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Present written complaint if Brandix violated health protocols - Nimal Siripala de Silva

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva has informed trade unions to present a written complaint to the Labour Commissioner if the Brandix management, Minuwangoda had apparently failed to follow safety and health protocols so that an independent inquiry could be conducted on it.

If there is any written complaint from the trade unions, the Labour Minister has directed the Labour Commissioner to conduct an independent inquiry and pres-

ent him a report regarding allegations levelled by several trade unions whether the Brandix management had apparently failed to follow health guidelines, a Labour Ministry Spokesman told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

Following a recent discussion with the Labour Minister, some trade unions had complained that Brandix had apparently failed to follow the health guidelines and they had agreed to present a written complaint on it.

Some garment trade unions had alleged that the employees of

the Minuwangoda Brandix garment factory had been employed without proper health and safety measures.

The Minister had told the trade unions that the management of such factories or any other companies were bound to follow the relevant safety and health protocols, gazetted by the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance. The Minister said, "If we find that the company has not followed the safety protocols, action can be taken against them according to the quarantine law."



IN KEEPING WITH TRAVEL BUBBLE CONCEPT Chinese delegation adhered to Covid-19 protocols

By Manjula Fernando

The Foreign Ministry yesterday confirmed that the visiting top Chinese delegation adhered to strict Covid-19 health protocols and their visit was in keeping with a travel bubble concept to prevent any contamination either way. The Foreign Ministry's China Desk Director General B.Kandeeppan told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday that their brief visit (24 hours) was a long overdue engagement.

"President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was to travel to China this year but the trip was postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak," he said adding that the visit was important in all aspects of bi-lateral relations for the country, especially in the backdrop of the government trying to overcome the pandemic effects to the country's economy. The high level delegation headed by former Foreign Minister, key Political Bureau



Member of the Communist Party and Diplomat Yan Jeichi included China's International Development Cooperation Agency Chairman Wang Xiatao and Chinese Foreign Ministry official Cheng Song.

The Chinese team comprising 26 delegates had produced PCR test results taken before their departure. Three floors of the Shangri-la Hotel were reserved for their overnight stay.

The close contacts of the officials were subject to PCR tests after their departure on Friday and the hotel was also disinfected as a precautionary measure.

The delegation was escorted to the Shangri-la Hotel from the charter flight which arrived at the Bandaranaike International airport. ▶ TO PAGE 12

PEOPLE'S VIGILANCE VITAL FOR NEXT 10 DAYS

Brandix cluster identified

- Army Commander



The National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 (NOCP) has successfully traced all workers of Brandix, Minuwangoda by yesterday morning, Head of NOCP and Army Commander, Lt. General Shavendra Silva told the media. While Covid-19 positive ap-

parel workers are being treated at several hospitals dedicated to Covid-19 treatment, the others are at three quarantine centres run by the Sri Lanka Army. The NOCP head said that about 3,000 persons of families of Brandix workers are now in quarantine. ▶ TO PAGE 2

OVER 100 GOVT MPS MAKE WRITTEN REQUEST TO PRESIDENT

Re-arrest Riyaj Bathiudeen



By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Over 100 Government MPs have made a written request to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to re-arrest and conduct a fresh probe into the allegations levelled against former Minis-

ter Rishad Bathiudeen's brother Riyaj Bathiudeen who was arrested on suspicion of involvement in last year's terrorist attack on Easter Sunday. A letter signed by more than two-thirds of Government lawmakers claiming that Riyaj Bathiudeen was released by the CID without following proper legal procedure was handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister... ▶ TO PAGE 2



Health workers busy sanitising the Nalanda College examination centre in Colombo yesterday in view of the Grade Five Scholarship examination today and the GCE Advanced Level examination which begins tomorrow, October 12, which were postponed due to Covid-19. Over 300,000 students will sit the Grade V Scholarship examination at 2,936 centres. Around 362,000 students will sit the GCE Advanced Level examination at 2,648 centres. Pic: Rukmal Gamage

Three National Hospital staffers detected with Covid-19

Three members of the minor staff at the National Hospital, Colombo, have tested positive for Covid-19.

