would be provided with competitive remuneration package on par with the industry standard and other fringe benefits.

Please forward your resume by post or e-mail to reach the address given below within 7 days of this advertisement. Please mark the post applied on left hand corner of envelope or subject line on e-mails.

NIPPON PAINT
Deputy General Manager
NIPPON PAINT LANKA (PVT) LTD.
Nippon Towers, 59A, Battaramulla Road, Battaramulla.
Tel: 0114 600 460 Fax: 0114 600 469
email: groupit@nipponpaint.com.lk



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Educational Qualifications & Experience

1. A Certificate level or higher qualification in Marketing from a recognized institution
2. Passed in 06 subjects at GCE (O/L) Examination with Credit passes in Sinhala / Tamil & English language and pass in Mathematics / Accountancy
3. Fluency in English language and computer literacy.

Media sales experience with proven track record will be advantages.

Age : Below 35 yrs

Remuneration : An attractive fixed contract allowance and commission based on sales achieved as per the approved scheme of the organization

If you are the person we are looking for, please forward your resume with copies of educational and professional qualifications and experience on or before 11th October 2020 indicating the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope to,

Deputy General Manager (Administration)
Independent Television Network Ltd.
Wickramasinghepura
Battaramulla
22nd September 2020

IMMEDIATE VACANCIES

Construction Vacancies

We are a leading company in Sri Lanka engaged in water supply, irrigation & roads. We are finding qualified experienced & self-motivated persons for following projects at Badulla, Passara & Hanwella.

- (1) Quantity Surveyor (Water, Irrigation & Roads)
- (2) Engineer Assistant - NCT + 05 or NDT + 02
- (3) Technical Officer (NCT + 03) Roads & Hanwella
- (4) Admin Officer (Female) near to Badulla & Passara
- (5) Supervisor - Water & Road experience.

Accommodation, food allowance & transportation.

Contact Mr Perera - 070-4158842

E-mail: engineeringsservice19@gmail.com

Address: I.C.D. Company,
No. 51, Rabukpotha Road,
Bandaragama, Badulla.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN KATUNAYAKE

We are looking for experienced, reliable and highly motivated individuals to be a part of this prestigious landmark project.

CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION EXPERTS

1. CHIEF TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEYOR

- Duration: 38 Months
- License from Survey Department
- 10 + Years Experience

2. SENIOR POWER SUPPLY ENGINEER

- Duration: 21 Months
- BSc in Electrical Engineering or Equivalent
- Corporate Membership (Charter)
- 15 + Years Experience

NOTE:

All Candidates must:

- Be Below 65 years of age & in good health
- 10+ years of experience in Construction Supervision of multi storied buildings

5 Years+ experience in Airport construction field will carry added weight to your application.

If you feel you are the ideal candidate we are looking for, please send your CV to ntpceylonhr@gmail.com along with the position on the subject line of the email. Alternatively, CV's can be sent through post to the address specified below.



Head of Human Resources
NTP CEYLON (PVT) LTD
L2B, Crescat Residencies, No. 75, Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.
Tel: +94 11 2 2397771
For more information please contact Ms. Asha Tel: +94 777 259 808

Classic Venture (Pvt) Ltd, is an organization engaged in providing quality reliable and trustworthy security consultation & related services to leading business establishments in Sri Lanka.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE FINANCE

We are looking for a young energetic female with following qualifications to work at our Head Office at Park Road Colombo 05.

- Age below 30 years
- Pleasant Personality
- Excellent command of English
- Computer literacy and knowledge in Quick Books Package

Salary Negotiable

Please send your CV on or before 04th of October 2020 to the below address or by e-mail

Director

Classic Venture (Pvt) Ltd

No. 196, Park Road, Colombo 05.

Tel : 0753 632 000 / E-mail : susil@classicventure.com

VACANCY

GENERAL MANAGER (FACTORY)

NDC Exports (Pvt) Ltd is a private company established to manufacture and exports the coconut based food products for the purpose of growing the Human health wellbeing. We are looking for a dynamic and hardworking individual to be appointed as a General Manager (Factory).

Key Responsibilities

- Driving the implementation of the company's strategic plan to ensure that key business targets and objectives are met.
- Ensuring the effective management of the company including the production management, inventory control and Human Resource Management, policy and governance functions.
- Assisting to the General Manager to draw up with weekly scheduled & merchandising.
- Providing strategic support and recommendations to the Directors.
- Driving change innovation and continuous improvement in support of Business opportunities.

Experience & Qualifications:

- A relevant tertiary qualification with a minimum 10 years working experience
- Great interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong problem solving abilities
- Related professional qualification will be an added advantage.

Age:

- Below 50 and above 40 years

Send your detailed CV with the contact details of two non-related referees to reach us within 7 days.

Human Resource Department

NDC Export (Pvt) Ltd, Nadalagamawa, Wadumunnegedara

E-mail: info@cocomate.com

Sri Lanka's Largest No.01 Interior Decorating Company is Looking For a

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Interested applicants please email resumes to

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We are looking for a Senior Lecturer (Higher Grade) / Head of Mathematics Unit, who will lead the unit to deliver high quality academic programmes that cater to the current and future needs of employers, locally and internationally.

He / she should have demonstrated experience in academic administration, program development, staff management, quality assurance, scholarly research, academic accreditation, and engagement with industry.

Qualifications Required:

- A 1st or 2nd class honours bachelor's degree in the required specialization and an earned doctoral degree in a relevant field, or
- A pass in a bachelor's degree in the required specialization and a Master's degree, and an earned doctoral degree in a relevant field and
- At least 6 years of demonstrated competence in teaching, research, and / or practice after completion of the bachelor's degree. A good publication record is required.

SLIIT offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience. Please send your application via email to careers@slit.lk clearly indicating the post applied on the subject line.

SENIOR MANAGER / HUMAN RESOURCES

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

New Kandy Road, Malabe.

Phone: +94(0)11 754 4801



SLIIT

Discover Your Future

SENIOR LECTURER / COORDINATOR (NURSING)

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

We are looking for a Senior Lecturer to join our School of Nursing, to support the delivery of high quality academic programmes that cater to the current and future needs of employers, locally and internationally.

The appointee will coordinate the foreign and local academic programmes and contribute to research and teaching in the field of Nursing.

Qualifications Required:

- A 1st or 2nd class honours bachelor's degree in the required specialization and a two-year research-based masters degree or
- A pass in a bachelor's degree in the required specialization and a one-year Master's degree or an equivalent / professional qualification, and a two-year research-based masters degree or a professional master's degree. and
- At least 6 years of demonstrated competence in research, teaching and / or practice after completion of bachelor's degree with a good publication record in reputed journals and / or a dossier of significant contributions to practice.

SLIIT offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please send your application via email to careers@slit.lk clearly indicating the post applied on the subject line.

SENIOR MANAGER / HUMAN RESOURCES

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

New Kandy Road, Malabe.

Phone: +94(0)11 754 4801



CALLING FOR 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' (EOI)

EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

SRI LANKA CRICKET (SLC), being the Governing Body of Cricket in Sri Lanka hereby invites and seeks "Expression of Interest" from reputed parties with prior experience in Skill Development, who are interested in providing suitable Skill Development Training Programs for Employees of SLC.

The areas to be covered under the program

- Flexibility
- Communication skills
- Conflict Resolution, Tactfulness, Work ethic
- Leadership Skills
- Organizational Skills
- Creativity Skills
- Stress Management
- IT
- Media Handling
- Conduct on and off the field
- Personal grooming/ hygiene
- Nutrition
- Social etiquette

EOI Submission Procedure:

The EOI must be submitted with a brief description of your organization and details of preset Skill development programs by your organization on or before 03.00 p.m. on 12th October 2020 in writing to, "The Senior Manager Human Resources", Sri Lanka Cricket, No. 35 Maitland Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka or via our email – hr@srilankacricket.lk.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.



CALLING FOR 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' (EOI)

EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT COMPANY

SRI LANKA CRICKET, an International Brand with Global Recognition is seeking a recognized Recruiting company in order to outsource its recruitments and selection of right candidates for all vacant positions.

EOI Submission Procedure:

The EOI must be submitted with a brief description of your organization and the all other services provided pertaining to employee recruiting by your organization on or before 03.00 p.m. on 5th October 2020 in writing to, "The Senior Manager Human Resources", Sri Lanka Cricket, No. 35 Maitland Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka or via email – hr@srilankacricket.lk.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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SRI LANKA CRICKET

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AMERICAN EMBASSY, COLOMBO

Security Investigator (Female/Male)

We encourage both women and men to apply for this position. The United States Embassy seeks a diverse workforce with equal opportunity for all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

The Foreign Service National Investigator (FSNI) conducts security investigations and maintains liaison with local police and other security and law enforcement officials. The incumbent assists the Regional Security Office (RSO) team in coordinating protection for post personnel and visiting U.S. Government officials, obtaining, and reporting on information concerning potential security threats to post personnel, facilities, or information.

The work schedule for this position is: Full Time - 40 hours per week.
The monthly gross salary for this position will be Rs. 142,894/-

Qualifications Required:

- 1. Education** - A minimum of two (2) years of College or University studies required.
- 2. Prior Work Experience** - Minimum of three (3) years of experience in law enforcement, military, private security, or investigation is required.
- 3. Language Proficiency** - Level III (Good Working Knowledge) reading, writing, and speaking English is required. *(This will be tested)*
Level IV (Fluency) reading, writing, and speaking Sinhala or Tamil is required.
- 4. Job Knowledge** - Good working knowledge of the local and regional judicial system including criminal laws and procedures, and laws regarding marriage divorce, adoption, and military service. Detailed knowledge of investigative techniques and security databases.
- 5. Skills and Abilities**- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to conduct investigations with utmost discretion. Ability to draft correspondence and reports in English, and skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook applications. Ability to work independently as well as in a team setting.

How to Apply:

Please visit our website <https://lk.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/> to submit your applications through Electronic Recruitment Application system [ERA]. Before you continue with the application process, please carefully read the instructions available on our website.

Required Documents:

To apply for this position applicants **must electronically submit copies of the documents listed below** along with the electronic application, to be considered for employment. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not eligible and qualified.

- Relevant Educational Certificates
- Relevant Service/Work Experience Certificates
- Proof of citizenship (National Identity Card/Passport and/or Work Permit)

PAPER OR E-MAILED APPLICATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTED

Your application should reach us **on or before October 06, 2020.**
Please note, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



BCIS

**BANDARANAIKE CENTRE FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

POST OF DIRECTOR / HEAD OF CENTRE

Applications are called for the Post of Director of the BCIS. He/she must be a senior academic. He/she will be responsible for the management of the Institute's academic programmes and to supervise its overall management and finances.

Applicants should be between the ages of 35 and 60 years.

He/she will be accountable for :

- The academic leadership and direction of the Centre, ensuring that its objectives are achieved.
- The effective governance and management of the Centre to ensure satisfactory performance.
- To forge and contribute to the development of relations with other local Institutes and Universities, as well as international Institutes and Universities, in order to enhance international connections to promote the Centre's activities and enhance its reputation and profile.
- To lead and direct the teaching programmes of the Institute as well as its research projects.

Qualifications & Experience :

- Preferably a PhD in International Relations/history/political science/ sociology/economics.
- A minimum of 5 years experience at management level in an educational institute or a University faculty.
- A proven track record of research publications.

Remuneration :

- A competitive remuneration plan inclusive of other fringe benefits which include transport, commensurate with the position is on offer to the right candidate.

The following skills will be given preference :

- Outgoing relationship skills
- Inter-personal skills
- Decision-making ability
- Skills in problem-solving and communication.
- Experienced effective leadership, with excellent work ethics, academics, people skills, and high integrity.
- Willingness to innovate
- Competence in administration.

Please forward your CV along with contact details on or before 21st October 2020 to careers@bmich.com or by post to the below address

**Director/CEO,
B M I C H
Buddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 7.**

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

With an enduring vision of being the most technologically advanced, innovative and customer friendly, financial organization, we, the most awarded Bank in Sri Lanka, continue to progress steadily while being listed amongst the Top 1000 Banks in the world for the tenth consecutive year. Our unparalleled record of success over the past decade is supported by a network of 268 branches and superior standards in service, stability and performance. We are poised to ascend to even greater heights in the near future.

ROBOTIC PROCESS AUTOMATION (RPA) ENGINEER

We are looking for highly motivated, enthusiastic and dynamic individuals for our Information Technology Department as "RPA Engineer".

Job Profile / Main Responsibilities :

- Ensure in designing / advanced programming / configuring in RPA technology using Automation Anywhere & IBM BAW.
- Ensure transparency throughout project lifecycle by proactively communicating progress on an on-going basis.
- Ability of working frequently improving agile practice and adhere to the organization agility.
- Provide necessary information proactively to the key stakeholders and higher management to make effective and timely decisions.
- Skilled in identifying gaps in the existing business processes and add value to the business using RPA technologies.
- Demonstrates an aptitude for learning and applying new and / or updated programming languages, techniques and software development disciplines.

Applicant's Profile :

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Information Technology.
- Minimum three (03) years of previous RPA experience and / or relevant experience.
- Ability to demonstrate advanced programming / configuration / analytical skills to achieve business objectives using IBM BAW tool.
- Experience in Automation Anywhere & IBM BAW will be an added advantage.
- Certifications in Robotic Process Automation Technologies and Workflow Automation Technologies is an added advantage.

The successful candidate will be provided with an attractive remuneration package, including fringe benefits commensurate with benchmarked financial institutions.

Applications with all relevant information should be submitted to reach the under-mentioned email address within 10 days of this advertisement with the respective post marked as the subject.

Deputy General Manager – HRM
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC
Email : dgm_hrm@combank.net
Web site : www.combank.lk



All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Canvassing in any form will be an immediate disqualification.

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Software Engineer

This position entails the review of business processes and functions and the development and fine-tuning of ERP system accordingly.

Candidate Profile:

- BSc. (Computer Science/IT) with minimum 07 years of experience in a similar role
- Strong knowledge, and experience of core ERP modules and related integrations
- Ability to identify and resolve cross-functional integration issues and opportunities, along with complex business and process issues
- Understanding of business process re-engineering in a construction environment
- Organizational multi-tasking and time management skills
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Strong working knowledge of MS SQL & 4GL Programming Languages, MS Sharepoint, HTML programming and MS Office Suite
- Experience with Infor LN ERP is preferred
- Experience in website development and working in a virtualized platform will be added advantages

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop documentation (documents, diagrams and charts) including design specifications, system integrations, system configuration standards and procedures
- Interact with process owners to develop and fine-tune functions and reports
- Translate business requirements into technical or functional fixes, solutions, processes or customizations
- Apply business and system knowledge to design system solutions
- Analyze business issues and automate them to improve business operations
- Recommend and implement system enhancements and upgrades

Location: Head Office, Colombo 05

The above position provides excellent career progression opportunities in a professional environment, along with attractive remuneration.

If you can fulfill any of the above requirements, please send your application with contact details of two non-related referees to hr@maga.lk or to the address below on or before 05 October 2020.

Please indicate the position applied for as the subject of your e-mail or on the top left corner of the envelope.

Manager Human Resources

Maga Engineering (Pvt) Ltd
200, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05
Tel: 011 720 9879 | E-mail: hr@maga.lk

Driving value by mastering Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment

By
Rajith Perera



The financial system in the country faces the dual challenge of sustaining the flow of credit amid declining growth and to manage increased risks due to changes in the economic landscape.

The depth and severity of financial shocks are often amplified by in-

adequate and low-quality capital in the financial services sector. On the other hand, many risks were not appropriately covered by a commensurate amount of capital, owing to weaknesses in banks' risk identification and assessment.

It is, therefore, of paramount importance to raise the resilience of individual credit institutions in periods of stress by seeking improvements in their forward-looking internal capital adequacy assessment processes (ICAAPs), including comprehensive stress testing and capital planning. To help banks to navigate these ambi-

guities, we have thoroughly analysed the ICAAP practices of the financial services sector in Sri Lanka combined with our own experience in ICAAP reviews and implementations. The analysis will help banks to understand current practice and serves as a guide to the widespread adoption of leading practices to assist them grapple with ICAAP:

1 Most banks can benefit substantially from greater connection between internal risk and capital models combined with a transparent management process.

To enable this, banks could consider close involvement of leadership in formulation of the risk strategy, consider the use of dashboarding of critical metrics to enable the banks to translate risk appetite in to operational risk limits. 1 Achieve closer alignment of capital planning and corporate strategy to ensure the banks achieve the best possible use of their capital.

1 Enhance stress testing and scenario analysis and regularly revisit the approach to modelling pillar 1 and pillar two risk types.

In the local context, the biggest challenge, we have seen is the formulation of the risk appetite statement consisting of qualitative and quantitative elements inclusive of financial and non-financial risk. Banks could consider different approaches when formulating their risk appetite statements.

They could use more sophisticated and refined systems to create a joint perspective on capital, funding and risk and return by including Return on Equity (ROE), Return on



In the local context, the biggest challenge is the formulation of the risk appetite statement consisting of qualitative and quantitative elements inclusive of financial and non-financial risk

Risk Adjusted Capital (RORAC), Risk Adjusted Return on Capital (RAROC). Many of these metrics could play an important role when allowing banks to understand the interdependencies to aid them in formulating risk appetite limits. Reconciliation of capital

planning and strategic planning is essential to ensure consistency between risk and business strategies. Capital is a scarce resource and banks must consider, as they never have done before, the cost of capital, while still pursuing growth and profits.

The best practice for banks would be to consider a reasonable alignment of their annual planning process, to ensure growth of business adequately deliberate and compliment the capital planning process with the intention of maximising profitability of the institution. A well designed

and implemented stress testing method can add value to a bank in a multitude of ways. Below are some emerging trends:

1 Strategic Planning: A combination of stress testing and sensitivity analysis can be used to measure interaction between balance sheet functions and exogenous factors such as macro-economic factors.

This information will be powerful in guiding the bank's strategic objective, product strategy and investment strategy.

1 Funding Strategy and Contingency planning: Funding strategy and contingency liquidity plans will be better informed and sharper by stress testing the relationship between capital, funding cost and liquidity

1 Feedback response: In the event of breach of any of the risk limits (i.e. capital adequacy ratio, leverage ratio) banks take action through asset sale, raising capital, cutting down lending. These balance sheet changes could be captured iteratively in stress testing.

The Financial Accounting Advisory Services (FAAS) Academy of Training of Ernst & Young, Sri Lanka, has organised a seminar titled "A Likely Story?" - a quick guide to the practical application of ICAAP and stress at Jaic Hilton Colombo on September 30 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon.

The resource persons will be Partner, Assurance, EY Sri Lanka, Sanath Fernando and Partner and Principal, Financial Accounting Advisory Services, EY Sri Lanka, Rajith Perera.

The writer is Partner and Principal, Financial Accounting Advisory Services, Ernst & Young, Sri Lanka.

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TRAINEE ASSISTANT ENGINEERS (MECHANICAL)

BOI Approved reputed Company manufacturing plastic ornaments for the export market seeks self-motivated, dynamic and ambitious individuals for the above position.

The candidates should possess:-

- NDT/NDES/HNDE with one year experience in Mould designing.
- Excellent communication skills and leadership qualities.
- Ability to work well under pressure with minimum supervision
- Male applicants below 30 years of age

Attractive remuneration and benefits are on offer for selected candidates. Please note that only the short listed candidates will be notified. Email applications are welcome. Applications by post may be sent to the address below indicating the passion applied for on the top left of the envelope.

Human Resources Manager,
No.70, Attidiya Road, Ratmalana.

Email: mona_tissa@eureka.lk / mona_ofc@eureka.lk

Coconut prices and oil palm cultivation

BY LALIN DE SILVA

Coconut growers are scared of oil palm (OP) because the cost of palm oil is 50% less than coconut oil.

So they brought up many unfair allegations against palm oil when India is planting it on two million hectares of land considering the economic and environmental benefits of oil palm.

Despite falling performance, coconut growers did not improve productivity and the nuts per palm per year remain at 48.

This is why Sri Lankan coconut oil is the most expensive coconut oil in the world. Prices can be checked on the web.

Because of adulteration of coconut oil with palm oil merely to bring down the cost of co-

conut oil, most consumers make coconut oil at home.

Coconuts and oil palm are from the same class in terms of plant classification taught in botany.

Successive governments have been planting coconut palms at the rate of 3-4 million palms per year for over 20 years. Despite this, national production remains static even today. Where has the national resources planning gone wrong? Actually where have those palms been planted securely? Who is responsible for such a calamity?

Sadly, the agriculture census in Sri Lanka is taken once in 10 years. However, such a census can be taken within a day using satellite images and artificial intelligence. This is a timely need even to monitor forest cover and any other large scale development.

We have over 14,000 Grama Niladhari divisions and agriculture officers roaming around the country. Are they

creating tangible value or should we strengthen them like we did to PHIs recently. What happened to those millions of coconut palms supposed to have been planted is another study cum investigation with the sole objective of improving our systems instead of penalising wrong doers.

Truth has to triumph. All must understand why other countries are planting OP when they too can plant coconut. Not all climates are suitable for coconut and oil palm is four times more productive than coconut. If all withdraw the wrong and venomous adversarial publicity launched against OP there will be over 30,000 smallholders to take to planting OP further to the 20,000 hectares allocated to Regional Plantation Companies by then President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The Plantation Ministry must maintain the same stand they took from the beginning on OP and fight against the

fake CEA report that condemned OP due to the personal agenda of a rejected politician.

The Ministry should not succumb to political pressure but earn the respect of tax paying citizens by sticking to the truth. Dr. Parakrama Waidyanatha and other scientists are willing to meet President Gotabaya Rajapaksa if such an opportunity is provided.

Wherever OP has been planted the annual rainfall too has improved. It has to happen as per the water cycle we learnt at school. This is where the educational level of the politicians come handy. Like Ali Shabry said in his maiden speech we don't want politicians who lead mobs but the truth. The truth should win for the people of this blessed country. Let's do justice to this golden crop like it has helped many large countries.

The writer is a former planter and agricultural advisor.

Career Opportunities



Access Engineering PLC, the leading value engineering solutions provider in Sri Lanka is pleased to invite applications for the following positions.

Junior Executive - Management Systems (Colombo)

- A Diploma in QMS, EMS & HSMS or any other equivalent qualifications.
- Minimum of 1 year experience in similar capacity.
- Experience in Quality, Environmental and Health & Safety Management in Construction field will be an added advantage.
- Fresh graduates are also welcome for the post of Trainee - Management Systems

Executive - HR (Production Plants - Vavuniya/ Omanthai)

- Degree from a recognized university in HRM or equivalent qualification.
- Minimum 2 years' experience in similar capacity.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English.
- Excellent computer literacy and analytical skills.

The ideal Candidate(s) should be a team player, have positive Interpersonal and communication skills with the willingness to work extended hours when necessary.

An attractive remuneration package along with fringe benefits and career development prospects await the chosen candidate(s).

Please e-mail or post your CV stating the names of 02 non-related referees within 07 days to:

HR Department - Corporate Office
Access Engineering PLC
"Access Tower",
278, Union Place,
Colombo - 2.

E-mail: careers@accessengsl.com Fax: 0117606605 Web: www.accessengsl.com

Raddella Holdings launches insulin manufacturing plant

Raddella Holdings launched a biotech insulin manufacturing plant at the Koggala Export Processing Zone last week.

State Minister of Pharmaceutical Production, Supply, and Regulation, Prof. Channa Jayasumana, Minister of Tourism, Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Plantations, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana and State Minister of Rural and School Sports Infrastructure Development, Thenuka Vidanagama were present at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The biotechnology manufacturing plant is a Rs. 3.5 billion, 100% local investment, which will employ over 200 specialised and

trained professionals. All technology used in manufacturing will be state-of-the-art and conform to the highest tier of European standardization.

This new plant has the capacity to meet 100% of projected local demand for next 15 years. The surplus produced thereafter will be exported and provide a valuable source of foreign revenue.

The operation of the plant will be a joint venture between the Premium International Injectable Company (Pvt) Ltd, a subsidiary of Raddella Holdings and the State Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC). All

new products will be under the SPMC brand name. Extensive planning for the plant took place over the past two years.

Managing Director and CEO, Thushira Raddella said, "The venture which is a 100% local investment will operate to European standards.

This will ensure that all Sri Lankans have access to excellent quality medication, however at just a fraction of the current cost of expensive foreign imports. We worked tirelessly with multiple stakeholders and completed all designs, technology transfers, and specialist training."

Saaraketha launches greenhouse project

Saaraketha, an organic fresh fruit and vegetable retailer, has launched a greenhouse project that is expected to change the face of Sri Lankan organic agriculture.

The new solar-powered greenhouse project has a production space of half a million square feet of controlled environment, entirely solar powered and completely carbon neutral. Projected to carry over 60 varieties of vegetables, greens and herbs, the greenhouse project will deliver stable crops all year round. The project is powered 80% by female farmers.

Saaraketha launched their plant to plate tracing technology in 2019, and today they plan to take it a step further. With their founder Prasanna Hettiarachchi at the helm, they are taking on the impressive task of transforming Sri Lankan agriculture by exploring ways to harness the power of technology to ensure that farmers' livelihoods are improved, a company spokesman said.

With global weather patterns constantly changing and becoming more unpredictable and unreliable, it is more important than ever to invest in Sri Lanka's self-sufficiency and improve food security.



HNB launches revamped Student Savings Unit at Royal College



HNB PLC opened a fully revamped Student Savings Unit at Royal College, Colombo last week.

"With HNB's assistance, we will now be able to give students a powerful head start on essential skills needed to flourish in life," Royal College, Principal, B.A. Abeyrathna said.

"With continuous digitalisation, the future of banking and finance is changing at an increasingly rapid pace. Through these units, we give our future leaders at Royal an early, in-depth, first-hand experience of these systems," HNB DGM, Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne said.

COLOMBO DOCKYARD PLC

Tender notice - Hiring of Vehicles for Colombo Dockyard PLC
Tenders are calling for hiring of vehicles on lease basis for providing transport facilities inside and outside port premises.

S/No	Vehicle Type	No. of Vehicles
1	Car	03
2	Van with Doule A/C (with driver/without driver)	02
3	Van for Delivery (with driver/without driver)	01
4	Double Cab	02
5	Crew Cab	02
6	Lorry 10.5' - 14.5' - 16' - 20' - 40'	05
7	A/C Bus for welfare trips 28 seats (for journey)	01
8	Bus Employee Transport daily 54 seats	01
9	Bus for welfare trips 54 seats (for journey)	01
10	Boom Truck 22' Ton 5 or 8 (Boom)	01

Tender Forms : Can be obtained from the Dockyard General Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd, at No. 223, Jayantha Mallimarachchi Mawatha, Colombo 14 from 29.09.2020 to 13.10.2020 (Between 9.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m on week days and Saturday from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon only) after paying non refundable tender deposit of Rs. 250/-.

All offers should be dropped in to the Tender Box at the above address indicating our tender reference "HRD&A/T/01/2020" on the top left hand corner of the envelope, on or before 4.00 p.m on 13.10.2020

Priority will be given to those who have Port Entry Permit for vehicles

Offers received after the closing time and by post shall not be accepted

For further information, please contact:

Head of Section (Employee Services & Logistic)

Colombo Dockyard PLC

PO Box 906, Port of Colombo, Colombo 15.

T.P : 011-2429000 Ex. 2394/2238/2244/2494

Email : transport@cdl.lk

WANTED

A reputed Organization in Sri Lanka located in Colombo 07 is looking for a suitable building with parking facilities in Colombo 07 to move a few of its departments including the stores.

The ideal building should have around 7000 sqft to accommodate the office space & the storage facilities

All bid documents should be forwarded to the following address within 1 week of the date of the advertisement

O-10029, C/O SUNDAY OBSERVER, LAKE HOUSE, COLOMBO



FOR SALE

Company owned and maintained 'one owner' vehicles for sale. Written offers and inquiries regarding inspection should be directed to the Transport Manager, Distilleries Company of Sri Lanka PLC, No. 110, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10, during working hours, on weekdays.

Vehicle No.	Make
31-3445	Daihatsu Jeep (Not In Running Condition)
42-3406	Isuzu NPR57 Lorry (Not In Running Condition)
42-0743	TATA 1210SE (Full Body Lorry)
KW-6103	Toyota Prius Car - 2013
KW-6104	Toyota Prius Car - 2013
KL-5557	Toyota Corolla 141-2010

Contact: **Roshanth Perera** Telephone: **2687801 / 2695295-7**
Transport Manager 5507000



SRI LANKA ARMY

TENDER NOTICE

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Army, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura, Colombo will receive sealed tenders for the supply of items for the 1st Half of the year 2021. (01.01.2021 to 30.06.2021) for a fixed price rate.

Ser.	Tender Number	Description	Approximate Value of Tender
1	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (933)	CEMENT	88 Million
2	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (934)	TOR STEEL & MILD STEEL	86 Million
3	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (935)	ELECTRICAL CEILING FANS	35 Million
4	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (936)	ELECTRICAL WIRES	75 Million
5	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (937)	ASBESTOS ROOFING SHEETS	35 Million
6	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (938)	ZINC ALUMINIUM ROOFING SHEETS	84 Million
7	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (939)	GI CORRUGATED SHEETS	34 Million
8	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (940)	TIMBER (Imported)	70 Million
9	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (941)	TIMBER (Local)	75 Million
10	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (942)	PLYWOOD SHEETS	85 Million
11	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (943)	GI PIPES	90 Million
12	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (944)	PVC PIPES/ PVC FITTINGS	45 Million
13	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (945)	WATER TANKS	25 Million
14	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (946)	PAINT ITEMS	61 Million
15	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (947)	YARD ITEMS (River Sand)	90 Million
16	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (948)	YARD ITEMS (Metal/ Rubble)	93 Million
17	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (949)	ELECTRICAL ITEMS/ SWITCHES	15 Million
18	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (950)	ALUMINIUM ITEMS (Aluminium Bar Powder Coated / Aluminium Bar Natural)	67 Million
19	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (951)	TILES (Floor Tile/ Wall Tile)	90 Million
20	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (952)	SANITARY FITTINGS (Commode, Wash Basins) (Cromium Plated Piller Tap, Cromium Plated Bip Tap)	75 Million
21	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (953)	STEEL ('C' Purlin, Angle Iron, MS Plate)	90 Million
22	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (954)	HARDWARE ITEMS (Wire Nails, Brass But Hingers, Paint Brush, Sand Paper)	53 Million
23	DES/ 04/ 2020/ 100 (955)	TOOLS	20 Million

2. All the relevant tender documents can be obtained from the Directorate of Engineer Services, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura, Colombo from 28.09.2020 to 27.10.2020 between 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs on working days (From the Procurement Section of the Directorate of Engineer Services located on the 3rd floor of Army Headquarters Block 07) and all the tenders will be opened on 29.10.2020 at 1000 hrs at the Army Camp, Ceylinco Building, No. 167/30, Awissawella Road, Orugodawatta. In order to obtain the tender documents, it is required to prove the company registration, past experience for the supply of respective items and bank statements for the past six months to confirm financial stability. Suppliers who are registered with MOD are exempted from producing those documents and only the registration letter of the MOD is required to be produced.

3. The applicants who are interested in aforementioned Tenders and who have fulfilled the specified qualifications required to pay a non refundable fee for each Tender application (From 10 million to 50 Million - Rs 3,500.00 and from 50 million to 100 million Rs 12,500.00) to the office of the Director of Finance (Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura, Colombo) prior obtaining Tender documents and submit the receipt to the Directorate of Engineer Services.

Further details could be obtained from:

A. Directorate of Engineer Services Procurement Section	Tel No.	011 2339317
B. Quarter Master General Branch Tender Section	Tel No.	011 2431301
C. Directorate of Engineer Services	Fax No.	011 2435143

Commander of the Army
Sri Lanka Army Headquarters,
Sri Jayawardhanapura,
Colombo.

ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Hiring of Tipper and JCB for Road Maintenance work and Van for inspection of water projects for the year 2021

1. The Chief Engineer (Gampaha), RDA on behalf of the Chairman, District Procurement Committee of the Road Development Authority, invites the sealed bids for following packages.

Contract No	Name of the package	Qty	Bid security (Rs.)
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/47	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Negombo Division, Negombo Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/48	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Negombo Division, Ja-ela Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/49	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Negombo Division, Wattala Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/50	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Negombo Division, Madampella Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/51	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Gampaha Division, Gampaha Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/52	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Gampaha Division, Pattiwila Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/53	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Gampaha Division, Kadawatha Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/54	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Gampaha Division, Minuwangoda Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/55	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Nittambuwa Division, Nittambuwa Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/56	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Nittambuwa Division, Pugoda Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/57	Hiring of Tipper, 1 cube - Nittambuwa Division, Meerigama Depot	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/58	Hiring of JCB Negombo Division	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/59	Hiring of JCB Gampaha Division	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/60	Hiring of JCB Nittambuwa Division	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/61	Hiring of Van Negombo Division	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/62	Hiring of Van - Gampaha Division	01	5,000.00
RDA/GAM/CE/TEN/2020/63	Hiring of Van - Nittambuwa Division	01	5,000.00

2. Bidders have the option of submitting bid either for one package, any combination or all the packages. Bidder should provide bid securities separately for each lot quoted along with the bid.

3. The detailed qualifications, conditions and requirements are given in the bidding document. Few key qualifications & condition requirements applicable for each package are given below.

For Tipper

- The suppliers should forward a rate for a day and rate for extra milage (including all the taxes and Levies excluding VAT) inclusive of all expenditure (Cost of fuel, repairs, drivers salary, service & other maintenance etc.)
- Year of manufacture 1995 or above.
- Capacity — 1 cube (Modified Tipppers are not accepted)

For JCB

- The suppliers should forward a rate for an hour(including all the taxes and Levies excluding VAT) inclusive of all expenditure (Cost of fuel, repairs, drivers salary, service & other maintenance costs etc.)
- Capacity 4WD
- Year of manufacture 1996 or above

For Van

- The year of manufacture should be year 2007 or thereafter and it should be in very good condition.
- Dual Air conditioned
- Front & Rear seat belt and capable of carrying minimum of 07 passengers with all other general requirements
- Full Insurance cover

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language shall be purchased by you, from the office of the Chief Engineer (Gampaha) at Miriswatta — Mudungoda from 9.00 hrs to 14.00 hrs, on all working days, from 28-09-2020 to 21-10-2020. Upon payment of non — refundable fee of Rs. 540.00 per each contract.

Bidders are requested to submit sealed Bids in duplicate to Chief Engineer, Road Development Authority, Miriswatta — Mudungoda before 21-10-2020, 14.30hrs. Tenders will be opened immediately after the closing. Bidders or their representatives are requested to be present at the opening of tenders.

Tenders shall be accompany by Bid Security of the amount given in the table and should be valid up to 21-01-2021. For further details, please contact Chief Engineer -Gampaha RDA overTele: 033-2221020

Chief Engineer - Gampaha
Chief Engineer's Office
Road Development Authority
Miriswatta - Mudungoda
21.08.2020



TENDER NOTICE

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites quotations from registered and previous sources for following items for open market sales and tenders will be closed at 1.15 p.m. on the dates given below. (E.mail /Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable)

Item	Quantity	Tender No.	Closing on
Item Code No : 240112C17 Quetiapine Tablet 25mg In 30 Tablets (Blister)	10,000 Packs	RES/12/10/A/2020	12.10.2020
Item Code No : 030101G65 Chlorphenamine Maleate Injection BP 10mg/1ml. Chlorpheniramine Injection BP/ Chlorphenamine Injection BP 10mg/ml OR Chlorpheniramine Maleate Injection USP 10mg/ml ampoule	36,000 Ampoules	RES/12/10/B/2020	12.10.2020
Item Code No : 180508C05 Tolbutamide Tablets BP/USP 500mg In 1000 Tablets	6,000 Packs	RES/12/10/C/2020	12.10.2020
Item Code No : 050101D31 Gabapentin Capsules 300mg USP In 10 x 10 Capsules (Blister)	18,000 Packs	RES/12/10/D/2020	12.10.2020
Item Code No : 170604K99 Polyethylene Glycol Compound Sachets In 10 Sachets	7,200 Packs	RES/12/10/E/2020	12.10.2020
Item Code No : 170203C99 Betahistine Dihydrochloride Tablets BP 16mg in 10 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	20,000 Packs	RES/12/10/F/2020	12.10.2020
Item Code No : 310291X99 Disposable Hypodermic Needles 27G Hypodermic Needles, size 27G x 13mm Length in 100 Nos	1,000,000 Nos.	RES/12/10/G/2020	12.10.2020
Item Code No : 270102C34 Ascorbic Acid Tablets BP/USP 500mg In 100 Tablets (Blister)	10,000 Packs	RES/12/10/H/2020	12.10.2020

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 the section 10 of the Public Contract Act and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the tender or Act at 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: 0094-11-2320356 – 9

Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC

Invitation for Bids

Sealed Bids are invited from interested parties for Outsourcing of ATMs on Rental Basis for Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC.



Description of the Procurement	Outsourcing of ATMs on Rental Basis
RFP non-refundable deposit	LKR 10,000.00
Bid Bond/ Bank Guarantee	1.0 Million
Date, time & location of issuing Bidding Documents (RFP)	28 th September 2020 to 12 th October 2020 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. (working days) Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC Support Services Division Level 10, BOC Merchant Tower No. 28, St. Michael's Road Colombo – 03
Closing date & time	12 th October 2020, 1500 hrs.
Sealed Technical Bids opening date & time	12 th October 2020, 1500 hrs.

Prospective Bidders shall satisfy the following:

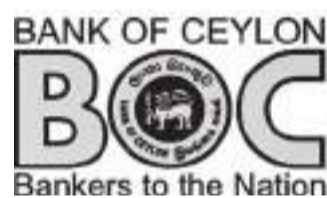
- Bidder shall be a registered company in Sri Lanka having authority to carry out business and provide services as contemplated herein having experience in Outsourcing ATM Machines on OPEX model to the local market over a period of two (02) years.
- Bidder shall have a proven track record of delivery, installation, commissioning, and maintenance etc. over a period of past two (02) years.
- Bidder shall be a profit-making company after tax during the last three (03) financial years and having a minimum annual turnover of LKR 100 million. The Bidder is required to submit audited financials in proof of same.
- Bidder shall not be a blacklisted company by any organization.
- Bid must be registered at the Department of Register of Companies under Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987 and submit the PCA3 Form.
- Bidder shall be able to provide technical support and assistance through qualified and experienced technical team.
- Bidder shall be able to provide two (02) customer references from the banking & financial services industry who have obtained similar services within the past three (03) years.
- Bidder shall have at least two (02) vendor certified engineers in order to provide post implementation technical support.
- Transact platform for switching should be locally hosted including the DR system.
- Bidder should have installed and running 100 + ATMs locally in manage services model.
- Separate call center to handle disputes of transactions and monitoring of ATMs

Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and the right to accept any or part of a Bid without adducing any reasons.

Decision taken in respect of awarding the Bid will be subject to sole discretion of Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC.

Sealed Technical & Commercial proposals should reach us on or before 12th October 2020, 1500 hrs. and the Technical Bids will be opened immediately thereafter. Further information could be obtained from the Manager- IT on 011 4711773

Senior Manager – Support Services Division
Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC
Level 10, BOC Merchant Tower
28, St. Michael's Road
Colombo – 03



SALE NOTICE

Invitation for Bids

Sale of leasehold rights of Bank of Ceylon of aaaVee Nature Paradise, (Dhoores Island) South Nilandhe Atoll, Republic of Maldives

Tender No: 2020/01

The Civil Court of Maldives by its judgements in Case Number: 4003/Cv-C/2019 dated 22nd September 2020, have given Bank of Ceylon the right and permission to sell:

aaaVee Nature Paradise Resort, (Dhoores Island) South Nilandhe Atoll (Dhaalu Atoll), Republic of Maldives, Head Lease Rights Owned by Dhoores Retreat Private Limited, a private limited liability company incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Maldives, under company registration number C-0145/2013, having its registered address at 2nd Floor, Aimirani, Boduthakurufaanu Magu, Male', Republic of Maldives which was mortgaged as a security and to recover the dues for the loan obtained by Dhoores Retreat Private Limited.

Now therefore, the Bank of Ceylon hereby announces that the following property will be sold by public auction during the period from 24th September 2020 to 15th October 2020 during working hours at Bank of Ceylon, Male' Branch and invites interested parties to submit their proposals accordingly.