Health Ministry sources said Wards and an operating theatre were temporarily closed following the detection of the staffers with Covid-19. A female student of Sri Jaywardenepura University has also tested positive for

Covid-19. Sources said that the undergraduate is a third-year student of the Management Faculty and a resident of Panadura.

She has been admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH).

A female student from Veyangoda, who was staying with the virus-infected student, has been referred to a PCR test, Vice Chancellor of the University, Senior Prof. Sudantha Liyanage said.



SC determination on 20A in House on October 20

The Supreme Court determination on the petitions filed against the 20th Amendment to the Constitution will be presented in Parliament on October 20.

The Supreme Court determination regarding the constitutionality of the 20th Amendment Draft Bill has already been referred to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana. The Speaker will convey the Court

determination when Parliament convenes on October 20.

The Draft Bill was presented to Parliament on September 22 by Justice Minister Ali Sabri. The new Amendment was gazetted on September 2 and included in the Parliament Order Paper on September 22.

The 20th Amendment will replace the 19th Amendment to the

Constitution enacted in May 2015 during the tenure of the former Yaha-palana Government and will restore the powers of the Executive President which were scaled down in the 19th Amendment.

However, a few salient features such as the two-term limit on the



Presidency and the five-year term limit on the President and Parliament have been retained in the 20th Amendment. ▶ TO PAGE 2

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NEWS



A petition signed by 100 Government parliamentarians on the sudden release of Rishad Bathiudeen's brother Riyaj Bathiudeen from remand custody, was handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa by Provincial Councils and Local Government State Minister Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekera recently. Riyaj Bathiudeen was held in connection with the Easter Sunday terror attacks



Thinakaran, the sister paper of the *Sunday Observer* re-launched a special supplement titled *Vadakkinn Udayam* at a ceremony at the Kailasabapathy Auditorium of the Jaffna University recently. Here Lake House Chairman and Managing Director W. Dayaratne PC (fourth from left), Advertising DGM Waruna Mallawaarachchi, *Thinakaran* Chief Editor T Senthilvelavar, Legal and Administration Director Rakhitha Abeyagoonawardhana, Sales DGM R. S. N. Adhikari, Operations Director Canishka G. Witharana, Editorial Director Dharma Sri Kariyawasam and Finance Director Janaka Ranatunga at the launching ceremony.

Hospitals are safe - Dr. Sudath Samaraweera

BY NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

People should not fear to visit hospitals to obtain medical treatment because hospitals are safe and patients suspected of having contracted Covid-19 are isolated and treated separately at the OPD, Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Sudath Samaraweera told the media on Friday. According to Dr. Samaraweera, if people avoid hospitals they could die from other health ailments and not Covid-19.

Therefore, people should seek medical treatment from hospitals. The best example for the safety at hospitals is the health staff of

the IDH and all other hospitals did not get infected with Covid-19 even after moving closely with Covid-19 patients. This was due to the health guidelines.

Therefore, people should follow health guidelines at all times. Dr. Samaraweera said that irrespective of whether it is within or outside hospitals, the method of transmission is the same and, therefore, the only way of preventing transmission is by following health guidelines.

No child will get infected if he or she goes to their examination centres for the exam and return home following health guidelines.

Brandix cluster identified...

"All Covid-19 patients, we identified recently from the community are contacts of the same cluster. We traced their contacts and got confirmation that it is the same cluster" he said, cautioning that Covid-19 patients could still be found in the second and third tier contacts. He said that the risk of the Covid-19 pandemic is still in the community. "The public has to be vigilant about their social behaviour for 10 days more," he added. With the 14

new Covid-19 cases reported by Friday night, the number of Covid-19 cases in the Minuwangoda cluster had increased to 1,083, the health authorities said yesterday. An attendant at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo and a daughter of a nurse of the Panadura Base Hospital are also among the latest cases. A part of the Panadura Hospital was closed temporarily as a result. By noon yesterday, the number of active cases was 1,214.

SC determination on...

The 20th Amendment Bill needs a two-thirds majority in Parliament, including those who are not present, for approval.

Thirty-nine petitions have been filed against the Draft Bill of the 20th Amendment at the Supreme Court, citing the Attorney General as respondent.

The Supreme Court concluded the consideration of petitions filed challenging the 20th Amendment Draft Bill on October 5.

During the hearing, Attorney General Dappula de Livera said all the provisions contained in the Draft Bill of the 20th Amendment are in accordance with the Constitution.

The petitions were filed by Election Commission member Prof. Ratnajeewan Hoole, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), UNP General Secretary Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, UNP Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene, SJB Youth Wing Chairman Mayantha Dissanayake and Attorney-at-Law P. Liyanaarachchi of the Sirilaka Janatha Peramuna, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), former Governor and Executive Director of the Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE) Ranjith Keerthi Tennakoon, human rights activist Abdul Zanoon and several others.

Ministers Nimal Siripala de Silva, Gamini Lokuge and Prof. G.L. Peiris had filed intervenient petitions seeking permission to present cross-submissions pertaining to the petitions challenging the 20th Amendment draft Bill.

In addition, SLPP General Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam, Ven. Omare Kassapa Thera, M. Dayaratne, W.A. Weerathilake and P.G.B. Abeyratne had also filed intervenient petitions.

Re-arrest Riyaj Bathiudeen...

Mahinda Rajapaksa by Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage at Temple Trees on Friday (October 9). The Government MPs in their letter have stated that despite strong evidence, Riyaj Bathiudeen was released by the CID on September 30 without presenting him in court.

Riyaj Bathiudeen was arrested by the CID on suspicion of aiding and abetting the terrorists who carried out the Easter Sunday attacks.

Over 100 SLPP parliamentarians have called on the President and the Prime Minister to conduct a full investigation on this act by the CID and to re-arrest Riyaj Bathiudeen and enforce the law in a proper manner.

The letter, signed by 100 Government MPs pointed out that when Riyaj Bathiudeen was arrested the former Police Spokesman claimed that there was enough evidence that Bathiudeen had links with one of the suicide bombers.

"The former Police Spokesman clearly said that it had been found that Bathiudeen had met that sui-

cide bomber at a popular hotel a few days before the terror attack."

Former Army Commander General Mahesh Senanayaka told the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI), probing the 2019 Easter Sunday terror attack that the military intelligence said that Bathiudeen had helped Zahran Hashim to flee to India in 2018. In such a backdrop, the CID has released him even without producing him before court on September 30. This arbitrary conduct of the CID should be investigated thoroughly," the letter stated.

State Minister of Internal Security Chamal Rajapaksa told Parliament that Riyaj Bathiudeen was released because the CID confirmed that he had no direct links to terrorism.

However, Minister Rajapaksa said that releasing Riyaj Bathiudeen from detention of the police probing the Easter Sunday carnage did not mean that the suspect was vindicated from all charges. The Minister said that the suspect would be taken into custody if new evidence linked to him surfaced.

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Sri Lanka will be developed similar to China – President

■ Relations with SL, a key priority of President Xi ■ China will stand with Sri Lanka at international fora ■ Port City will be completed expeditiously

The head of the high-level delegation from the People's Republic of China assured President Gotabaya Rajapaksa of China's continued support to Sri Lanka for the success of the country's development drive during its brief visit last week.

The present status of bilateral relations between China and Sri Lanka is highly satisfactory. Maintaining and promoting this friendship is a key priority of President Xi Jinping. The head of the delegation said that China will firmly stand with Sri Lanka to protect the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity at international fora including the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The seven-member delegation led by Yang Jiechi, Politburo member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee called on President Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat on Friday.