Property to be sold	Reserve Price (USD)
The 33-room luxury <i>aaaVee Nature Paradise Resort</i> , (Dhoores Island) South Nilandhe Atoll, Republic of Maldives, Head Lease owned by Dhoores Retreat Private Limited	18,500,000.00

Information to Bidders:

- Sealed tenders are invited for selling of lease hold right of Bank of Ceylon of aaaVee Nature Paradise, (Dhoores Island) South Nilandhe Atoll, Republic of Maldives.
- If the bidder is a Company, a copy of the registration of the company, board resolution to participate in the auction and stating the person who the board has appointed and authorized to represent the company in the auction, together with that person's identification card copy or passport copy should also be enclosed with the bid application.
- If the bidder is an Individual, identification card copy, or passport copy should also be enclosed with the bid application.
- Interested bidders shall make a non-refundable deposit of USD 2,500 to obtain Tender applications and bid documents from Bank of Ceylon, "Aage" No. 12, Boduthakurufaanu Magu, Heneviru, Male', Republic of Maldives.
- To participate in the tender, the bidders will be required to provide a deposit of USD 25,000.00 at the time of submission of the Tender application and the money shall be deposited by cash, transfer, or DD with the Bank of Ceylon. The deposit will be treated as follows:
 - In the case of successful bidder, the deposit amount will be appropriated towards the bid amount.
 - In the case of unsuccessful bidder, the deposit will be refunded to the bidder.
 - If the successful bidder fails to make payments as per point 10 below, the deposit will be forfeited to the Bank and the bidder shall not have any right or claim over the deposit.
- The reserve price quoted above in the table will be the starting amount of the auction and the highest bid will be announced as the successful bid on the Notice Board of Bank of Ceylon on the same day of opening of the bids.
- In case of more than one successful bidder (at same price), Spot bids will be obtained from the successful bidders immediately. The incremental of USD 50,000.00 will be applicable on the spot bids as well.
- The final hour of submitting the applications is 2 pm of 15th October 2020 and no application will be accepted thereafter. All late bids will be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.
- The applications will be opened in the presence of the bidders immediately after the closure of the bid submission time at Bank of Ceylon, Male' Branch. This should be treated as final notice to the prospective bidders.
- The successful bidder will be required to deposit the following payment as stated therein by cash, banker cheque favoring BOC Male':
 - USD 50,000.00 of the bid within 5 business day of announcing the successful bidder.
 - Balance within 21 days of announcing the successful bidder.
 - In the event the successful bidder fails to make the balance payments as provided above, USD 50,000 will be forfeited and the bidder shall not have any rights or claims over it.
- Any taxes, charges, statutory dues or any other monies or expenses for the registration of the property in the name of the successful bidder will be appropriated from the proceeds of the auction.
- The Bank of Ceylon reserves the right to cancel the bid if the successful bidder fails to honor his commitments within the stipulated time period herein and we may award the bid to the next highest bidder, or if the next highest bid is less than the Reserve Price the bank may open for auction again.
- The proceeds of the auction will be appropriated for the liquidation of the accounts and any excess amount after the recovery of bank dues, legal expenses, property tax and miscellaneous expenses whichever are applicable, will be restored back to the Borrowers/Guarantors.
- This is also a notice to the Borrower/Guarantor of the aforesaid loan about holding of auction sale on abovementioned period if there are dues not repaid in full.
- The auction will be conducted on 'as is where is' basis and the Bank of Ceylon reserves the right to cancel/pre-close the auction period/process.

The Country Manager
Bank of Ceylon,
"Aage", No. 12,
Boduthakurufaanu Magu,
Heneviru, Male',
Republic of Maldives

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA



Ministry of Urban Development and Housing Strategic Cities Development Project (Credit Number: 5428 Ik)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Improvement and Reconstruction of Millidduwa Bridge in Galle

SCDP/WB/WK/GL/06/R1

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a credit from the World Bank 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 **Improvement and Reconstruction of Millidduwa Bridge in Galle - SCDP/WB/WK/GL/06/R1**.
- The Chairman 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 No.	Contract Title	CIDA (ICTAD) Minimum Grade & Field of Specialization	Non Refundable Bid Fee per set of Bidding Documents	Construction Duration	Engineering Estimate LKR Mn
SCDP/WB/WK/GL/06/R1	Improvement and Reconstruction of Millidduwa Bridge in Galle	C3 or above under Bridge Construction	Rs. 21,000/=	365 Days	109.0

The works consist of precast pile foundations, bridge deck with pre-tensioned precast concrete beams, RC concrete abutments, wing walls, approach road and side drain works etc.

- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award for the project are given in the Table below.

Contract No.	Contract Title	Average Annual Turnover	Liquid Assets and / or Credit Facilities required	Amount of Bid Security
SCDP/WB/WK/GL/06/R1	Improvement and Reconstruction of Millidduwa Bridge in Galle	> Rs.164.0Mn	> Rs.27.0Mn	Rs.1,090,000/=

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Additional Project Director (Galle) Strategic Cities Development Project, 2nd Floor, Central Shopping Complex, Talbot Town, Galle. -T.P. 091-3098087 and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from **28.09.2020** until **16.10.2020** during 09.00hrs to 15.00hrs.

Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **05.10.2020** at 10.00 a.m. at Strategic Cities Development Project office at 2nd Floor, Central Shopping Complex, Talbot Town, Galle. 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, 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla from **28.09.2020** until **16.10.2020** from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs., upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned above, by cash at Strategic Cities Development Project Office, Battaramulla or Bank draft drawn in favour of "Strategic Cities Development Project".
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below at or before **2.00 p.m on 19.10.2020**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" as mentioned above.
- The address referred to above is:

**Project Director,
Strategic Cities Development Project,
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing,
4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1,
Battaramulla.**

**Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Strategic Cities Development Project,
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing,
4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1,
Battaramulla.
Sri Lanka.**

HOTEL DEVELOPERS (LANKA) PLC

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR BID HILTON COLOMBO REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF DECORATIVE LIGHT FITTINGS FOR PROPOSED CHINESE RESTAURANT AT HILTON COLOMBO PREMISES

Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC (HDL) the Owing Company of the Hilton Colombo, call for **Bidders** to apply for tender for the Supply and Installation of Decorative Light Fittings for Chinese Restaurant at the Hilton Colombo located at Lotus Road, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka:

The Bid documents could be collected from Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC-The Project Manager's Site Office, C/O Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1, between 10 a.m and 4 p.m from 28th September to 29th September 2020 free of charge.

Submission of the Bid will be accepted up to 2 pm on 08th October 2020. Duly completed documents should be returned to; The Chief Financial Officer, Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC, C/O Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1, prior to Bid closing time.

Sri Lanka Insurance

BID NOTICE

CALL FOR BIDS TO SELECT CONSULTANCY SERVICES

BID REF : SLIC/PREM/002/2020

Invitation for Proposals- Selection of Architectural Consultancy Services for SLIC Projects

Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation invites financial proposals with the profiles from reputed and experienced Chartered Architects in providing architectural consultancy services for following projects. All projects will be funded by Sri Lanka Insurance.

PROJECTS:

- Kalutara Branch (Floor area - 4000 sq. ft.)
- Badulla Branch (Floor area - 4000 sq. ft.)
- Nuwara Eliya Circuit Bungalow Renovation
- Beliatta Branch (Floor area - 3000 sq. ft.)
- Chilaw Branch (Floor area - 3000 sq. ft.)
- SLIC Head Office Building Renovation

Work scope to be covered with Schematic Design, UDA and Council Approvals, Detail Drawing and Tender Documents, Bidding and Negotiation and Construction Supervision

Eligibility Criteria

- Bidder should be a Registered Consultancy Firm or Chartered Architect registered in Sri Lanka Institute of Architect
- Bidder should possess at least 05 years experience in the field of Architectural Consultancy Service
- Bidder should have engaged in similar capacity consultancy services (documentary proof should be submitted with the bid)
- Bidder should have not been blacklisted previously

Bid Particulars:-

- Issuing Period : 28.09.2020 to 12.10.2020 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
- Pre Bid meeting : 05.10.2020 at 2.30 p.m Procurement Department Meeting Room(8th Floor)
- Bid Closing Date & Time : 13.10.2020 at 1.00 pm
- Bid Opening Date & Time : 13.10.2020 at 1.00 pm
- Bid Validity Period : 119 Days
- Bid Submission Location : Procurement Department, Sri Lanka Insurance, 8th Floor, No. 21 Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

Terms & Conditions

- Prospective consultants who fulfill the above criteria can collect the Bid documents on a submission of letter of request from the below mentioned address.
- Bidding documents can be inspected and collected free of charge during normal working hours. (9am to 4.00pm on week days)
- Late bids will be returned unopened.
- The final decision in this regard will be with Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd.

AGM Procurement & Property Management
Procurement Department
Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd
08th Floor
No.21, Vauxhall Street
Colombo 02.
Contact Details - 011-2 357 964
Email: deshapiyag@srilankainsurance.com
Web: www.srilankainsurance.com
Company Registration Number - PB 289



MINISTRY OF PLANTATION SRI LANKA TEA BOARD



REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS/CONTRACTORS - 2021

Applications are hereby invited from Manufacturers, Suppliers/Contractors who wish to register themselves for supply of following goods and services for Sri Lanka Tea Board, 574, Galle Rd, Colombo 3 in the year 2021.

No.	Sub Category No.		No.	Sub Category No.		No.	Sub Category No.	
1		Printing contracts of Printing & Supplying of Promotional Materials	3		Air-Conditions & Electrical Items	6		Stationery
	a	Printing and Supply of Polythene Bags		a	Electrical appliances		a	Stationery & office consumables
	b	Biodegradable Bags		b	Electronic appliances		b	Photocopying papers
	c	Reed Packs for retail packing of tea		c	Air-conditioners		c	Polymer seals & stamps
	d	Corrugated Boxes		d	Repairs & maintenance of electrical installation	7		Laboratory Equipment & Services
	e	Wooden Tea Caddies		e	Repairs & maintenance of air-conditioners		a	Laboratory equipment
	f	Porcelain Tea Caddies		f	Electrical cabling & wiring		b	Laboratory testing chemicals & consumables
	g	Aluminum Tea Canisters	4		Motor Vehicle, Tyres & Tubes		c	Laboratory safety consumables
	h	Plastic Containers - for tea samples		a	Motor vehicles		d	Laboratory sterilizers & detergents
	i	Envelopes Alufoil - for tea samples		b	Spare and accessories for motor vehicles		e	Laboratory testing needs
	j	Commercial Artwork Printing of promotional materials including Annual Report, books, brochures, calendars, diaries and poster		c	Tyres and tubes for motor vehicles		f	General Laboratory equipment service, maintenance & repair
	k	Printing of visiting cards, identity cards		d	Batteries for motor vehicles		g	Laboratory instrument calibration
	l	Printing of banners		e	Repairs to motor vehicles		h	Laboratory item recyclers
	m	Photography & videography		f	Auto electrical repairs	8		Office Furniture
2		Computers		g	Service and lubrication of motor vehicles		a	Office equipment
	a	Toners/cartridges		h	Tinkering & painting of motor vehicles		b	Steel furniture
	b	Computers, servers, printers, UPs & spare parts		i	Silencer repairs to motor vehicles		c	Wooden furniture
	c	Computer software		j	Upholstery, seat covers and canopy work of motor vehicles		d	Repairs & services to office equipment
	d	Computer hardware maintenance/repair	5		Service Providers	9		Constructions, Allied Works & Consultancy Services
				a	Pest control service		a	Civil Engineering contractors
				b	Freight forwarding/couriering		b	Building repairs & renovation
				c	Laundering of Uniforms & Linen		c	Metal fabrications & allied works
				d	Fire & Safety Services		d	Aluminum fabrications

Application forms can be obtained from the Administration Division of Sri Lanka Tea Board, 574, Galle Rd, Colombo 3, up to 2.00 p.m. on 3rd November 2020 on working days between 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1500/= for each sub-category. Payment can be made by Cash or Cheques. Cheques should be drawn in favour of Sri Lanka Tea Board.

Applications should be forwarded under registered cover marked "Registration of Suppliers/Contractors - 2021" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope or hand delivered to reach the Director General, Sri Lanka Tea Board, 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03 on or before 3.00 p.m. on 05th November 2020.

General Conditions

1. The prospective suppliers of repairable / serviceable items such as Machinery and relevant equipment should have workshop facilities of their own to effect repairs whenever necessary.
 2. The prospective suppliers who fail to quote promptly when requested or fail to make deliveries / provide services on time and in conformity with specifications/samples or as prescribed in the purchase order or who supplied substandard goods are liable to be expunged from the register.
 3. Quotations for supply of items/providing services will normally be invited from the list of Registered Suppliers. However the SLTB reserves the right to invite quotations and purchases from any other source or register new suppliers as an when necessary.
 4. If registration is sought for more than one group of items, a separate application should be submitted for each group by paying in cash (non refundable) Rs. 1500/- per application as application charges.
 5. If spouses or children of employees of the SLTB are Applicants / Proprietors/ Partners/ Directors of Companies, such Applicants/Suppliers/Contractors/ Service Providers and Consultancy Service Providers are not eligible to apply for registration.
 6. The SLTB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for registration without adducing any reason. In the event SLTB reject applicant is not eligible to claim the application charges.
 7. Registration for motor vehicle repair and vehicle service providers will be done only on Assessment conducted by the Tea Board.
- Applications should be made on the prescribed set of forms obtainable from the following office on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.1500/- in cash per application for each group of items. **Prospective applicants are required to produce a letter of request on a letterhead mentioning the service and the number of the category**, according to this Paper Advertisement. Application forms can be examined, free of charge.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD,
574, Galle Rd,
COLOMBO 3.**



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Hiring of Passenger vehicles for the use of University of Colombo

SAB/SUP/NCB/2020/07

Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major), University of Colombo, Colombo 03 invites sealed bids from vehicle hiring companies operating in Sri Lanka or vehicle owners of Sri Lanka for the hiring of Passenger vehicles as described below.

- Motor Cars - 01 No.
 - Passenger Vans(15 Seater) - 02 Nos.
1. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
 2. The Bidder shall be a registered vehicle owner or a Vehicle Hiring Company.
 3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Senior Assistant Bursar/Supplies Branch of the University of Colombo, and inspect the bidding documents at the Supplies Branch of the University from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. from 28.09.2020 to 21.10.2020 (Contact Nos. 0112055498 / 2158097)
 4. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Assistant Bursar/Supplies Branch, University of Colombo and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees 1,500/-. The documents may be purchased until 2.30 p.m. from 28.09.2020 to 21.10.2020. Non-refundable fee can be paid to the University of Colombo Main Collection Account of the People's Bank at Thimbirigasyaya Branch using the reference number 505170600013 from any People's Bank branch.
 5. Bids must be delivered in duplicate to the address given below, on or before 2.30 p.m. on 22.10.2020. Please indicate the "Hiring of Passenger Vehicles for the use of University of Colombo — SAB/SUP/NCB/2020/07" on the left corner of the envelope.
 6. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in favor of Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo as specified in the following Table:

Package No.	Items	Bid Security
01.	Motor Car - 01 No.	Rupees twenty thousand (Rs. 20,000/-) per vehicle
02.	Passenger Vans - 02 Nos.	Rupees twenty thousand (Rs. 20,000/-) per vehicle

7. Late bids will be rejected. Bids shall be deposited in the 'Tender Box' available in the Office of the Registrar, College House, University of Colombo or sent under registered cover to be received before the deadline at the address given below. Bids will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on 22.10.2020, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bid opening.

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee (Major)
University of Colombo,
94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha,
Colombo 3.

Land for Sale - Kandana

- * 80 perches - 6, 10, 20, 30 blocks (Adjoining De Mazenod College)
- * 82 perches - 6, 10, 20, 40 blocks (Facing old D.R.O. Road) available.

Contact Mr John Fernando
0777-677961, 011-2232453

**Repeat
Your ad
For
Better
Offers**

United Nations Development Programme

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Management of the HackaDev Enterprise Support Programme 2020.

(RFP/PID/2020/73)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka wishes to call for Request for Proposals from qualified service providers to provide a Proposal for Management of the HackaDev Enterprise Support Programme 2020.

This procurement process is being conducted through Online Tendering System of UNDP and detailed instructions and link to the e-tendering event can be accessed from www.lk.undp.org Procurement > Procurement Notices.

A virtual pre bid meeting will be conducted on 29th September 2020 at 10am (Sri Lanka Time) via ZOOM. The Link to Zoom meeting is provided in the above web advertisement and in the e-tendering event.

Bid Submission deadline appearing on e-Tendering portal will be FINAL and prevail on the ones appearing on other websites.

Proposals once submitted via email or by hard copies will not be accepted.

Head of Procurement/Administration
United Nations Development Programme
202-204 Bauddhaloka 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)



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 evaluate fixed assets for the revaluation of the fixed assets 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



Invitation for Bids Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa Provision of Security Service for year 2020/2021

ITUM/1/1/3/2020

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major), on behalf of the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa, Diyagama, Homagama (ITUM) now invites sealed bids from reputed Security Firms registered with the Ministry of Defense, and bearing a valid Annual License for the provision of Security Services, for its Diyagama premises.
2. The intended service period is one year with effect from 15th November 2020.
3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Assistant Registrar-General-Administration, Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa, Diyagama, Homagama and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,500/= (Three Thousand Five Hundred Rupees) on working days from 28.09.2020 to 19.10.2020 between 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs and the Shroff of the ITUM.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Assistant Registrar-General-Administration, Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa, Diyagama, Homagama (Tel No: 011-2124116, E-mail ar-ga@itum.mrt.ac.lk) and inspect the Bidding Documents free of charge at the office of General Administration, Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa, Diyagama, Homagama.
6. The Bidder should also comply with the statutory requirements of payment of salaries under the Wages Board Ordinance, contribution to EPF and ETF.
7. Sealed Bids must be delivered by registered post to the address given below or deposited in the tender box kept in the Office of General Administration, ITUM at or before 1400 hrs on 20th October 2020. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at 1415 hrs at the Boardroom, Division of Student Affairs, Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa, Diyagama, Homagama in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. 229,000/= issued by a reputed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka.
8. Bid security shall be valid until 19.01.2021.
9. Pre Bid meeting is scheduled to be held on 06th October 2020 at 1400 hrs. at the ITUM

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee (Major)
Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa
Diyagama, Homagama

27.09.2020

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS Urban Development Authority

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SELECTION OF MEP CONSULTANTS

1. The **Chairman, Department Consultant Procurement Committee (CPCD)** on behalf of the **Urban Development Authority** now invites RFP from eligible and qualified Consultants for Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP) Services of Refurbishment of Gaffoor Building at Colombo Fort.
2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Method. To be eligible for consultancy contract award the successful consultant shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the aforesaid qualifications.
3. Interested eligible Consultants may obtain further information & Bidding Documents on submission of a written application to the **Head of the Procurement, Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla (Tele : 011-3049008) from 28th September 2020 until 16th October 2020 from 9.00 am to 2.30 pm** on week days, upon non-refundable fee of Rs. 6,000/- plus Taxes in cash.
4. Proposals shall be delivered in duplicate in separate envelopes addressed to the **Chairman, Department Consultant Procurement Committee (CPCD), Urban Development Authority, Procurement Unit, 7th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla**, on or before **19th October 2020 at 11.00 a.m.** Late Proposals will be rejected. Proposals will be opened soon after the closing in the presence of the Consultants representatives who are nominated to attend.
5. Further clarifications can be obtained from **Director (Project Management - Western Region), Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya" Stage I, Battaramulla, Tele - 011-2883308** from 9.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. during **normal working days**.
6. All Proposals shall be valid up to 17th January 2021
7. A pre-bid meeting will be held at **10.00 a.m. on 15th October 2020** at the Bid Opening Room at Procurement Unit of UDA, 7th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla. All consultants are advised to attend to this meeting.
8. Urban Development Authority has no any responsibility cost relate to any bids. Also, **Chairman, Department Consultant Procurement Committee (CPCD)** has authority to accept or reject any proposal or proposals.
9. Any alteration to the **RFP Document** should be signed by the **Consultant**

**Chairman,
Department Consultant Procurement Committee (CPCD)
Urban Development Authority,
6th & 7th Floors,
"Sethsiripaya" Battaramulla.**

A project funded by:



A project implemented by:



CALL FOR TENDERS FOR INDIA MARK 111 HAND PUMP SPARE PART SUPPLIERS

Ref. No.2020_09_001_MA_DBW_HP_Tool Kits

SUPPLY OF INDIA MARK 111 HAND PUMP SPARES FOR INDIA MARK 111 HAND PUMP REPAIR TOOL KIT

Assisting Communities in Creating Environment and Nutritional Development (ACCEND) is a project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented jointly by ADRA UK, ADRA Sri Lanka, and Oxfam Italy. The overall objective of the project is to contribute towards the improvement of health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation of the rural and estate communities in Uva and Central provinces.

Through the ACCEND project ADRA and Oxfam intends to Supply 350 numbers of India Mark 111 Hand Pump repair tool kits to its project beneficiaries. We invite suitable suppliers to submit tenders.

Interested parties can **COLLECT THE RELEVANT TENDER DOCUMENT** at the undermentioned offices from **9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. during weekdays from 28th September 2020 to 9th October 2020 (Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)**. **CONTACT PERSON** for collecting tenders is Operations Manager, ADRA Sri Lanka on 071 929 4767.

Required to submit ONE ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY in separate two sealed envelopes. Clearly mention the relevant TENDER REF. NO. on top left-hand corner and ORIGINAL/ COPY ON top right-hand corner of the sealed envelopes. Should place sealed envelopes carrying the ORIGINAL & COPY of the tenders in one cover envelope and clearly mark on the top left-hand corner the relevant TENDER REF. NO. The deadline for submitting tenders is **12th October 2020 on or before 3:00 p.m.** The tenders shall be submitted by registered post or by depositing in the **Tender Boxes at:**

**ADRA Head Office,
No 37, Purana Road,
Wattegedara, Maharagama**

**Best way
to fulfil
your
Future Dreams**

*Marriage
Proposals*

in the

Sunday Observer

INVITATION FOR BIDS



PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICE FOR THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Air Force invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the under mentioned goods and services for the year 2021 on Rate Running Contract basis;

S/ No.	Procurement Identification Number	Description	Date and Time of Bid Issuing	Date and time of Bid closing / opening	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)
01.	AHQ/20/PUB/MIS/1008	Obtain Fumigation Service for Fumigation of Wooden Boxes and Containers used for Export Cargo on annual contract basis for the year 2021	28 September 2020	19 October 2020 at 1030 Hrs	2,000.00
02.	AHQ/20/PUB/E/1007	Purchase of Qty 01 Aviation Fuel Trailer Bowser (2000 ltrs)	28 September 2020	19 October 2020 at 1030 Hrs	3,500.00

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure and tender mentioned in above para 01 from Ser No 02 is subjected to two envelop method.

3. Complete set of bidding documents in English language could be inspected by interested bidders from the Sri Lanka Air Force website www.airforce.lk and may purchase from the Procurement Division (Tender Section) from 28 September 2020 between 1000 hrs and 1400 hrs on every working day before 16 October 2020 upon payment of a non-refundable fee to the Shroff at Sri Lanka Air Force Station Colombo. The offers without the receipt of payment will not be accepted.

4. The sealed bids in duplicate, shall be addressed to "The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee and may be either dispatched by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box at the Main Guard Room well before the closing time. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened soon after closing the bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the opening of the bids, upon presentation of their National Identity Card and letters of authorization from their employers. No bidder or his representative will be permitted to attend the bid opening after the bid closing time.

5. The special conditions for the procurement and required services are listed in the each bidding document. The applicable rates of services shall be indicated separately for each item/service only in the "price Schedule". The rates quoted by each bidder in the Price Schedule shall be valid till 31st December 2021 and shall not be subjected to variation on any account.

6. The prospective bidders shall be aware that they shall include all their expenses with all taxes including VAT and other levies in the quotations submitted.

7. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Procurement Officer (Tel. 011-2325468) or Procurement Officer Tenders (Tel. 011-2441553 or 011-2441044 Extension 23569 Fax: 011- 2441553 and 011-2347694).

8. The address referred to above is:

Sri Lanka Air Force
No.140
Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha
Colombo 02

**Air Force Headquarters,
P.O. Box 1592
Colombo 02**

COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH



State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation



REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR COOKED MEALS 2020 - 2021

State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) is functioning under the purview of Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous medicine is manufacturing pharmaceutical and healthcare products in order to fulfill Sri Lankan citizen's needs.

The Corporation, employed about 350 employees expected to call applications from Government owned business organizations, reputed suppliers and contractors to supply cooked meals for lunch, Breakfast, dinner and evening short eats as welfare facility for the employees. Bids will be requested after the basic registration.

SPECIMEN FORM

Application for Registration as a Cooked Meal Supplier for the Year 2020 - 2021

- Business name and Address:
 - Registration Number and Date:
(A Copy of Business Registration Certificate should be attached)
 - Name and Address of proprietors:
 - Telephone and Fax Number:
 - List of firms served previously:
 - Credit Facility available to the Corporation: Period: Amount:
- Name:
Signature:
Designation:
Date:

Bids will be requested from selected applicants based on the number of points obtained by responded suppliers considering the following criteria.

Criteria	Marks
1. Ability to supply buffet / packets for lunch	20%
2. Ability to supply packets for breakfast and dinner	05%
3. Feedback from current / past supply locations	20%
4. Cleanliness of the kitchen	25%
5. Cleanliness of goods storage area	25%
6. Distance from the Corporation K.m.	(0 -10) - 5%, (10-15) - 2%, above 15 - 0%

All applications marked with "Registration of Cooked Meal Suppliers" on top left-hand corner of the envelope should reach on or before 12th October 2020 at 2.00 p.m. to the following address.

Further details if any, could be obtained from Deputy General Manager - Planning and Procurement via Tel. 2637574 / 2635353 / 2623298.

**Chairman,
State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation
No.11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate
Ratmalana**

NOTICE TO PUBLIC



ශ්‍රී ලංකා මහ බැංකුව
இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

UNAUTHORIZED FINANCE BUSINESS & DEPOSIT TAKING

Atapattu Mudiyanseelage Dammika Kumara Atapattu & Eyon Lanka Investment and Film Production International Company (Pvt) Limited (PV 125740)

This notice is published in the public interest under Section 42(10) of the Finance Business Act No. 42 of 2011 to inform the public that consequent to an examination conducted under Section 42 of the said Act, the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka at its meeting held on 15.09.2020 has determined that Mr. Atapattu Mudiyanseelage Dammika Kumara Atapattu (693041988 V) and Eyon Lanka Investment and Film Production International Company (Pvt) Limited both at 'Saman Kekula', Ambalawa, Demataluwa, Kurunagala have carried on or are carrying on finance business or have accepted or are accepting deposits in contravention of the provisions of the said Act.

Accordingly, the Monetary Board of Central Bank of Sri Lanka has directed;

- the above mentioned individual and the company **not to accept further deposits** by issuing promissory notes or in any other manner and **not to carry on finance business.**
- the above mentioned individual and the company to submit within 14 days, a time bound repayment plan acceptable to the Monetary Board of Central Bank of Sri Lanka to settle the depositors in full.

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka has already issued freezing orders prohibiting the above mentioned individual and the company soliciting and mobilizing deposits or any funds in any other forms, disposing / alienating assets, entering into any transaction in relation to any account, property or investment.

**The Monetary Board
Central Bank of Sri Lanka**

Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No: 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01

☎ 0112477000, 0112440330, 0112330220 @ cbslgen@cbsl.lk 🌐 <http://www.cbsl.gov.lk>



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

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./ BID REFERENCE	CLOSING DATE	CLOSING TIME	ITEM
DHS/RSS/RQ/322/18	14.10.2020	2.00 p.m.	Peritoneal Dialysis catheter, curl cath, 2 cuffs, 67cm length (compatible with CAPD transfer set)
DHS/RSS/RQ/71/2020	14.10.2020	2.00 p.m.	Surgical Non Consumables
DHS/RSS/RQ/78/2020	09.10.2020	2.00 p.m.	Blade Trepine in various sizes
DHS/RSS/RQ/79/2020	14.10.2020	2.00 p.m.	Surgical Consumables
DHS/RSS/RQ/206/19	09.10.2020	2.00 p.m.	Surgical Non Consumables

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding Documents available at the Head Office of the 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
EMAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk**



THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FORMULATING PROPOSALS FOR MITIGATING HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT

Practical and sustainable proposals/ideas for minimizing human - wild elephant conflict is called from the public representatives at National provincial and local government levels, public officers, civil organizations and citizens by the National Committee appointed to make proposals on minimizing human - wild elephant conflict.

If you have already submitted your proposals/ ideas in response to the advertisement appeared on Lankadeepa newspaper on 12.07.2018 under the heading “රැකගලු අලු සමීපත සුරකිමු මගේ පිටිත”

All your proposals should become sustainable as well as can be practically applied within the country. Those proposals will be considered in formulation of the National Plan after studying their applicability by the committee.

All your proposals / ideas can direct using one of the following modes before 02.10.2020(Friday).

Address:
**Presidential Committee to Prepare a National Action Plan for
Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation,
Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation,
No. 1090, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha,
Rajagiriya.**

E-mail: adsecdev@msdw.gov.lk

Fax: **011-2879063**

WhatsApp No.: **076-2875900**

If you are interested in submitting your ideas at the stakeholder special meeting to be held on 30.09.2020 (Wednesday) at the Ministry, you can get registered by contacting the following telephone numbers:

Tel. Nos. 077 138 0378 / 077 733 5767

Your valuable contribution is appreciated in the country's mission for a sustainable future through realizing the present governments policy statement “Vision for Prosperity”.

**G.L. Vernon Perera
Committee Secretary**

**Presidential Committee to Prepare a National Action Plan for
Human - Elephant Conflict Mitigation,
Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation
No. 1090, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Rajagiriya.**

ELPITIYA PLANTATIONS PLC

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited by the Tender Board for the sale of the following trees.

Name and Address of Estate	Telephone Number	Division	Field No.	Total No. of Trees	
Devitura Estate, Ethkandura	091 4943036	Polgahawila	8.96 Ha	Rubber	2,600
			07 (2.63 Ha)		721
		Gonatippala	4.88 Ha	Albizia	25
			9 (3.00 Ha)		28
Lelwala Estate, Wanduramba	091 4943043	Upper	8 (1.92 Ha)		06
			3.30 Ha		07
			1.50 Ha		02
			1.00 Ha	Albizia	01
		Lower	6.00 Ha		02
			2.36 Ha		01
			1.70 Ha		15
Bentota Estate, Elpitiya	091 4943051	Wadumulla	2.43 Ha	Albizia	05
			3.47 Ha		02
		Athukorala	17.00 Ha		02
			1.17 Ha		18
			4.77 Ha		09
Pragathy	7.29 Ha		02		
	Gulugahakanda Estate, Wanduramba	091 4943040	Citrus	1.15 Ha	
0.82 Ha					01
Nagoda			9.17 Ha	Albizia	01
			Near Factory		04
			6.12 Ha		03
			1.00 Ha		05
			5.91 Ha		05
			10.10 Ha		02
Elpitiya Estate, Elpitiya	091 4943032	Giragoda	15.00 Ha (Rubber)	Albizia	28
			15.00 Ha (Oil Palm)	Alstonia	03
			10.94 Ha	Albizia	12
			15.16 Ha		04
			8.50 Ha (A)	Alstonia	03
			8.50 Ha (B)		01
		Elpitikanda	5.25 Ha	Alstonia	155
			5.88 Ha	Albizia	02
			8.22 Ha	Alstonia	28
		Kitulvitigala	11.00 Ha	Alstonia	09
				Albizia	04
				Alstonia	02
			33.90 Ha	Albizia	11
				Alstonia	03
			12.00 Ha	Albizia	08
				Alstonia	03
			13.00 Ha	Albizia	01
1.93 Ha	Alstonia	02			
R/F Premises		Alstonia	01		
		Albizia	05		
		Alstonia	04		

All Tenders should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Sale of Trees" on the top left-hand corner and addressed to Chief Executive Officer, Elpitiya Plantations PLC to reach on or before **09th October 2020** at 4.00 p.m.

Tender Documents can be obtained between 8.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. during weekdays up to **09th October 2020** from the Head Office of Elpitiya Plantations PLC at 9th Floor, Aitken Spence Tower - 01, 305, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 2, or from the relevant Estate on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000/= and a refundable deposit of Rs. 5,000/= for each field.

All trees could be inspected during working days up to **09th October 2020**, from 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. by prior appointment with the Manager of Estate.

Bids may be sent by post under Registered Cover or may be deposited in to the Tender Box kept at the Head Office.

However, Elpitiya Plantations PLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Chief Executive Officer
Elpitiya Plantations PLC
9th Floor, Aitken Spence Tower 01,
305, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.
Tel: 011-4693000**

- **HOUSES**
- **LANDS**
- **COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**
- **APARTMENTS**

Buy & Sell

Rent or Lease

Wanted

HOUSE & PROPERTY

SECTION

ADZ magazine Issued with
Sunday Observer

VEHICLES FOR SALE

CARS		
CP HD-XXXX	HONDA CIVIC 1493.00 CC	1999
NW KU-XXXX	TOYOTA DAA-2VW30 1790.00 CC	2010
LORRIES		
NW LF-XXXX	ISUZU KK-NPR72LV 4980.00 CC	2005
CP LE-XXXX	SUZUKI LE-DA63T 650.00 CC	2004
EP PV-XXXX	TATA ACE EX 702.00 CC	2013
TIPPER		
CP GF-XXXX	TOYOTA J05C 5300.00 CC	1999
TRACTOR		
NW RE-XXXX	TAFE 45DI 2500.00 CC	2015
VAN		
NC JK-XXXX	SUBARU SAMBAR 650.00 CC	1999
THREE WHEELERS		
NW QQ-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S 173.50 CC	2008
CP YC-XXXX	BAJAJ AR 4 S 173.50 CC	2010
EP QK-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S 173.00 CC	2007
CP YH-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2010
SP AAZ-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 198.88 CC	2015
CP YA-XXXX	BAJAJ AR4S UG 173.50 CC	2010
SG QO-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4 173.50 CC	2008
NC QQ-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S 173.00 CC	2008
CP YG-XXXX	BAJAJ RE205 198.75 CC	2010
CP YD-XXXX	BAJAJ AR4S-UG 173.50 CC	2010
CP QQ-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR 4S 173.50 CC	2008

On view to vehicles 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
INQUIRY- 0768578119, 0766851575 , 0775260124

Kurunegala Auto fair, No. 156/ B, Colombo Road, Waduragala, Kurunegala.

CLC Commercial Leasing & Finance PLC

VEHICLES FOR SALE

CARS		
SG GL-XXXX	NISSAN SUNNY 1490.00CC	1998
17-XXXX	mitsubishi C12VLNR 1500.00 CC	1991
SP CAE-XXXX	TOYOTA DAA-ZVW41W PRIUS 1790.00 CC	2013
64-XXXX	TOYOTA 1500.00 CC	1990
WP KF-XXXX	CHERY QQ311 1083.00 CC	2007
WP CBC-XXXX	SUZUKI/DAA-MH55S WAGON R 650.00 CC	2018
SP KD-XXXX	MARUTI WAGON R 1061.00 CC	2006
JEEP		
WP KK-XXXX	LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 2720.00 CC	2008
VAN		
56-XXXX	TOYOTA HIACE 2770.00 CC	1990
LORRY		
WP LJ-XXXX	TATA/LPT 1613 5883.00 CC	2010
THREE WHEELERS		
WP QK-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S 173.00 CC	2007
WP QS-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S 173.50 CC	2008
SP YC-XXXX	BAJAJ AR4S-UG 173.50 CC	2010
NC AAW-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 198.88 CC	2015
WP QD-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO RE S 145.45 CC	2005
SP YQ-XXXX	BAJAJ RE205 198.75 CC	2011
UP QO-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S 173.00 CC	2008
WP QK-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S 173.00 CC	2007
WP YA-XXXX	BAJAJ AR4S-UG 173.50 CC	2010
SG QU-XXXX	BAJAJ 4S 173.50 CC	2009
SP JO-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO RE 2 S 150.00 CC	2004
UP AAT-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 198.88 CC	2014
UP QT-XXXX	BAJAJ 4 S 173.50 CC	2009
UP QT-XXXX	BAJAJ 4 S 173.50 CC	2009
WP QS-XXXX	BAJAJ 173.50 CC	2009
WP YD-XXXX	BAJAJ AR 4S-UG 173.50 CC	2010
WP YB-XXXX	BAJAJ AR4S-UG 173.50 CC	2010
WP YB-XXXX	BAJAJ AR4S-UG 173.50 CC	2010
WP QV-XXXX	BAJAJ AR4S-UG 173.50 CC	2009
WP AAN-XXXX	TVS KING 200.00 CC	2013
WP QX-XXXX	BAJAJ AR4S-UG 173.50 CC	2010
UP YK-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
SG YB-XXXX	BAJAJ AR4S-UG 173.50 CC	2010
SP YY-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2012
NC YS-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
WP QS-XXXX	BAJAJ 4S 173.50 CC	2009
SG QE-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO RE 2 S 145.45 CC	2006
WP QQ-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S 173.50 CC	2008
WP QT-XXXX	BAJAJ 4S 173.50 CC	2009
CP QU-XXXX	BAJAJ 4S 173.50 CC	2009
WP YT-XXXX	BAJAJ RE205 198.75 CC	2011

On view to vehicles 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
INQUIRY- 0775 081 838 , 0114 256 600
 Yard - Nawala Sale point
 No: 305/1, Rajagiriya Road, Nawala

CLC COMMERCIAL LEASING & FINANCE

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DISPOSAL OF DISMANTLED HI-LOADER TRUCKS
SLC/PRO/SER/2020/19

Srilankan Catering Limited hereby request from eligible bidders to forward bids for Disposal of dismantled hi-loader trucks.

Bidders could obtain the Application Form from Srilankan Catering Limited and could inspect the Scrap Items from **28th September 2020 to 02nd October 2020** from **09.00 am to 04.00 pm**. Bidders should forward the full name and the National identity card number prior to the visit to arrange entry passes & security

Item Description	Application Fee (Non-refundable) LKR	Bid Bond Value (Refundable) LKR
Dismantled Hi-Loader trucks - 05 units (Isuzu - 4 & Eicher - 1)	500.00	20,000.00

Bidders could deposit the cash equivalent to bid bond value to the Srilankan Catering Limited cashier on the date of submitting the bids. Bids should be forwarded to SLC along with the copy of the cash deposit receipt to reach Srilankan Catering Ltd, on or before **2.00pm on 13th October 2020**.

Environmental Protection License (EPL) should be provided at the time of clearance of the Scrap Items.

Bids should be addressed to:-

Chief Executive Officer
 Srilankan Catering Ltd,
 Airline Center
 Bandaranaike International Airport,
 Katunayake, Sri Lanka.

Please contact the undersigned for more information.
 Thilina Siriwardana - 019 7334241
 E-mail address - thilina.siriwardana@srilankancatering.com

United Nations Development Programme

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN CITY MASTER PLAN / ROAD MAP FOR SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

(RFP/CDLG/2020/76)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka wishes to call for Request for Proposals from qualified service providers to provide a Proposal for Development of Green City Master Plan/Road Map for selected Local Government Authorities.

This procurement process is being conducted through Online Tendering System of UNDP and detailed instructions and link to the e tendering event can be accessed from **www.lk.undp.org**

procurement > procurement notices.