Holding several high-level positions at China's Foreign Ministry Jiechi served as Chinese Ambassador to the United States from 2001-2005 and Foreign Minister of China from 2007-2013. His current position in the Chinese administrations is equivalent to Vice Premier level.

Extending President Xi's congratulations to President Rajapaksa over the landslide victories at the recent elections, Yang recalled that he visited Sri Lanka 35 years ago as an interpreter assisting a visiting Chinese delegation. He said that Sri Lanka is the first country in his four-nation tour of Asia adding that the President of China gave priority to the enhancement of bilateral relations with Sri Lanka.

President Rajapaksa commenced the discussion by expressing satisfaction over the current state of Sino-Sri Lanka relations and said China has been a long-standing friend who supported Sri Lanka irrespective of the government in power. China extensively supported us to defeat terrorism. Bilateral relations reached a higher level following the end of the battle against terrorism. He especially recalled the contribution of China for the development of country's infrastructure facilities.

Development projects

"China had contributed to a number of large-scale infrastructure development projects. Hambantota Port, the Port City project and Southern Expressway are some of them. Constructing a port in Hambantota was an idea of Sri Lanka and not China's. We were convinced that it would be a project with a vast potential for generating income and employment opportunities.

China offered to fund it. Many geo-political analysis interpreted this project as 'debt trap' set up by China to gain control over Sri Lankan affairs. I want to prove that it is not the case and that this large-scale project will help improve the living standards of the people. Assist us in this endeavour," President told the Chinese delegation.

The President said that he had toured China 13 times prior to the assumption of Presidency and said he had seen first-hand the development progress that China had achieved. "I have seen massive development especially in rural areas. My target is to bring about similar development especially in rural areas in Sri Lanka and to raise the living conditions of the people in this country, especially that of the poor. I look forward to seeing a visible progress in the Port City project over the next four years", the President said.

President Rajapaksa said that Sri Lanka's trade deficit with China is high and called on the leader of the delegation to increase the volume of goods purchased from Sri Lanka to bring it down.

"Sri Lanka has a strong private sector. They manufacture various products. Open the Chinese market for these items. Encourage Chinese investors to invest in Sri Lanka. Promote Chinese people to visit Sri Lanka."

Lanka. If China can participate in Sri Lanka's tea auction, it will be a major boost to economic stability", the President remarked. Explaining the limited tertiary educational opportunities available to Sri Lanka youth who pass GCE Advanced Level examination, President said setting up a University of Technology for them will be an area where China can invest in Sri Lanka.

Jiechi said that China's assistance will not be just lip service but concrete action to achieve the development goals contained in *Saubhagya* *Dekma* policy statement.

China has identified several areas

conducive for the development of bilateral relations with Sri Lanka. In addition to completing large-scale projects already under-way, these include agriculture, education, tourism, water supply, healthcare, medical supplies, modern technology, digital economy, Blue Economy and labour training.

Plans afoot to recommence discussions on the China – Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement and to complete the Hambantota Industrial Scheme expeditiously. We are eagerly waiting for President Rajapaksa to undertake an off 19 pandemic successfully contained globally, Jiechi

said. Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency Wang Xiaotao, Assistant Foreign Minister of China Deng Lee, Hu Wei, Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka, Chen Song, Deputy Director General of Department of Asian Affairs at the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardene, Secretary to the President P. B. Jayasundera, Principal Advisor to the President Lalith Weeraratunga, Foreign Secretary Admiral Jayanath Colombage and Sri Lanka's Ambassador Designate to China Dr. Palitha Kohona were also present at the discussion.



Former Chinese Foreign Minister and the current Communist Party Political Bureau Member Yang Jiechi in conversation with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

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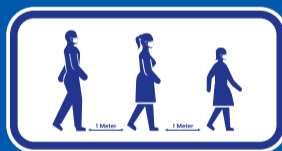


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CHINA HAD CONTRIBUTED TO A NUMBER OF LARGE-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE HAMBANTOTA PORT, THE PORT CITY PROJECT AND SOUTHERN EXPRESSWAY ARE SOME OF THEM. CONSTRUCTING A PORT IN HAMBANTOTA WAS AN IDEA OF SRI LANKA AND NOT CHINA'S.