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, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,
 Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

*UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.
 The procurement process will be governed by the rules and regulations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).*

Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Package 01:
Procurement of Subscriptions Renewal of Red Hat Open Stack Software for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0)
IFB No: ICTA/GOSL/SER/NCB/2020/01/PK 01

Package 02:
Procurement of Supply, Installation and Support of Virtual Web Application Firewall for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0)
IFB No: ICTA/GOSL/SER/NCB/2020/01/PK 02

- Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) established the Lanka Government Cloud is the main government owned infrastructure. To strengthen the Lanka Government Cloud, in order to achieve this, it is intended to procure Subscriptions Renewal of Red Hat Open - Stack Software and Procurement of Supply, Installation and Support of Virtual Web Application Firewall for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0). Detailed description of the Requirements and Specifications is given in the bidding document.
- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC), on behalf of ICTA, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Procurement of Subscriptions Renewal of Red Hat Open - Stack Software and Procurement of Supply, Installation and Support of Virtual Web Application Firewall for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0)

Package No:	Name of the Package	IFB Number	Amount of Bid Security (LKR)
01	Procurement of Subscriptions Renewal of Red Hat Open Stack Software for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0)	ICTA/GOSL/SER/NCB/2020/01/PK1	Rs. 900,000.00
02	Procurement of Supply, Installation and Support of Virtual Web Application Firewall for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0)	ICTA/GOSL/SER/NCB/2020/01/PK2	Rs. 600,000.00

- The Bidders should meet the following minimum qualification criteria:
 - Package 01: Procurement of Subscriptions Renewal of Red Hat Open Stack Software for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0)**
 - Minimum average annual turnover of LKR 130 Million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (3) years;
 - The bidder must be an accredited agent or authorized representative of the manufacturer to submit bids on behalf of the manufacturer.
 - Package 02: Procurement of Supply, Installation and Support of Virtual Web Application Firewall for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0)**
 - Minimum average annual turnover of LKR 90 Million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (3) years;
 - The bidder must be an accredited agent or authorized representative of the manufacturer to submit bids on behalf of the manufacturer.
 - Participation as a Supplier in at least One (1) project relating to Firewall implementation that have been successfully completed within the last Three (3) years
- Bidding will be conducted using the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure that shall be governed by the procurement guidelines of the Government of Sri Lanka** and is open to all eligible bidders that meet the eligibility and qualification requirements given in the bidding documents.
- Interested bidders may **inspect the bidding documents** free of charge during office hours on working days commencing from **September 28, 2020** at Procurement Division of ICTA, 160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05. Telephone: 0112369099, email: procurement@icta.lk. Bidding documents are also available on ICTA Website (<https://www.icta.lk/procurement/>) only for inspection purposes.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Twenty Thousand (20,000.00) effective from **September 28, 2020** during office hours on working days from the office of the ICTA at 160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bids must be delivered to the address given in paragraph (5) at or before **3.00 P.M. on October 20, 2020**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee using the format given in the Bidding Document in the amounts indicated in Para (2). Bidders shall submit separate Bid Security for each Package.
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held at **2.00 P.M on October 08, 2020** in the ICTA - Auditorium of the address given in paragraph (5) above.

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA),
 160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala Mawatha,
 Colombo 05
 September 27, 2020

UNFPA - Request for Quotations

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency addressing that expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy sexual and reproductive lives.

UNFPA is requesting for quotations (RFQ) from suppliers and contractors for the requirements listed below. Potential contractors and suppliers may send their Quotations for one or many RFQs, or any parts therein (partial bidding permitted).

RFQ Number	Description
UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/20/10	ICT equipment (laptops, printers, digital interactive screens etc.)
UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/20/11	Analysis of online communication and knowledge sharing and team collaboration platforms, and develop video tutorials and study guides in local languages on the selected platforms, to be used by the 'State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services'
UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/20/12	(Grade C6 contractors) Minor Civil Works, Plumbing and Painting, Minor carpentry repairs
UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/20/13	Ceiling, Partition Works (toughened glass, aluminum, and gypsum) and Doors
UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/20/14	Vinyl Floor Finishes
UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/20/15	Supply and installation of Workstations and other Furniture Works
UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/20/16	Electrical, Voice and Data Cabling and configurations

These Request for Quotations are open to all legally-constituted business entities (sole proprietorships, partnerships, and Companies) that can provide the requested products and services and have the legal capacity to perform in Sri Lanka, or through an authorized representative.

To view the detailed RFQs and instructions on the submission of Quotations and other required documentation, please visit: <https://srilanka.unfpa.org/en/>

Closing Date: 12th October 2020, 4.00 PM Sri Lanka Time.

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SRI LANKAN AIRLINES LTD

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Offers are invited for the sale of scrapped materials & used items

Bid No - LP/COM/035/20
Inspection dates - 06th & 07th October 2020 between 0900hrs to 1500hrs.
Closing time & date - 1400hrs on 12th October 2020

Location - SriLankan Airlines premises, Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake.

For further information please contact Senior Stores Executive on 0197332086 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm during week days or refer the website given below:
<https://www.srilankan.com/tender-notices>

MANAGER LOGISTICS
SRI LANKAN AIRLINES LIMITED



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



MEDIA EMPOWERMENT FOR A DEMOCRATIC SRI LANKA (MEND) PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO HOST WORKSHOPS ON MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

The IREX MEND Program: The International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), with support from USAID, is implementing the Media Empowerment for a Democratic Sri Lanka (MEND) program. The goal of MEND is to improve citizens' access to balanced and reliable news and information, and to support Sri Lanka's efforts to strengthen media freedom and democratic governance. IREX, under the MEND program, aims to promote media and information literacy (MIL) among Sri Lankan citizens, enabling them to consume media and information more critically, and to make informed decisions.

IREX Media Literacy Initiative

Several crises over the past two years have shown the critical need for media literacy in Sri Lanka: the Easter attacks, the elections, and the pandemic are just a few. As the growing digital space has provided a platform to share and disseminate a wide range of information, the conversation is shifting from regulating mainstream media to the need for the general public to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to critically consume media. Therefore, IREX has identified a growing demand for media literacy training, and hopes to conduct regional workshops for a wide swath of the population over the coming months.

With rapidly growing technological advancements, people have easy access to an influx of information in their daily life. However, not all information available in the public domain or in cyberspace is factually true. A lot of disinformation and misinformation is being spread through social media and even in the mainstream press, using emotional triggers to bypass critical thinking, and undermining people's ability to make informed decisions. The media also often uses various tactics such as sensationalism, conspiracy theories, fabrication and emotional manipulation, for various reasons and to varying degrees. Often, the general public finds it difficult to differentiate between truth and falsehood, information and propaganda. IREX has identified a dire need to promote critical information consumption as a core life skill among people of all ages in Sri Lanka. Given this context, IREX, in consultation with its local partners, is planning to implement a media literacy program that will equip citizens with the knowledge and skills necessary to critically engage with the media they consume, making them more resilient to dis/mis/mal information.

IREX has extensive experience in media literacy; it is a world leader in the area that pioneered the successful Learn to Discern program piloted in Ukraine, which has now been rolled out in Serbia, Jordan, Indonesia and Georgia, and will soon be introduced into university curricula in the Baltics.

Over the last few months, IREX MEND adapted the L2D curriculum to the Sri Lankan context with the support of four local consultants. During the COVID-19 pandemic these consultants also developed and conducted a series of webinars to a selected audience to validate the materials developed for the curriculum.

IREX then began identifying a pool of trainers to conduct a series of workshops on critical media consumption in all parts of Sri Lanka.

IREX is now looking to work with at least five local organizations with capacity to coordinate these trainings.

Duties and responsibilities

The selected organizations will be responsible for the following duties, responsibilities and deliverables.

a. Provide logistical arrangements to conduct training workshops.

- This will include:
- Identifying participants with the support of IREX's citizen trainers. Each organization will be responsible to coordinate at least 100 trainings over the course of one year, with 20-25 participants in each training.
 - Prepare a list of participants, including their respective villages
 - Identifying training venues accessible to participants
 - Providing training facilities/materials as required
 - Providing food/refreshments
 - Providing travel allowances and maintaining necessary documents
 - Working closely with translators (where necessary)
 - Seeking necessary local approvals (where necessary)
 - Any other support needed

b. Develop a detailed training calendar, taking into account the availability of trainers, required resources, training venues and the participants

c. Develop a comprehensive training roster in consultation with the MEND team

- Maintain close coordination with participants and follow up with reminders of upcoming trainings
- Coordinate with IREX Master Trainers and/or the Citizen Trainers according to the training calendar and roster
- Assign a focal point representing the organization, who would be in direct communication with the IREX/MEND Program team ensuring effective coordination of the program.
- Assist with the monitoring and evaluation of the training sessions by providing necessary documentation, i.e.: pre-post evaluation forms, participant lists, photographs etc. at the completion of each training.
- Compile a training resource package for each training session in consultation with the MEND team. The contents of this training resource package would be predetermined based on the training requirements, and would include training material (info graphs, posters) handouts, stationery etc. to ensure each training session would be conducted in a uniform manner.
- Facilitate site visits of IREX team and/or its partner organizations, and assist them in the evaluation of the program

Deliverables

The organizations will be producing the following deliverables.

- Detailed training plan/calendar – This should include the training schedule, logistical arrangements and plan of implementation.
- List of training locations
- Training rosters
- Name of translators with their contact details
- List of participants with necessary contact details (if required)
- Weekly training updates as per the guidelines given by the IREX/MEND team
- Monthly reports as per the guidelines given by the IREX/MEND team
- Final Program Report

Who is eligible?

IREX encourages local partners – Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, youth networks and any other local organizations that have a strong track-record in implementing training programs of a similar scale to apply for this opportunity.

How to apply

Interested organizations are encouraged to submit:

- An Expression of Interest (500 words Max)
- A brief concept note explaining the implementation strategy along with perceived strengths and potential challenges (2000 words max)
- A copy of the business registration
- A tentative budget

Selection Criteria

The evaluation of Organizations will be based on the following criteria.

- Legal status:** Registered as a legal entity at the time of application.
- Experience, capacity and competence:** Ability to organize workshops/trainings for community groups. Credentials and track record in carrying out similar assignments will be assessed.
- Project management:** Ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management.
- Cost effectiveness:** Level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the project in relation to project deliverables.

Completed applications should be submitted by midnight November 30, 2020. Applications should be sent to bkennedy@irex.org. No telephone calls will be entertained.

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42ND OBSERVER MOBIL SCHOOL CRICKETER - 2020

AWARD CEREMONY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM EVENT CO-ORDINATORS

LPA/08/2020

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited together with Mobil will be organizing the above event and we request proposals from reputed and experienced event co-ordinators to provide the following:

- * Total Event Management (excluding venue and refreshment charges).
- * Lighting, sounds and acts.
- * Stage setting, backdrop, digital screens and related equipment for BMICH.
- * Compering (Male & Female).
- * Provide high res video, 3D video, programming and live playback.
- * 6 to 7 Acts with dancing troops, Sinhala, Tamil, English and Hindi

Please submit your proposals covering the above requirement, including the details of previous events handled in a sealed envelope marked "Proposals for Event Co-ordinators" on the top left — hand corner to the undersigned on or before **28th September 2020**. Details of previous events handled could be submitted in a CD form.

Further information could be obtained from **011 2429257**.

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason what so ever.



LAKE HOUSE

**Head of Procurement
THE ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF CEYLON LIMITED**
No. 35, Lake House,
D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.
011-2429422 / 451 / 257

VEHICLES FOR SALE

THALAWATHUGODA VEHICLE YARD							
CAR							
VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
12-82XX	DAIHATSU	OTHER	1983	65-66XX	LAND ROVER	FREELANDER	1999
14 SRI 73XX	NISSAN	PRAIRIE	1983	18-37XX	MAZDA	MR-90	1992
KR-97XX	LEXUS	DAA-ANF10	2009	14 SRI 22XX	NISSAN	MITSUBISHI	1986
15 SRI 637XX	TOYOTA	CARINA KA67 V	1985	CAP-22XX	NISSAN	DAA-HT32 X-TRAIL	2015
14 SRI 50XX	NISSAN	SUNNY	1983	CAX-58XX	HONDA	DAA-GP2 FIT SHUTTLE	2014
17-99XX	HYUNDAI	EXCEL 1.5 LS	1991	KU-37XX	MARUTI	ZEN-ESTILO VXi	2012
KX-26XX	MICRO	MX7 MARKII	2013	CAI-69XX	TATA	INDIGO MARINA GLX	2015
12 SRI 14XX	NISSAN	LANCER	1981	CAF-77XX	NISSAN	ZAA-AZE0 LEAF	2013
HO-44XX	KIA	SORANTO JEEP	2003	GO-59XX	TOYOTA	HARRIER JEEP	1999
CAB-27XX	HONDA	DAA-GP2 FIT SHUTTLE	2013	CAW-03XX	HONDA	DAA-GP2 FIT	2014
CAO-81XX	HONDA	DAA-RU3 VEZEL	2015	13 SRI 44XX	NISSAN	SUNNY	1984
KJ-64XX	HYUNDAI	SANTA FE	2008	FZ-01XX	PERODUA	306 XR	2001
CAN-22XX	MICRO	KORANDO	2015	JD-92XX	NISSAN	TATA K11	2000
KQ-48XX	MICRO	PANDA LC 1.3	2011	CBE-43XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2018
CAC-56XX	TOYOTA	DAA-ZVW30 PRIUS	2012	KY-98XX	MICRO	PANDA LC 1.0	2014
KB-60XX	TATA	INDIGO MARINA GLX	2006	17-56XX	TOYOTA	E-AT150 CARINA	1989
13 SRI 82XX	NISSAN	SUNNY	1985	KE-32XX	MITSUBISHI	GF-N64WG	2001
16-31XX	TOYOTA	CORONA - AT150	1986	14 SRI 17XX	TOYOTA	COROLLA KE 72	1982
14 SRI 20XX	MITSUBISHI	-	1984	GO-12XX	MAZDA	FAMILIA	1998
CAF-12XX	NISSAN	ZAA-AZE0	2013	KI-65XX	FIAT	PANDA	2006
HJ-12XX	MITSUBISHI	MONTERO	2003	CBB-94XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2018
CAZ-35XX	MAZDA	DAA-MK42S	2012	16-79XX	NISSAN	E-K10 MARCH	1987
CAG-36XX	NISSAN	ZAA-AZE0	2017	CBD-42XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2017
KU-16XX	MICRO	PANDA LC 1.0	2012	13 SRI 58XX	MITSUBISHI	LANCER	1983
14 SRI 81XX	TOYOTA	CORONA	1984	JJ-62XX	NISSAN	SUNNY	2001
CAN-98XX	NISSAN	ZAA-AZE0-LEAF	2014	CAN-39XX	MICRO	PANDA LC 1.0	2015
KH-20XX	MICRO	REXTON 270 XDI	2008	KB-69XX	TOYOTA	VIOS	2003
15 SRI 07XX	TOYOTA	CORONA	1984	JV-14XX	HONDA	ACTY-VHH3	1999
15 SRI 37XX	TOYOTA	CORONA - AT150	1987	13-75XX	MITSUBISHI	LANCER	1985
19-64XX	FLAT	TEMPRA	1996	CAE-90XX	TOYOTA	DAA-ZVW30	2013
65-40XX	TOYOTA	LADN CRUSIER	1999	HK-50XX	MAZDA	FAMILIA	2000
HB-66XX	MITSUBISHI	PAJERO	2000	CAW-22XX	TOYOTA	DAA-NHP10 AQUA	2015
KV-83XX	MICRO	PANDA LC 1.0	2013	KV-24XX	MARUTI	800	2012
CAH-89XX	HONDA	DAA-GP2 FIT SHUTTLE	2013	KU-95XX	MICRO	MX7 II	2012
CAX-92XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2018	CAX-74XX	HONDA	DBA-JF1 N-BOX	2015
CAI-25XX	NISSAN	ZAA-AZE0 LEAF	2013	KB-33XX	TATA	INDIGO GLX	2004
CAO-89XX	HONDA	DAA-GM4 GRACE	2015	HC-28XX	HONDA	GF-6H3(JEEP)	1999
KW-16XX	MICRO	PANDA CROSS	2013	GV-04XX	NISSAN	SUNNY	1999

OTHER VEHICLES							
VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
ND-11XX	NISSAN	PA-AHW41	2005	52-56XX	TOYOTA	HIACE	1987
60-43XX	NISSAN	CARAVAN	1982	30 SRI-73XX	TOYOTA	HIACE LH30V	1980
57-72XX	TOYOTA	LH102	1991	GL-44XX	TOYOTA	TOWNACE	1996
PD-58XX	TOYOTA	KR-KDH205V	2007	58-61XX	MAZDA	SS28M	1992
252-52XX	MAZDA	-	1993	PC-86XX	NISSAN	NAVARA	2007
53-65XX	TOYOTA	TOWNACE	1987	NISSAN	-	1993	
PB-14XX	MAZDA	KC-SR59 V	1997	253-43XX	MITSUBISHI	-	1996
PG-21XX	TOYOTA	EBD-8321 M	2012	PE-90XX	TOYOTA	KR-KDH200V HIACE	2005
PB-80XX	MICRO	MPV JUNIOR II	2009	PF-44XX	TOYOTA	HIACE-280 D-4D	2008
PC-10XX	MICRO	MPV JUNIOR III	2011	252-07XX	MAZDA	OTHER	1994
HY-71XX	DAIHATSU	HIJET	1999	LJ-58XX	FOTON	BJ1069VDJEA-RA	2011
56-32XX	TOYOTA	HIACE	1989	GM-10XX	NISSAN DIESEL	CW536	1997
JG-77XX	HYUNDAI	GRACE H100	2000	PF-35XX	MAZDA	KO-SKF2V	2007

KADAWATHA VEHICLE YARD							
CAR							
VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
CAH-15XX	TOYOTA	DAA-NHP10 AQUA	2013	HG-09XX	TOYOTA	HARRIER	2000
KL-16XX	PERODUA	AMIEZG	2011	JB-40XX	NISSAN	GJ-VY11	2000
CAH-02XX	TOYOTA	DAA-NHP10 AQUA	2012	CAO-93XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MH44S WAGON R	2014
CAR-40XX	DFSK	DFSK GLORY 330	2016	13 SRI 74XX	NISSAN	SUNNY	1983
CAX-45XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MR41S HUSTLER	2016	CBB-77XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2017
CAT-90XX	HONDA	DAA-GP5 FIT	2015	CAL-29XX	MICRO	PANDA LC 1.0	2015
KF-07XX	SUZUKI	DBA-ZC11S	2004	CBG-47XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2018
300-21XX	DAIHATSU	L501RS-GMJJS	1997	CBI-09XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2017

OTHER VEHICLES							
VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
PI-62XX	SUZUKI	HBD-DA17V EVERY	2015	PJ-62XX	SUZUKI	HBD-DA17V EVERY	2018

28th, 29th, 30th September & 02nd October 2020 between 08.30 am and 04.30 pm at the below address. Tenders will Close at 04.30 p.m on 02nd October 2020.

Tender forms could be obtained from the above CDB Branch. Non-refundable payment of Rs.250.00

Successful bidders will be informed by telephone, and within 7 days from such notification the full amount must be paid as well as vehicle must be removed from our premises. Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle from the sale without assigning any reason for it. Bidders have to accept the vehicle in the present condition it is, and it is the relevant bidder's responsibility to settle any outstanding payments with regards to revenue license and other government taxes.