Govt. all out to check spread of Covid-19 - Minister Dr.Ramesh Pathirana

By
Uditha
Kumarasinghe



Plantation Minister Dr.Ramesh Pathirana said the Government is taking all measures to control the spread of the fresh Covid-19 cluster that emerged at the Brandix plant in Minuwangoda. The Minister in an interview with the *Sunday Observer* said there is no need to panic as the Government has already taken all precautionary measures to address the situation. However, we might need to take further action depending on the evolving situation, so that we are closely monitoring the situation, he said. Dr.Pathirana said at the same time, the people must ensure that they protect themselves by adapting to the social norms they have been practising during the past few months. The people have forgotten the danger posed by Covid-19 and started to relax their guard since the Government controlled the pandemic efficiently compared to most other countries.

Q: Is there a second wave of Covid-19 outbreak in Sri Lanka due to the fresh cluster that emerged at the Brandix plant in Minuwangoda?

A: We have experienced such an outcome relating to this pandemic a couple of times earlier as well. The Kandakadu Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre for drug addicts were used to treat Covid-19 patients. We have managed to control those Covid-19 cases well.

However, this time around it seems to be a relatively large outbreak and over 1,000 people in an apparel factory at Minuwangoda have been infected with the virus. The Government is taking all precautions to prevent the spread of the disease. Within a couple of days, we will have to analyse the situation and take other necessary steps.

Q: The health authorities have warned that the Brandix Covid-19 cluster is a difficult and challenging cluster to tackle. Has the Government looked into this situation and taken precautionary measures?

A: Yes. The Government is taking all measures that are needed. There is no need to panic. At the same time, the people must ensure that they protect themselves by adapting to the social norms they have been practising during the past months. The people have forgotten about the danger posed by the Covid-19 and started to relax their guard since the Government controlled the pandemic efficiently compared to most other countries. The Government is taking steps but we may need to take further action depending on the evolving situation. So we are closely monitoring the situation.

Q: Will there be a need in the next

couple of days to go for a total lockdown or impose island-wide curfew if the situation aggravates?

A: At present curfew has been imposed in a few Divisional Secretariat divisions in the Gampaha district. Depending on the number of cases we encounter during the next couple of days, we will take further steps to strengthen the situation or take safeguarding mechanisms.

Q: At present some false news is being circulated on social media regarding the current Covid-19 pandemic situation in the country. Has the Government looked into this and taken necessary action?

A: The Government is closely monitoring what is going on. We request the public not to be misled by this false information published in some social media networks. We call upon people to follow the instructions of the Government which are clearly given regularly via social media as well as the print and digital media.

Q: The main Opposition SJB and some other Opposition parties have criticised the vesting of more powers with the President through the 20A. What is your comment on this?

A: This is one of the key pledges we made during the election campaign, to abolish 19A to the Constitution. We must remember that two main issues such as the tenure of the Presidency restricted to five years and the term of the President to two have not been changed. We have also safeguarded the Right to Information Bill. Hence, we have retained some of the salient features in 19A. On the other hand, if the President is elected by a popular majority, he should have the power to develop and safeguard the interests of the nation. That is a requirement of the people. So the mandate has to be practical to establish necessary laws to ensure that the President can work safely for the betterment of the country and its people.

Q: The Opposition SJB has raised concern on the release of former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen's brother by the CID after detaining him for over five months in connection with the Easter Sunday attacks, due to lack of evidence. Some Government lawmakers too have requested to conduct an independent inquiry in this regard. Your comments?

A: Conducting an independent inquiry is something worthwhile.

On the other hand, the police has informed the public that despite the earlier claims made about this person, the links they unveiled at that time were related to their business links.