VEHICLE INSPECTION	Thalawathugoda Vehicle Yard: No. 175, School Lane, Thalawathugoda.	Mahara Vehicle Yard: No. 125/F, Ragama Road, Kadawatha.
CONTACT:	Dilsha / Pasan: 011 2744977	

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Bride

About our academically, professionally well settled daughter BSc IT Professional studied at leading girls' school in Colombo and overseas 5'8" tall slim 1983 born dual citizen Australia. Presently on vacation in Sri Lanka. Professional and educated G/B parents seek professionally qualified well employed partner. Daughter inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email: theproposal123@gmail.com OB151640

About 1970 born, Bodu Govi, 5'4", pleasant looking lady English Lecturer (Private). Owns a house, seeks a suitable partner. 0112 173670. OB151743

Academically and professionally compatible well mannered (teetotaler/non-smoker), well established Christian son from a respectable family is sought by a Sinhala Christian parents for their academically and professionally qualified, born in 1996, height 5'5" pretty fair daughter. Methodist, Aglicon and any other Christian background considered. 0112255512. OB151610

Academically and professionally qualified Doctor son from a respectable family is sought by Govi/Buddhist, respectable parents living in Australia for their very attractive daughter, Australian born and well qualified Medical Doctor, working in a leading hospital in Australia. She is pretty fair, slim, 5'6" tall, 34 years old, with excellent character and inherits substantial assets in Australia and Sri Lanka. Those living in Australia and the U.K. preferred. Reply with family details and horoscope to : pr oposalsep2020@gmail.com OB151754

Academically and professionally qualified employed well mannered caring son is sought by retired G/B parents from Colombo suburbs for their pretty well accomplished only daughter. She is well employed with Post Graduate qualification from UK University. Also a qualified UK Solicitor. Born in May 86. Height 5'8". Kuja in 7th house but favourable. Prefer a son who can converse fluently in English and has a good personality. Please reply with horoscope to manidee.proposal@yahoo.com OB151664

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Bodu Govi retired Bank parents from Kandy for their academically qualified (ACA / CGMA / MBA) 5'5" in height fair daughter born in 1987 currently working as Assistant Manager in a reputed multi national firm in Kandy. Please reply with family details and horoscope. kv 37050@gmail.com OB151745

Academically and professionally qualified son of age 42-49 about 5'4 1/2" tall with sober habits is sought by Govi Buddhist parents from Galle for their qualified (Consultant) Doctor daughter. Reply with horoscope and full details. Email: samkula1969@gmail.com OB151446

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered NS/TT son is sought by Sinhala Buddhist mother for her fair, pretty daughter educated in English medium Lawyer born in 1993, 5'8". She inherits substantial assets in Kandy. Differences immaterial. Reply with family details to gscproposal@gmail.com OB151452

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Bodu G/D parents from Colombo for their slim pleasant daughter born in 1992 February height 5'7" studied at a leading Buddhist School in Colombo. BSc. Degree CIMA passed finalist and MBA, she is holding a Managerial position in a reputed Company inherits substantial assets. Kindly reply with family details and horoscope and contact number. d92 proposal@gmail.com OB151430

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner sought by B/C Govi parents for only child. Born 1980. She is medium complexioned attractive accomplished down to earth, lover of nature and animals and a wide range of interests. Educated mostly abroad whilst living with parents. Graduated and postgraduated from highly prestigious university abroad. Partly qualified CIMA Licentiate Pianoforte Trinity College London. Was employed in Sri Lanka and abroad. Presently employed in senior position abroad. Will inherit substantial assets non-malefic horoscope. Please reply giving family details copy of horoscope and telephone Nos. Email: tityvone@hotmail.com OB151497

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by respectable Buddhist parents from Colombo for their only daughter born in 1982 Sep. She is 5'0" pretty daughter with a pleasing personality, MBA (UK) qualified and well-occupied. Please reply with family details and the horoscope to: happy mgpro@gmail.com OB151646

Academically and professionally qualified, caring son is sought by B/K mother for her daughter studying MBA in Australia. She is 33, 5'4", studied at Devi Balika, graduated from University of Colombo and has done Master's degree from Delhi. Son living in Australia or abroad preferred. Reply with details to sasirimarriageproposal2020@gmail.com OB151523

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered, non-smoker, teetotaler, caring, family-oriented son is sought by respectable G/K parents from Colombo suburbs for their beautiful elder daughter, 5' 8.5" tall, 1985 born (young looking), curvy figure, smart, great personality, kind hearted, BSc Computer Science, divorced, no encumbrances. Email: tt.p proposal@yahoo.com OB151715

Academically qualified partner sought by Roman Catholic parents for their daughter born in 1983 October, height 5'1", pretty, completed her Masters Degree in HR and working as an Assistant Manager HR in reputed Company, willing to migrate. Please reply with details. Email : proposalbridetob e1983@gmail.com OB151447

Academically qualified partner sought by respectable B/G/K business parents for 1993, 5'1" very fair and pretty, government school western music teacher. Inherits substantial assets. Email sheharacooray86@gmail.com OB151529

Academically qualified (preferably BSc. Engineer / MBBS Doctor) handsome, TT/NS son from a respectable Govi, Buddhist family is sought by Govi, Buddhist, professional parents (Engineer / Architect) for their pretty daughter born in June 1990, 5'3", MBBS Doctor. Inherits substantial assets including a house in Colombo suburb. Elder brother BSc/MSc Software Engineer married to a PhD student and employed in UK. Elder sister MBBS Doctor married to a MBBS/MD Doctor. Full particulars with horoscope in first letter please. E-Mail : tndproposal@yahoo.com OB151394

Academically & professionally qualified locally employed son below 35 is sought by BK parents for elder daughter 1989 Sept., 5'3" holding BSc. Engineering and PhD qualified Lecturer. Mesha Lagna, Deta Nekatha, non-malefic HC Sikuru 7 Sandhu 8. Karawa and Govi only. Reply with family details horoscope, contact numbers. ml 989proposal@gmail.com OB151679

Academically, professionally qualified, well mannered son is sought by respectable retired Bodu Govi parents living in Galle for their daughter born 1989, 5'3" holds Degree at University of Moratuwa and currently following MSc. (UK) and working as a Manager (Tech IT) in reputed foreign bank at Colombo. Please reply with family details and horoscope. (proposal.sub@gmail.com) OB151660

Affluent, well connected, Sinhala, Buddhist, Govigama, business parents from an English speaking background in Colombo, seek for their pretty, accomplished daughter (self employed) of 37 years divorced amicably due to incompatibility with a daughter of 4 years, an accomplished, qualified or an entrepreneur living in Sri Lanka from a similar, English speaking affluent social family background. Please reply furnishing the groom's personal and other relevant details, as well as of his family, along with a copy of his horoscope, including his place of birth, to email address: ramitha259@gmail.com OB151545

Anglican and Methodist parents seek marriage partner for daughter English graduate teacher employed in Government School. Age 35 years, height 5 feet. 0112792436. OB151517

Anglican Christian parents seek a son for their academically qualified daughter working at a government school as an English teacher. Age 33, height 5'2". Reply with family details. 045-2287741 after 7.00 p.m. OB151542

Australian resident Sinhalese Buddhist parents (G/K) seek a professionally accomplished son from a decent family for their daughter employed as a Senior House Doctor in a leading government hospital in Brisbane. She is 30 years (1990/07), slim, fair, pretty, 5'3" and bears an unblemished character. Interested parents, please send a brief note of their family and sons horoscope to: dinu prop10@gmail.com (email replies only). OB151758

A Buddhist educated businesses parents seek educated established business partner with moral values for USA degree holder 33 years very pretty 5.6" height doing her own Marine field business in Colombo. She inherits commercial property in Colombo city and two storied house in Colombo suburbs. Only brother is doing his PhD program in USA. Please reply pal12342004@yahoo.com OB151780

A qualified well-established caring partner from a respectable G/B family is sought by Govi Buddhist parent for slim pretty fair accomplished daughter 5'5" born 82 Nov. Masters Degree holder working in Executive capacity in reputed organization. She is fluent in English. Substantial assets. manthri.804@gmail.com OB151398

A suitable well employed partner is sought by parents in Colombo, Sinhala Buddhist, Bodu Govi for their pretty daughter 37 years height 5'5" (Kethu 7, Kuja 7). OB151581

A suitable well settled partner either in Sri Lanka or abroad is sought by Bodu Govi parents living in Colombo for their very pretty daughter born 1988 Accounting graduate from Australia. 5'2". Reply - s amaneth@gmail.com OB151487

BG Mathale 48 yrs., 5'3", never married Government Officer with two Master Degrees searching genuine educated working partners below 53 yrs. She owns house, car. anushachandani@gmail.com OB151389

Bodu Govi parents. She is brought up with Buddhist cultural values, smart, 5'6", slim, well accomplished born in 1989 October, educated at a leading school in Colombo. BSc Statistics (Special) University of Colombo. CIMA, ACMA, MSc Business Analytics (UK). Working at a leading company in Colombo in the field of Data Analytics. Planning to migrate to Australia. The only younger brother is working in Sydney, Australia. Suitable partner sought under 34 years. Reply with family details, contact numbers and horoscope. E-mail: proposal.ksak@gmail.com 011-2955255 weekdays after 7.30 p.m. OB151573

Bodu Govi Sinhalese seek a suitable bridegroom for daughter who is slim 5'8" and pleasant. She was born in 1992 and works as a doctor in Australia. Please reply with family details horoscope and contact information to harinsam@aol.com OB151518

Bodu Karawa/Govi affluent parents from South living in Nugegoda, father Director of a well-established company, seek an educated handsome son from a respectable family background below 30 years living in Sri Lanka for their elder daughter Int. Management (Hon) graduate, fair, pretty, well-mannered religious 5'6" tall born 1996 January working as an Executive in a reputed organization inherits substantial assets. Please send family details with non-malefic horoscopes and contact details in first letter or by email: marriage pro1996@gmail.com OB151537

Born in 1992, in Australia, 5'1" height, employed after a Degree in Health Science. Parents seek a kind hearted, understanding, educated partner for their beautiful, smart daughter brought up to treasure Sinhala Christian values. She will inherit substantial assets in OZ. Pl. reply with full details to ozmproposal@ gmail.com OB151426

Born 1996 - Sinhala, Buddhist, Govi Western Province, height 5'7", fair, pretty, final year Computer Software Engineering student daughter, parents seek educated, kind, son with sober habits, below 30 years (specially Doctor, Businessman). Non-malefic horoscope. Reply with family details, horoscope copy and telephone number. margprop64@gmail.com OB151539

Buddhist December 1990, 5'3" slim fair and pretty well mannered BSc Chemistry special, studying for PhD in USA, daughter parents seek educated suitable partner, send family details and horoscope. 0113410948 r unirmal@yahoo.com OB151615

Buddhist Govi Colombo suburb parents seek suitable son for their one and only pretty daughter 1991 born 5' height studied at Colombo leading Buddhist College, obtained management degree and MBA, working as a commercial establishment at a Senior Executive, inherits substantial assets. Write with copy of horoscope and contact details. OB151605

Buddhist Govi/Durawa parents from Colombo seek an academically and professionally qualified, well mannered son from a decent family, for their only child daughter born in 1991-06, height about 5 feet with a pleasant appearance. She studied with a BBA Degree from the University of Colombo and holds the ACMA/CGMA Associate membership. Employed at a leading apparel sector establishment holding an executive level position. Please reply with family details and copy of the sons horoscope. Email: mah_1991@yahoo.com OB151598

Buddhist Karawa respectable family very pretty teacher daughter unmarried 5'4" 43+ pretty principal daughter 47 seeks educated human. Details with horoscope. manmaleep@gmail.com OB151631

Buddhist parents from Colombo seek a suitable son for their pretty, decent daughter only child graduated in Malaysian University in Biotechnology. Currently reading for MSc in University of Kelaniya. She is 5', born in 1989/8, studied at a Buddhist Girls' School in Colombo, employed at a private company in Colombo. She owns our two storeyed new house and other assets. Reply with horoscope and family details. Caste immaterial. Email: sgsproposal@gmail.com OB151520

Buddhist parents living in Colombo seek an educated son below 48 years with sober habits for their young looking, slim, pleasant, 40 years old elder daughter. University academic. Inherits substantial assets around Colombo. Caste immaterial. Email : desilva44@gmail.com OB151634

Buddhist parents residing in Colombo suburbs seek an educated partner for fair, pleasant daughter 41, 5'4", who possesses London LLB (Hons) and LLM degrees, who is attached to a reputed organization in Colombo. She inherits a house and willing to relocate for the right partner. Reply with horoscope. marriage767@gmail.com OB151576

Buddhist Rajaka family living in Tissamaharama retired government parents seek suitable partner for their youngest daughter working as an executive officer, leading company in Sri Lanka. Born in 1993, height 5'3". Reply with full details and horoscope. OB151586

Buddhist / Sinhala parents seek a professional qualified son (Engineer / Doctor / Lawyer or in Executive Grade) for their daughter born in Oct. 1989, height 5'3". Fair complexion, graduated in Colombo Law Faculty as an Attorney-at-Law, CIMA (UK) qualified, LLM (USA) completed, now employed as a Lawyer. Only brother who is a Doctor (Senior Registrar) in NHSL, married with a Doctor. Father retired Govt. Ministry Secretary. Mother retired Bank Officer, caste immaterial, seek non-malefic horoscopes. Pls send full details with horoscope. (T.P. No. 0112794471). OB151432

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Continued on page 70

Continued from
page 69

Bride

B/D Lawyer parents in Colombo seek for academically or professionally qualified partner for their daughter born in May 1987 and presently employed in a private bank, she has qualified in banking and reading for a Management Degree in Open University, inherits assets including an upstairs house in Colombo 06. Please contact with horoscope and family details. da yarathnew@gmail.com
OB151747

B/G never married graduate administrative secretary fair slim figure early fifties seeks affluent gentleman who values Sri Lankan Buddhism culture. Inherits substantial wealth. nacha18381@gmail.com
OB151729

B/G parents currently residing in Colombo suburbs are seeking a professionally qualified partner around age of 30-35 for their smart good looking daughter born in 1991 with a height of 5'4". She is a qualified Architect currently working in a reputed firm in Washington DC USA. Please respond with family details copy of horoscope and contact information if currently living in USA only. agswickrama@gmail.com
OB151439

B/G respectable Lecturer/Teacher parents in Western Province seek academically and professionally qualified son for their pretty daughter born 1989 May 5'4" who studied at a leading girls' school in Colombo and working as a Doctor (MBBS) in a government hospital. Inherits assets. Please reply with horoscope and family details. Email: mprop895@gmail.com
OB151627

B/G respectable wealthy business parents from Colombo suburbs seek a son who is kind-hearted, well-established professionally qualified or businessman from a respectable family for their very pretty daughter age 26, 5'1", slim, fair, kind-hearted and moral character. Holds a degree from a prestigious university. Inherits valuable assets. Email: proposal121@yahoo.com
OB151503

Catholic Govi parents seek an educated partner for their eldest daughter born in 1981, 5'7" tan complexion, educated in a leading girls school in Colombo, and has completed BSC & MSC in Information Technology, has own house and car, widowed with a five year old son, both living with parents. Please reply with full details. posal1939@gmail.com
OB150737

Catholic parents seek Catholic professionally qualified partner age between 34-35 years for their Colombo convent educated professionally qualified daughter born in 1987 height 5'5". Dowry cash and assets. rjbm60@gmail.com
OB151553

Catholic Sinhala respectable parents seek an educated well employed kind-hearted son for their 5'3" tall fair 36 Executive daughter. Substantial assets. Pls. call 0112913582.
OB151607

Close to Colombo Bodu Govi 1981 born 5'6" in height graduate employed as a senior brand manager at a highly ranked organization in Colombo, parents seek modest son above 5'7" with moral values in compatibility towards Rahu 7. Reply with copy of horoscope. 0112820087.
OB151419

Colombo BG/K parents seek an educated partner especially in Engineering and medical fields to their daughter born in 1988, 5'5" works at a government hospital as a Doctor with MBBS qualifications. Tel: 0112726038. Email: priyanthi1208@gmail.com
OB151549

Colombo Govi Buddhist height 5'2", 1989 educated pretty daughter (BSc USJP) ACMA employed in private sector. Suitable partner is sought.
OB151600

Colombo Govi Buddhist parents (retired executives) seek educated partner for their daughter born in 1986 June height 5'1" studied at a leading school in Colombo ACMA, MBA qualified and presently employed as an Accountant in a leading private company. She owns valuable assets including a house in Colombo. Please reply with family details and copy of horoscope. sam24wije@gmail.com
OB151467



Colombo G/B parents seek academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter in USA. IT postgraduate born December 1990, 5'4" fair and beautiful, preferably in USA. Respond with telephone number. prosalsde@gmail.com
OB151547

Colombo resident, Govi/Karawa retired parents seek a well-educated, well-mannered, good charactered, pleasant son, groom for their daughter, 1991, Management Class 1 graduate, IBSL and HR Diplomate (Diploma Holder), well employed in a State Bank, 5'3", pretty, fair loving three storeyed house, in Colombo, revenue /profit generating, 45 dowry, her monthly permanent income is Rs. 3 lakhs. (Rs. 300,000/-). Elder brother and sister are Medical professionals. Email: marriage_proposal1991@gmail.com
OB151674

Colombo suburbs B/G retired parents seek professionally qualified partner for their daughter BSc in IT, MBA, pretty, fair, 5'6", born 1989 October. Owns upstairs house in Colombo suburbs worth 40 million. Write to swineethpahath@gmail.com
OB151580

Colombo suburbs B/K parents of a respectable family seek a professionally qualified son with sober habits preferably living in Australia for their daughter 1994, pretty, fair 5', fully qualified in the field of Accountancy & awarded a master's degree in Finance Management from a prestigious Australian university. Currently residing in Australia. Please reply with horoscope & family details to - mp roposal947@gmail.com
OB151543

Colombo suburb Bodu Viswa retired father sought educated pretty daughter for his academically and professionally qualified son born in 1979. Holding Chief Officer post in foreign company in Sri Lanka. Reply with horoscope, caste immaterial. OB151433

Dear parents, Im seeking a smart, educated suitable partner for my attractive 5'2" daughter born in 1983. We are Sinhala Buddhist, caste is immaterial, looking for an open minded, culturally balanced companion from professional/business background. Her academic background is in finance & management. She was educated in a private school & obtained both the undergraduate & Masters Degrees from a foreign university and has been working in Sri Lanka since returning from abroad. Inherits substantial assets. If interested, please respond with your son's details along with social media profile and horoscope. We maintain confidentiality in all matters & would appreciate same from you. Best wishes, father. proposalc364@gmail.com
OB150733

Galle Bodu Vishwa differences immaterial parents seek academically qualified or business son for their daughter 1990 January 5'3" BSc Government Officer. 0912222572. proposalwb@gmail.com
OB151692

Galle Bodu Vishwa differences immaterial parents seek academically qualified or business son for their daughter 1990 January 5'3" BSc Government Officer. 0912222572. proposalwb@gmail.com
OB151692

Govi Buddhist parents living in Colombo suburbs looking for a smart qualified son for their 1990 born pretty, smart academically and professionally qualified daughter, who studied in a leading private girls' school in Colombo at present employed in a company as a Senior Executive.
OB151622

Govi Buddhist parents residing in a Colombo suburb seek partner for 27 year old daughter 5'1" fair smart BSc MSc from prestigious overseas Universities attended leading girls' school in Colombo. Please reply with a photograph of son and family, presently studying overseas. sevingris@yahoo.com
OB151083

Govi Buddhist retired executive parents from south seek a well-mannered suitable son (Engineer, Lecturer, Doctor graduated executive officer special) for their 1988 born 5'5" in height pleasant government banking executive daughter with BSc (Agri) and PGD (Food & Nutrition). Bodu Govi only. T.P. 0413136330.
OB151489

Govi Buddhist retired government servant parents from Colombo suburbs seek a suitable academically and professionally qualified partner for their 1988 born 5'2" tall only daughter BSc (UK) MSc (Sri Lanka) upholds Sinhala Buddhist values currently pursuing a PhD. Please reply with family details and horoscope. (Her horoscope is with Shani Mangala Dhosa). Email: proposald42@gmail.com
OB151450

G/B mother from a respectable family in Galle, seeks a well educated, caring partner (professional/businessman) with good personality for her daughter, 32, 5'2" she is good looking and is well brought up. She has a Degree in Economics (Colombo) and MBA (PIM) with other qualifications. She works as an Assistant HR Manager at a reputed IT Company. She will inherit substantial assets. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email: marriagepro1988@gmail.com
OB151699

G/B parents from South residing in Colombo suburbs seek an educated graduate son for daughter 5', 1987 June, graduate English teacher, father Specialist Doctor. Rahu 1, Kethu 7. proposalgla@gmail.com
OB151587

G/B parents in England seek a partner settled and employed in UK or willing to migrate for their only daughter, Medical Doctor (NHS), born in 1989, 5'9", slim, fair and beautiful. She will inherit substantial assets in Sri Lanka including a house in Colombo, commercial property and lands. Doctors, Engineers and Accountants are preferred. Email: piyaamara@gmail.com Tel. 00447424282540/00441142763752.
OB151776

G/B parent seeks academically and professionally qualified son from similar background for their MBBS Dr Duwa 1988, 5'5", please reply with details. duwaproposal@outlook.com
OB151740

G/B retired parents seek a caring loving heart educated partner for 35, 5'4" fair slim pretty accomplished daughter MBBS MD Doctor who divorced from a brief marriage as the plaintiff due to incompatibility. No encumbrances. Reply with all details contact number and horoscope. marriagep720@gmail.com
OB151554

Hindu father from Matale retired parents, proposed daughter 33, 5'1", IT degree MBM Executive in a private bank. Only brother working. Reply with family details and horoscope. kum a072014@gmail.com after 6.00 p.m. 066 2230189.
OB151584

Kandyan Bodu Govi parent seeks an educated son for pretty daughter 1982 born, 5'3", young looking and professional, living in Australia owns a house in Kandy. suwi1951@gmail.com
OB151391

Kandyan Bodu Govi respectable parents seek professionally and academically qualified son for their 1986, BSc, MSc, English medium Government Teacher fair, slim. Cash dowry and property available. Reply with TP number. maproposejs@gmail.com
OB151682

Kandyan B/G parents from respectable families seek a professionally and academically qualified son with a good character and sober habits for their M.B.B.S. Doctor daughter. She is fair, pretty, slim 5 tall, born in '84 has a good character, and good qualities and inherits assets. mrrg-prpsls@gmail.com
OB151434

Kandyan Govigama Buddhist highly professional dual citizen family in Australia seeks a professional well mannered son with good moral values from their daughter a Dental Surgeon, born in 1994. She is 5'5", slim and well mannered. She is fluent in both Sinhala and English. Her horoscope non-malefic. E-mail: prop marriage20@gmail.com
OB151588

Kandy B/V retired father seeks a suitable partner for his only daughter, 37 yrs. 5'4" height, Legal Officer in a Bank Kuja in 8th House, prepared to resign from the employment. If necessary. Migration considered. Caste, religion immaterial. Respond with horoscope and family details.
OB151410

Kandy, Govi Buddhist, 1979, 5'5" good charactered, pretty, slim figured, younger looking, only daughter of family, working as an English teacher in an International School after completing a diploma in Open University, parents seek a well-mannered partner with a permanent job (owns a house and assets).
OB151428

Kegalle B/G respectable parents seek a suitable partner for daughter employed in Australia. PR holder born 1986 January, height 5'7", academically and professionally qualified well brought up son upholding Buddhist Sinhalese values is sought TP: 035-2222613, prop802@gmail.com
OB151765

Loving protection of a S/B educated retired religious refined humorous gentleman above 65 yrs / disregards age in Sri Lanka / abroad is sought by S/B retired educated divorces without encumbrances lady for pleasant retirement. serinity2519@gmail.com
OB151495

Moor parents from Colombo seek a religious and educated partner for their daughter age 27 years 5'3" completed B.A Degree. Contact: 2470900 sh aazmueid@gmail.com
OB151672

Moor parent seeks suitable partner for educated daughter 33 years. proposal new33@gmail.com
OB151388

Mother seeks qualified son for the only daughter 5'4" born in 1983 Oct pretty tall educated at a leading school and finished her studies in Deakin University Australia and holding a Senior Managerial post in a leading company in Melbourne and holds Australian Citizenship. Please contact: 2580397.
OB151609

Near Colombo Sinhala Karawa professionally qualified parents seek suitable educated son for Doctor daughter Christian born in 1990 November, 5'4" height working in Government hospital. Please reply to Email ksafernando93@gmail.com
OB151630

Panadura Bodu Govi mother seeks an academically and professionally qualified son for pretty highly educated daughter born in 1984 and 5'4" tall. She's a USA PR holder working as an Accountant in California. She's been brought up with Sri Lankan Buddhist values. She completed her bachelors and masters degrees in California. She has valuable investments and properties in Sri Lanka. Sons living in USA are preferred. Please send details with horoscope to: p roposal79@gmail.com
OB151765

Parents hailing from a respectable Roman Catholic family down south with assets for their good looking daughter a Lawyer 33 years 5'5" practising in Colombo, seek a partner of equal social status with a steady income. Sathur in 7th House. 0912293770.
OB151407

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
OB151724

Professional parents (G/B) living in Australia seek a smart professionally qualified employed son below 40 for daughter 36 fair very pretty BSc. Graduate professionally qualified / employed in Victoria Australia widowed after a very brief marriage. Reply with horoscope and details. Prefer those who live and work in Victoria Australia. Email - arachchis1@gmail.com
OB151778

Professional parents (G/B) living in Australia seek a smart professionally qualified employed son below 40 for daughter 36 fair very pretty BSc. Graduate professionally qualified / employed in Victoria Australia widowed after a very brief marriage. Reply with horoscope and details. Prefer those who live and work in Victoria Australia. Email - arachchis1@gmail.com
OB151778

Respectable affluent G/B parents seek an academically qualified well occupied or established businessman son with sober habits born after year 1980 for their pretty educated accomplished and occupied daughter born in 1987. E-mail: nilmini.k1961@gmail.com
OB151772

Respectable Bodu Govi Business family seeks professionally qualified partner for their daughter Business Management Degree holder 25 years owns luxury house & vehicles, other substantial assets. Please reply family details and horoscope to Email; marriageproposal2520@gmail.com
OB151424

Respectable G/B parents seek for a partner for their 5'3" slim fair pretty daughter She is a Business Management and IT graduate. She has completed her MBA in Business Administration presently working as an IT Executive for a reputed company in Colombo. She is 31 years She is legally separated from an incompatible marriage No children or any bonds Rahu on the 7th House more suitable Nakatha are Aswida Ma Mula Disha Puwawutupa Kethi Uthrapal Sitha Denata Muwa Sirasa Pusha Pulawathi Doss. Reply to proposal2020s@gmail.com
OB151457

Sinhala Buddhist Professional parents living in Australia seeking a professionally qualified son, living in Australia with similar values to our introduced to our only daughter, MBBS Doctor, age 32, currently pursuing her specialty. She is 5 ft. 5" tall, brought up with Sri Lankan values. Please reply with family details. proposal7891@outlook.com
OB151650

Sinhala Buddhist parents residing in the UK looking for a well-educated and well-employed son from a respectable family for their 29 years, 5'3" pretty, slim, fair daughter born in the UK. She is employed in a reputed international Consulting Firm in New York, as a Management Consultant. BSc (UK) MBA (USA). Please reply with horoscope and family details to: duo242204@gmail.com
OB151654

Sinhala Buddhist well respected wealthy parents from Colombo seek a partner of similar status for their 5'6" slim fair attractive professionally qualified (LLB, Attorney-at-Law, ACMA, CGMA) daughter of 26 years she owns valuable properties in Colombo and financial assets with stable returns. winpro1960@gmail.com
OB151535

Respectable Bodu Govi Business family seeks professionally qualified partner for their daughter Business Management Degree holder 25 years owns luxury house & vehicles, other substantial assets. Please reply family details and horoscope to Email; marriageproposal2520@gmail.com
OB151424

Respectable Bodu Govi Business family seeks professionally qualified partner for their daughter Business Management Degree holder 25 years owns luxury house & vehicles, other substantial assets. Please reply family details and horoscope to Email; marriageproposal2520@gmail.com
OB151424

Continued on
page 71

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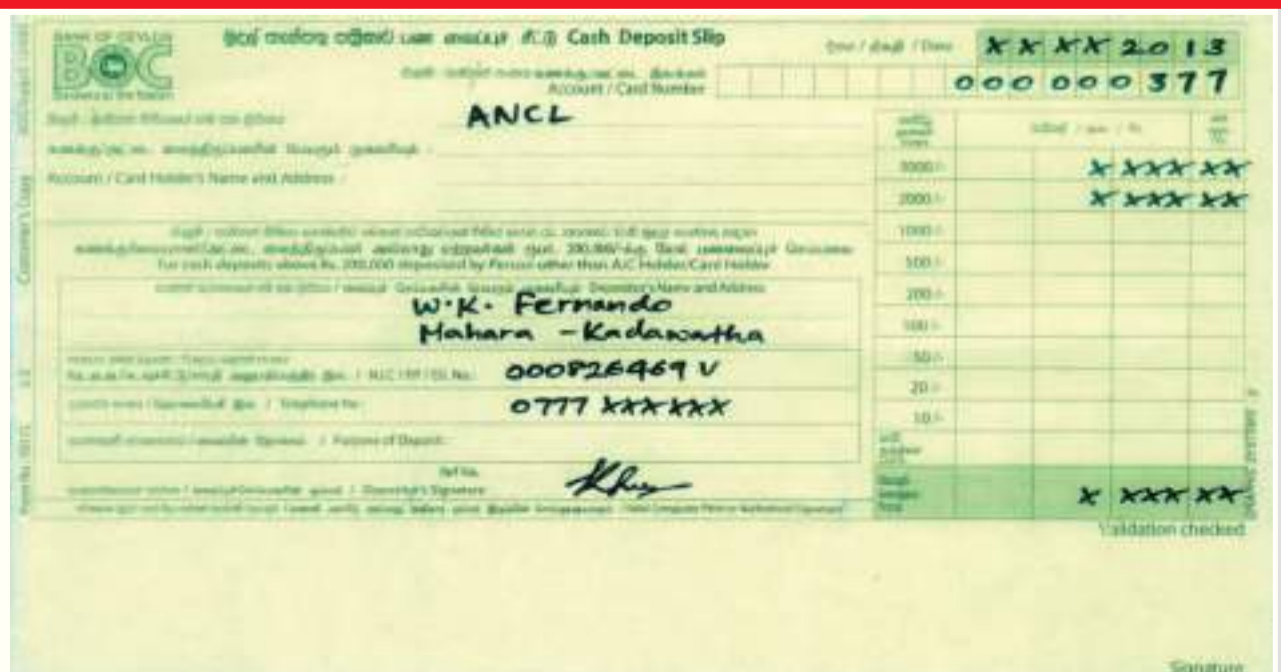
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Continued from page 70



Sinhala / Govigama Christian highly respected, Public Servant father seeks a partner, who is academically qualified and from a respectable Sinhala family for his daughter, pretty and English educated, 39 years old, academically and professionally qualified with substantial assets, who is divorced innocent party with no encumbrances. Works as a Manager in a private bank in Colombo. Email: victorious0166@gmail.com or call on 0112623508. OB151507

Sinhalese Buddhist/Karawa retired parents residing in Canada seek professionally qualified well-mannered son for their eldest daughter born in 1985, currently studying in a state medical faculty, Sri Lanka, completing M.B.B.S. in 2021, brought-up with Sri Lankan Buddhist values. Please reply with family details, horoscope, contact numbers to: proposallcan.sl@gmail.com OB151483

Sinhalese Buddhists parents seek a suitable partner for their daughter 27 y., professionally qualified Software Engineer working in a leading company in Colombo. Please reply with family details and the horoscope. Email : ravidramendis@yahoo.com OB151437

Sinhalese G/B parents residing in the UK, seek an educated, well built, handsome, well mannered son with good values for our only daughter. Born in 1985, 5'9" in height. She is academically, professionally qualified, kind and caring daughter brought up with Buddhist values. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email : mthusintha@gmail.com OB151636

Sri Lankan Moor parents from Australia are looking for a suitable professionally qualified, moderately religious, teetotaler and kind partner for their daughter BSc Civil Engineer, Australian citizen, 26 years old, 5'2" tall, slim, beautiful and well mannered. Only those who are willing to migrate or who are in Australia should email to fam17@outlook.com.au OB151677



Very respectable B/G/S parents seek well educated, professionally qualified kind hearted pet loving son from a similar family background who is willing to settle down in Sri Lanka for our only daughter born in 1996 Oct height 5'8" studied in a leading international school in Kandy. She graduated in hospitality management in Sri Lanka. Presently working at a well reputed five star hotel in Colombo. She inherits family assets such as houses in Colombo and Kandy, motor car and lands only elder brother is unmarried. Please contact family details. horoscope and contact details srilankaproposals60@gmail.com OB151591

Well connected Moor parents from Kandy, father a professional seek a religious qualified partner for their only daughter aged 35 working as an executive in a leading company in Colombo. contact - moorproposal2506@gmail.com OB151415

Well-mannered professionally qualified groom is sought by B/G business parents in US for their elder daughter 24 yrs., 5'6"presently employed as an Auditor. Reply with family details and horoscope. slproposal95@gmail.com OB151681

Western Province Govi Buddhist respectable family parents seek a suitable partner for the only daughter 1992/08 slim, 5'3", fair/pretty, excellent character, graduate (English), with assets. We seek a well-mannered, non-smoker, teetotaler, well-employed or well-established business son, from a respectable, Govi Buddhist family. prop ose7788@gmail.com OB151767

1982 height 5'3" G/B parents seek suitable partner for MA qualified daughter holding higher post. Reply with horoscope and Telephone Numbers. dulhari@hotmail.com OB151666

1985 B/G/RC 5'3" graduate, teacher in private school, only brother is a Doctor, she inherits assets. Buddhists welcome. Email: maproposal2017@gmail.com OB151417

1986, Buddhist, Karawa, height 5'6", Lawyer daughter, parents seek suitable partner. OB151556

1987 height 5'2", G/B parents seek suitable partner for HR qualified daughter holding Executive post. Reply with horoscope and Telephone Numbers. ashtrimandra@yahoo.com OB151662

1995 born Roman Catholic Govigama daughter 5', Colombo suburbs. Same caste educated gentleman is sought. swarnapala61@gmail.com OB151694

1997 June, Gampaha District Bodu Govi 5'3" eldest pretty daughter, studied in a Colombo girls' school. Doing a management degree at a government university. Private bank. Permanent employee. Parents seek good looking educated son from a decent family. Please reply with horoscope and family details. OB151595

1) Tamil Catholic Velalar, 26, 5'6", undergraduate, employed seeking handsome, qualified professional from SL/CAN/AUS. 0777 880303. vivaha@soulmatevivaha.lk OB151752

2) Moor parents Colombo 4, seeking handsome, qualified business or employed groom age below 30. hafsa@soulmate.lk OB151749

39, 5'2" Colombo Executive fair daughter seeking well-mannered son. Reply full details & horoscope. Assets 35m. propd a2015@gmail.com OB151698



Academically and professionally qualified preferably a Science Graduate or Lecturer, slim, pretty daughter is sought for 27 years old son of Buddhist Govi parents. He is handsome, 5'10" non-smoker with sober habits. Educated at a leading School in Colombo, qualified as a Mechatronics Engineer with BSc & MSc. and currently employed in Germany. prop3142@gmail.com OG151686

Academically qualified daughter is sought from Perth by Christian / Buddhist parents for son (5'6" - 1989 - Oct) in Western Australia. Email - ppropson2000@gmail.com 0812570875 after 9 p.m. OG151675

Academically qualified good looking daughter is sought by Sinhala Govi Buddhist / Catholic parents from Kandy well settled in Colombo for their handsome son, qualified Accountant, BSc, ACMA, born 1989, Canadian PR Holder, working as a Banker in Colombo with six figure salary. owns a car & inherits an upstairs house in Colombo suburbs. Height 5'6" differences immaterial. pr op1467@gmail.com OG151670

Academically qualified or an undergraduate fair pretty well-mannered daughter is sought by G/B parents for a relationship leading to marriage for their handsome N/S T/T 5'4", 1994 born son studied at leading school in Colombo works as a Mechanical Engineer in Australia PR expect. Reply family details with horoscope. adproposals20@gmail.com OG151770

Academically qualified, kind hearted, well mannered, pretty daughter who admires Sinhala Buddhist values, is sought by G/B parents in Colombo for their handsome smart 5'6" tall 1986 October born Australian citizen son working as an Electronic Engineer in a prestigious company in Australia. He graduated from Australian National University, lives in his own apartment. His only sister is an accountant married to a Software Engineer and residing in Australia too. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Sunny (Saturn) in 7th house. Email: nima.pali@gmail.com OG151606

An educated pleasant kind-hearted and well brought-up partner is sought by parents in Moratuwa for their son who is a Software Engineer by profession. He is 38 years, 5'6" tall and is a teetotaler/non smoker with pleasant mannerism. He inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: props882@gmail.com OG151551

An educated slim pretty kind daughter is sought by Buddhist Karawa respectable parents with means for their handsome son 32 5'8" NS/TT PhD holder in Science working as a University Lecturer. Inherits substantial assets. Brother Doctor. Caste immaterial. Reply to email: propo salmarriage8790@gmail.com OG151628

An intelligent, fun and kind daughter is sought by B/G parents living in Australia for their handsome, funny (according to himself), well-mannered and caring son, 5'9" and born in 1988. He grew up in Australia with strong family values, holds a double degree in Engineering (Hons) and Commerce, is ambitious with a career in an international consulting firm and other entrepreneurial pursuits. Caste and horoscope are immaterial to us. Australian citizens preferred. Please email your family details to lakdiv57@gmail.com OG151707

A well-established respectable business owned G/B parents from South seek an educated, pretty daughter for their 5'6" handsome, 35 years old son, graduated from a university in Australia and an entrepreneur, inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details and a copy of the horoscope. 041-2223332. OG151762

Bodu Govigama parents from affluent planter family seek a daughter for their only son 27 years (1993 April) 5'11" slim and tan educated at a 3 reputed school in Colombo and has completed BSc/MBA after working for a reputed company. He is currently engaged in family business. He inherits substantial assets including plantation and commercial properties. Brought up according to moral principles and values in a religious and cultural environment, non drinker, non smoker religion immaterial. tk21@live.com OG151597

A daughter below 37 yrs. and 5'10" height from good parents seek for smart pleasant son, BSc Engineer Sinhala Buddhist, living in Colombo suburb. Email : propoe ng2020@gmail.com OG151689

A qualified, kind daughter sought by B/G respectable parents from Colombo suburbs for 1983, 5'5", NS/TT, handsome, Accountant (BSc, MBA, CIMA) son, bank employed, inherits assets. mpsp gopoulos@gmail.com OG151684

A suitable partner is sort by Sri Lankan medical professional parents in the UK for their son fair, handsome good looking, tall 5 ft 10 in height, maintains a healthy lifestyle, never married slim, very young looking, 40 yrs, practicing Buddhist, non-smoker Senior professional level in Finance with prestigious academic qualifications, owns property in London. We are seeking a pretty, slim, academically and professionally qualified daughter below 38 yrs. Reply only by email and with the horoscope in the first instance to ukproposal272@gmail.com OG151713

A qualified, kind daughter sought by B/G respectable parents from Colombo suburbs for 1983, 5'5", NS/TT, handsome, Accountant (BSc, MBA, CIMA) son, bank employed, inherits assets. mpsp gopoulos@gmail.com OG151684

A qualified, kind daughter sought by B/G respectable parents from Colombo suburbs for 1983, 5'5", NS/TT, handsome, Accountant (BSc, MBA, CIMA) son, bank employed, inherits assets. mpsp gopoulos@gmail.com OG151684

A qualified, kind daughter sought by B/G respectable parents from Colombo suburbs for 1983, 5'5", NS/TT, handsome, Accountant (BSc, MBA, CIMA) son, bank employed, inherits assets. mpsp gopoulos@gmail.com OG151684

Bodu Govi American resident mother seeking an educated daughter residing in America for her son of 24 years studying for his Masters in Technological Management. larss29161988@gmail.com OG151583

Bodu Govi 1986 born Colombo suburbs 5'7", MBA (USQ), AIB (SL), MCIM (UK) passed owns a two storey house a jeep and other financial wealth. Parents seek a suitable daughter to fair, handsome, teetotaler Bank Manager son who earns a six figure salary, Kuja Sani 4, Non malefic horoscope. bnhproposal5@gmail.com OG151746

Buddhist Govi mother from Colombo suburbs seek an academically and professionally qualified kind-hearted daughter below 30 years for her well-mannered son 1986 July, 5'10", working as a Software Quality Assurance Engineer at a Multinational Software Company. He is continuing his MSc. also. He inherits assets. Please reply with family details and contact number along with the horoscope. Email - mproposal201906@gmail.com OG151763

Buddhist Govi / Salagama educated parents from Colombo seek an educated and beautiful bride for their 28 year old 5'8" tall handsome son who works at a reputed Civil Engineering Company in Australia. He is an engineering graduate of a reputed Australian University and holds Australian Permanent Residency (PR). He is a non-smoking teetotaler raised according to Buddhist values. We are seeking a daughter who would like to settle down in Australia after marriage. Please reply with horoscope and contact numbers. Caste is immaterial. Email: mprop.sm92@gmail.com OG151471

B/G mother from respectable upper middle class family in Colombo looking for a bride for her 38 year old Doctor son who is currently working in Western Europe. 5'10" in height, handsome with sober habits. Never married. Moving to the UK in the next year to pursue specialization. Please reply to proposal010118@yahoo.com OG151711

B/G professional parents W/Province seek daughter for their only son USA citizen 1987 NS/TT 5'8" reading PhD. Employed at U.S. Government in a professional capacity. Owns properties both in SL/USA, prefers to settle in Sri Lanka. n sap2017@gmail.com OG151782

B/G retired parents from Kandy seek a professionally qualified partner (preferably from USA/Canada) for their son (31 yrs, 6'2") who has completed his higher education (Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Computer Science) in USA and currently working as a Software Engineer at a technology company in USA. Reply with details to: dpcis925@gmail.com OG151612

B/G, Doctor parents seek, only an MBBS Doctor daughter for their 1988 May born 5'6" NS/TT MBBS (Foreign) Doctor son. Kuja in 8th position. No differences, please reply with family details & horoscope. md ohospital@gmail.com OG151441

B/K respectable parents seek a slim/fair, educated & kind hearted daughter with Sinhala Buddhist values for their MBA qualified son educated at a leading School in Colombo. NS/TT. Inherits valuable assets. Born in November 1989. Smart, friendly and well mannered. 5 ft 11 inch in height. Caste immaterial. Please forward horoscope and some photographs. May also reply by Email to humblebride61@gmail.com OG151019

Christian Sinhala parents from Colombo seek well-mannered and kind-hearted daughter for their NS/TT son who is 29 years old 5'8" tall. He is academically and professionally qualified and currently employed in the financial sector. He inherits land and property. Please email to snd751661@gmail.com OG151494

Colombo Bodu Govi Buddhist respectable family seeks a suitable well-mannered partner for their teetotaler son 34 years, height 6', handsome with own house employed in a popular shipping company (Rahu 7). OG151582

Colombo District parents looking for a Sinhala Buddhist less than 37 year bride for their 45 year old 5'7" fair handsome son. Divorced as the innocent party. Son is a Director in several companies, owns lands 2 houses and 2 vehicles. OG151459

Colombo suburb Govi/Salagama Buddhist retired professional parents seek preferably MBBS Doctor or a Medical student for our youngest handsome son Engineer employed born in 1992 November, height 5'7". Inherits two storeyed house and a luxury car. Reply with family details horoscope and telephone number. OG151614

Engineer (BSc.) 45, 5'10" height seeks very fair and pretty bride below 38 years for early silent marriage, he has his own house and properties. Differences are immaterial. mph240@gmail.com OG151738

Father Buddhist Govi retired Consultant mother Govi Catholic housewife seek a well educated kind and caring fair pretty Buddhist daughter from a respectable family below 36 years over 5'3" in height who is a citizen/PR holder or who is willing to migrate for their only son 38 years (looks much younger) 5'11" very smart with sober habits and fluent in English. He studied in a leading college in Colombo. BSc (Hons) IT (Uni-Colombo) MBA in IT (Uni-Moratuwa). He is an Australian citizen and works for a reputed company as a senior consultant in Australia. He will inherit substantial assets. Only sister well married. Malefic horoscope with Shani 7th and Kuja, Guru 8th house. Legally separated from a brief unsuccessful deceived marriage (registration only). Please reply with full details, contact number and horoscope in the first letter. E-mail: lahiru.38@yahoo.com Phone: 038-2235044. OG151490

Gampaha, Bodu Govi parents seek a fair, pretty and educated daughter for their 1986 born 6' in height son, employed in the private sector in Senior Management level. He's a Royalist, inherited with valuable family assets. Respond with all details to E-mail : priyasw1986@gmail.com OG151642

Gampaha, Bodu Govi parents seek a fair, pretty and educated daughter for their 1986 born 6' in height son, employed in the private sector in Senior Management level. He's a Royalist, inherited with valuable family assets. Respond with all details to E-mail : priyasw1986@gmail.com OG151642

Govi Buddhist mother seeks professionally qualified partner for son from well-established family. He is aged 34, 5'11", CIMA (UK), MBA (Australia) qualified manager working for a multinational company in UK. Earns good salary, owns house in Nawala. He is divorced following a short marriage (2016), innocent party and no encumbrances. He is very caring, kind-hearted person with Sri Lankan traditional and family values. Proposals from families in the UK are welcomed. Please email: ruki.yasmin@gmail.com with horoscope and family details. (Non malefic horoscopes are preferred). OG151413

Govi/Buddhist, age 36+, height 5'8", handsome, MCIM, MBA, currently holding a senior management position in a multinational company with a monthly salary of over Rs. 800, 000/-. Divorced as the plaintiff, from first unsuccessful marriage. No children or encumbrances. Parents seek a pretty suitably educated daughter. E-mail details mandakinhomes@gmail.com OG151533

Govi, 33, 5'11" good looking, kind-hearted, educated proprietor son, running well established business, seeks an extremely pretty, well-mannered, educated partner between 22 and 29 years. Caste, creed, dowry, immaterial. Interested parties may respond to maliga378@gmail.com OG151885

G/B parents seek academically qualified daughter living in Australia for son 1986 5'6" IT Engineer living in Sydney reply with horoscope copy. 0112901401. Email: marriagepropzal@gmail.com OG151623

G/B parents seek academically qualified daughter living in Australia for son 1986 5'6" IT Engineer living in Sydney reply with horoscope copy. 0112901401. Email: marriagepropzal@gmail.com OG151623

Kandyan B/G parents living in Colombo looking for a well-mannered pretty daughter for their 34 years old son. Educated in a leading school in Colombo, fair and handsome, height 5'10", professionally qualified and now operating his own business. Inherits property land and vehicles. Please reply with family and horoscope details to kandypropo@gmail.com OG151443

Kandyan B/G parents seek a well educated pretty daughter (preferably a Doctor or studying in Med school) to introduce to our 30 yrs old 5'11" of height younger son, who is a permanent resident in the UK, currently working as an Executive for a reputable company in London after higher studies (BA, MA). Please email us with family details to; aknpproposal@gmail.com OG151590

Kandyan B/G parents seek a well educated pretty daughter (preferably a Doctor or studying in Med school) to introduce to our 30 yrs old 5'11" of height younger son, who is a permanent resident in the UK, currently working as an Executive for a reputable company in London after higher studies (BA, MA). Please email us with family details to; aknpproposal@gmail.com OG151590

Kandyan Govi Buddhist respectable parent seeks slim pretty qualified bride from a compatible family background for son having Masters Degree, well-employed IT professional in UK. He is 40 yrs, 5'9" fair and smart with sober habits. manthri.804@gmail.com OG151118

Kandyan Govi Buddhist 53 yrs. MSc Civil Engineer Company Director pretty educated bride below 40 yrs. seeks from same caste and religion. Details and horoscope needed. OG151445

Kandyan G/B family seeks educated pretty daughter above 5'4" height for younger son 5'7" tall born in 1982. He is Chartered Management Accountant and CFA Chartered Holder occupying management position in an International Company in London. He holds UK Sri Lanka dual citizenships and values Sri Lankan Buddhist culture. Reply with FB horoscope and family information to: kandyangb88@gmail.com OG151617

Kandy, Buddhist, Govi parents seek a well-mannered daughter for only child son 27 years, Science Graduate employed in executive grade in a leading private institution. Replies with horoscopes anticipated. OG151408

Moor family seeks bride son Management Assistant Government sector age 32 yrs. height 5'8" prefer Colombo. nikaham uslms@yahoo.com 2534396. OG151460

Our one and only son 39 Govi/Buddhist Australian citizen 5'11" fair in complexion and medium built, possesses own house in Melbourne, well employed and assets in Colombo, professional and respectable parents looking for a kind-hearted, understanding, cultured and educated partner from a respectable family for marriage. Legally separated after an incompatible and deceitful marriage, innocent party and receive one kid when marriage is annulled shortly. If interested please communicate for further details. rakitha add1@outlook.com OG151527

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 OG151384

Pretty fair slim academically qualified simple daughter is sought by business parents from Colombo or Kandy for their handsome average built 5'10", 29 year old Catholic son, studied at a leading boys' school in Colombo, with a good family background. He is a fitness enthusiast and a simple person. Finished his BBA in 2015, currently working at a leading global IT company. Owns substantial assets. Please reply to p roposalmr11@gmail.com OG151541

Pretty fair slim academically qualified simple daughter is sought by business parents from Colombo or Kandy for their handsome average built 5'10", 29 year old Catholic son, studied at a leading boys' school in Colombo, with a good family background. He is a fitness enthusiast and a simple person. Finished his BBA in 2015, currently working at a leading global IT company. Owns substantial assets. Please reply to p roposalmr11@gmail.com OG151541

Continued on page 72

Continued from page 71



Reputed Businessman, Buddhist, 52 years. wife expired. Alone with a son, seeks a beautiful, intelligent partner with or without children. 0114169680. OG151690

Respectable affluent established Bodu Govi business partners seek a suitable daughter for their son born in 1988 Oct. 5'11", educated at prominent Christian boys school, BSc/MBA qualified, established businessman with pleasing personality. NS/TT. E-mail: nilmini.k1961@gmail.com OG151774

Respectable B/G family from Colombo with well-mannered 2 sons born & brought-up abroad. Elder son 1989/5'8" NS/TT, completed his MBA and Bachelor's from UK universities, currently in the country. Prefers reside in Sri Lanka. Younger son 1990, height 5'9" NS/TT working abroad, is an Engineer, completed his Bachelor's & Masteres from UK universities, we are looking for pleasant, well-mannered kind caring educated daughter from B/G family, grow up with Sinhala Buddhist values. Kindly email with family details, horoscope & contact numbers. nath Sperera@gmail.com OG151525

Respectable Govi/Buddhist retired parents from Colombo seek an educated pretty & loving, kind-hearted daughter for our 35 years old younger son, 5'5" in height, kind-hearted, well-mannered, educated in a leading boys' school in Colombo, have a Masters in Business Management and Information System from a university in Los Angeles, USA. Only elder brother married and currently lives in the USA. He was a Product Manager at Google and now owns a company. The proposed son also works at the same company with his brother and co-owns another company in Rajagiriya (Physiotherapy clinic). He owns a vehicle and other valuable assets along with a house in Kaduwela. (Kuja dosha Nethi, Rahu dosha Athi, Shani dosha Athi). Kindly write with horoscope and family details in English or Sinhala in the first letter or email to mahindajj@gmail.com OG151461

Roman Catholic Tamil Indian origin parents seek a pretty kind-hearted daughter for son 34 years 6' handsome employed in a leading Airline. Contact - 0112737168. OG151532

R.C. father (an Engineer) mother (Ayurvedic Doctor) live in Canada seek a daughter with similar background for their son 26 years, 5'6", BSc. Degree holder works in a University. Special attention Ja-Ela Chilaw area. n avodaniperera@gmail.com OG151688

Sinhala Buddhist professional parents seek a suitable daughter from a respectable family for their son to get to know each other with parents' consent before getting married. Engineering student in a foreign university, 20 years old, height 5'10", very handsome and disciplined. Forward complete details to: khjdj@yahoo.com OG151479

Sinhala Catholic, age 26, dual citizen living in UK for last 16 years, Masters in Engineering qualified, employed as a professional in financial sector, 5'9" tall, handsome, excellent character, only son with inherited substantial wealth. Looking for kind hearted, pretty daughter with similar respects preferably from UK. Contact 011-2939501. Email: jrpa9414@gmail.com OG151513

Sinhala, Buddhist respectable family living in USA is looking for a bride for our handsome 5'6" well mannered son, born in 1987. Royalist, graduated as an Aircraft Engineer (UK), living in US. He inherits properties both in US and Sri Lanka. The prospective daughter to be good natured & educated, living in the US only. Please reply with details & the horoscope. 7604246667. mproposal1987@yahoo.com OG151668

Sinhalese, Catholic parents residing in Sri Lanka, seeking an educated and kind hearted daughter preferably live in Melbourne for their professionally qualified son 31 years, 5'9" handsome and slim. He is well mannered and caring, an engineering graduate, dual citizen residing in Melbourne and employed at an engineering firm within the non-profit sector. Religion and caste immaterial. Please reply with family details to: shirpei56@gmail.com OG151603

S/B parents from Colombo suburbs seeking a pleasant well-mannered caring daughter below 33 years for their youngest son 35 years 5'8" fair good-looking and kind-hearted employed as a Consultant in a foreign based IT Company, educated abroad fluent in English and Spanish. Having two elder brothers both married and one brother living in NZ with his family. Mesha lagna Shani in 7th divorced from 7 month incompatible marriage as Plain-tiff. Cultured foreign nationals also considered. Please reply with the horoscope. Email : mprop4579@gmail.com OG151401

Very respectable B/G/S parents seek a pretty well mannered and kind hearted daughter from a similar family background who is willing to settle down in Sri Lanka for our only son born in 1993 Nov height 5'8" studied at Trinity College, Kandy. He holds a bachelor of business, MBA, CIM, currently working as an Executive in a reputed apparel manufacturing company in Colombo. He inherits family assets such as houses in Colombo and Kandy, and Kegalle, motor vehicle and lands. His only younger sister is not married. Please reply with family details, horoscope and contact details. srilankaproposals60@gmail.com OG151593

We are Govi/Buddhist family living in USA. Retired parents looking for pretty slim educated girl who brought up S/L Buddhist values for our son. He is an US citizen. He graduated from prestigious university. He is an Executive PMP IT Project Manager, work for the US Government. Our son born in October 1992, 5'9". He is kind-hearted smart handsome boy who values S/L tradition. Please reply with horoscope, family details and contact phone numbers. Email: nsekara557@gmail.com OG151719

Wishwa Buddhist parents from respectable business family with an established business in Kalutara District, seeking for an educated, pretty, well-mannered daughter from a business family, for their only son 1994, 5'6" handsome well-mannered. He inherits valuable assets. Shani Kuja in 7th house. Reply with horoscope and family details. OG151493

1989 February Gampaha Bodu Govi Assistant Director at Central Bank of Sri Lanka 5'10", educated in a leading school in Colombo and BSc (1st Class) graduated from University of Colombo with ACMA (UK) CGMA. Mother (retired teacher) seeks a well mannered beautiful kind-hearted daughter for handsome well mannered NS/TT son. Kuja 7. mprop369@gmail.com OG151562

1992-08 son born in Colombo respectable Buddhist parents seek pretty, slim MBBS Doctor, Engineer, Lawyer, Lecturer or similar final year university student, daughter from a Buddhist respectable family for our handsome NS/TT MBBS Government Doctor son 5'10" in height. Owns assets in Colombo. Reply with horoscope. Tel: 0112883399. Email: marryingproposals@gmail.com OG151769

30 years unmarried Sinhala Buddhist son graduated from Japanese university and living in Japan. He is very helpful person for everyone. He is an understanding lovable and caring person for his partner and her parents. Height 5'6" maintains healthy lifestyle, likes to travel around the world. Looking for educated girl specially with Kuja Dosh. Parents also live in Japan. Please call or email: Tel: +819097956368. Email: donnwi2112@gmail.com OG151742

3) Bodu Govi unmarried 35, 5'7", MBA, Manager, financially stable seeking pretty, stylish, educated bride. 0777 880303. v ivaha@soulmateviva.ha.lk OG151753


Respectable family from Colombo needs a service of a Marriage Broker. Phone: 0774908170

Marriage Broker
Services of an efficient Marriage Broker having good contacts in Colombo and its suburbs wanted. Contact: 0779747694

BRIDEGROOM

A wealthy, respectable, Sinhala Buddhist family of a well-known ancestry from Colombo is searching for a kind-hearted and beautiful daughter (caste is not important), between the ages of 23 and 31 and taller than 5'1" for marriage to 34 year old (born in (1986), 6'2" tall, intelligent, very handsome son with Buddhist values. He has a good personality, is highly educated (University education was in the U.K.) and does not drink alcohol or smoke. He owns a company and is a share-holder and Director of another company in Colombo and hopes to continue to live in Sri Lanka. He owns a house in Colombo 03 and will inherit substantial wealth, including valuable income-generating commercial buildings in Colombo. Please email relevant details, which will be treated as confidential to,

happymarprop@gmail.com
or write to,
O151731
C/o Sunday Observer,
Lake House, Colombo 10.


Zahira College

TENDER NOTICE - COLLEGE CANTEEN

Zahira College, herby invites interested parties to bid for tenders to run the school canteen in 03 locations at the college premises from 01st January 2021.


Terms and Conditions

- Bakery foods are limited, based on Nutrition Programme by the Ministry of Education. (Circular No. 2011/03 dated 18.01.2011- available at college office)
- Bidders should be able to provide hygienic Nutritious Foods only.

Potential Bidders can obtain a copy of the "Tender Offer" and "Terms & Conditions of Agreement" from the College Office on any working day from 02nd October, 2020 until 09th October, 2020 between 08.00 am and 02.00 pm upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00 in cash.

The submission of duly completed forms in sealed envelopes should reach the below mentioned address on or before 15th October 2020, by 12.00 noon at the latest.

Principal
Zahira College
406, Orabi Pasha Road, Colombo 10.
www.zahiracollege.lk


Zahira College

TENDER NOTICE COLLEGE BOOKSHOP

Zahira College having a student population of over 5000 and covering all three mediums, English, Sinhala & Tamil requires the services of a potential vendor to operate the school bookshop.

Location : Basement Area of the 01st Building (Science Building) at the entrance.

Space : Approx. 750 Sq feet with a retail window outlet facing the road area at the entrance of the school premises.

Period : Three (3) years from the date of acceptance, subject to extending the contract at the end of each year based on satisfactory performance during the year.

Potential Bidders can obtain a copy of the "Tender Offer" and "Terms & Conditions of Agreement" from the College Office on any working day from 02nd October, 2020 until 09th October, 2020 between 08.00 am and 02.00 pm upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00 in cash

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Principal
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www.zahiracollege.lk


University College of Batangala

Procurement Notice

Supplying of the Cleaning and Security Services – 2020/2021

01) The Chairman of the procurement committee, University College of Batangala invites the eligible bidders to bid for the tasks given below.

Bid Number	Description	Refundable Bid Security Fee (Rs.)
UCB/GA/AR/A/2/2/4/2020	Procurement of Cleaning Service for University College of Batangala	45,000.00
UCB/GA/AR/A/1/2/4/2020	Procurement of Security Service for University College of Batangala	65,000.00

02) The invitation for bids will be done according to the National Competitive Bidding.
03) Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Assistant Registrar of the University College on working days of the week from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
Contact Number: 036-2235572
04) The bid Documents can be purchased for Rs. 5,000.00 from the Administrative Division of the University College, Batangala. The issuing of the bid documents will be done from 28th September 2020 to 19th October 2020 on working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
05) The Bid Number should be clearly written on the left hand side top corner of the envelope and the bids should be sent to address; **Chairman, Procurement Committee, University College of Batangala, Panawala, Eheliyagoda.** through registered post or can be put in to the tender box which is placed in the Administrative Office of the University College. The bidding for provision of both Security Service and Cleaning Service will be closed on 20th October 2020 at 2.00 p.m.
Bids will be opened soon after the closing of bids. For the opening of bids, the bidder or a representative of the bidder (with an authority delegating letter) can be participated.
06) Pre bid meeting will be held on 05th October 2020 at 10.00 a.m. at the Board Room of the University College of Batangala.
07) The Procurement Committee of the University College reserves the right to accept or reject any bid at any of the time.

**Assistant Registrar,
University College of Batangala, Batangala.
Tel. No: 036-2235572**

**QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF
COMPLETE FRONT CABIN & RECONDITION GEAR BOX**

LPA/07/2020

Sealed quotations are hereby invited for the supply of "Front Cabin & Recondition Gear Box" as specified below.

01. Front Cabin (Complete) - 01 No. (With Chassis Repair)


Specification:
ISUZU — NKR
Right Hand Drive
Brand New Model — 2006
12 V
4 JBI Engine
Non A/C

02. Recondition Gear Box - 01 No.
(Complete Engine)
Specifications:
ISUZU - NMR
4 JBI Engine — Brand New Model
Reward NM

General Conditions:

- Offers with specifications should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Front Cabin & Recondition Gear Box" on the top left hand corner.
- Offers should be sent to Head of Procurement to reach on or before 07 October 2020 at 2.30 p.m. No separate documents will be issued. Suppliers may use their own formalities.
- Probable date of delivery, Validity of price, Terms of payment, Transport Charges, VAT and other Levies etc. to be clearly indicated on offers.

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.


LAKE HOUSE
Head of Procurement
THE ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF CEYLON LIMITED
No. 35, Lake House,
D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.
011-2429422 / 2429451

 Sunday Observer 

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