This person had not had any direct links with the said terrorist organisation or the suicide bombers. The Police has detected this after the investigation, and it is the explanation given by the Police Department. However, the people need to know the truth behind this incident, and although we intend to do that the Police say there is no strong evidence to link this person to the Easter Sunday attacks. That is why he was released on bail.

Q: There are dissenting views on some of the clauses included in the 20A by NFF Leader Minister Wimal Weerawansa and SLPP Parliamentarian Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe. How do you view this situation?

A: They have the freedom to express their views in relation to 20A as this is a democratic country. As an alliance the Government has given them full freedom to express their views. Those matters can be considered at the time of bringing amendments to the final draft of 20A. The Government is open-minded about all suggestions that are put forward and will consider them positively.

Q: Thirty-nine petitions have been filed at the Supreme Court challenging the 20A and the Government is waiting for the Supreme Court determination as to whether it needs to hold a referendum on 20A or not. What is your comment?

A: We will abide by the Supreme Court ruling. If the Court asks us to remove certain clauses in 20A we will bring in the changes. At present, the Government has no intention to go for a referendum. So the clauses that could be approved without a referendum only will be considered.

Q: How do you view the protest by the SJB and other Opposition parties against the 20A?

A: That is the usual culture in Sri Lankan politics. Whatever the good things or the bad they oppose. If the Government does something bad the Opposition can oppose, which would then justify their act. It is the mandate of the people that clearly acknowledged abolishing the 19A and vesting more powers with the President.



Hence we are duty bound to fulfil the pledges given to the people during the election campaign.

Q: Some question as to why the Government is in a hurry to bring in 20A without bringing in a new Constitution within a year?

A: We have already reached one year since the Presidential Election. We couldn't do anything mainly in relation to development and other activities due to the Covid-19 that prevailed in the country. We are late in not delivering as expected.

Why should we continue another year in the same old manner until we bring in the new Constitution without getting down to work promptly?

Q: Are you confident that the Government will be able to secure a two-thirds majority to pass the 20A in Parliament?

A: We will certainly get a two-thirds majority as we already have 150 seats in Parliament. Other parties too might extend their support when necessary.

However, nobody will be taken to the Government as crossovers. Anybody willing to support the Government can do so while remaining in the Opposition.

Q: At present tea exports are also hit by the Covid-19, which is a major revenue earner for us. What are the remedial measures taken to

address the situation?

A: Fortunately, we managed to export our tea to other countries despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The silver line in the dark cloud is the fact that we managed to establish through the online auction system with 137 years of Colombo tea auction. We are able to continue our tea exports which have not been much affected. We have certain issues but I don't think our tea exports will be curtailed. Tea is a beverage enjoyed by millions of people around the world.

Q: The Government took a policy decision to increase the daily wage of a plantation worker to Rs.1,000. Have you initiated discussions with plantation companies to provide this to the plantation workers?

A: We have had many rounds of discussions without much success. The model that they have forwarded is something attached to the attendance and productivity based incentive which the trade unions didn't agree with. We are continuing to talk to them.

At the same time, we must also acknowledge the fact that the companies too are affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Their revenue has also decreased. This is a difficult time for them to go ahead with the salaries. The Government is keen and we are heading towards the next collective agreement which will be signed in February next year. We will work out a plan.

Let's wave goodbye to the second wave of Covid-19

BY DR. THILAN U. HEWAGE

Is it the second wave of Covid-19 that we are experiencing in Sri Lanka? May be, may be not. It all depends on the way one defines the time duration and or the peaks and valleys of the impact of the virus. However, the number of people who are getting infected is on the rise at an alarming rate again after keeping it down to just two or three cases per day during the last two months.

As the second wave of Covid-19 sweeps across the globe it is important that we use what we learned from the first wave, and of course from all other epidemics in the past, in an effective manner to minimise the damage this time around. It would be helpful to find out what exactly happened and why we are facing this sudden spike, especially, after successfully checking its spread the first time. If we can put our selfish thoughts aside and start thinking as a nation where human life is considered the most valuable asset to be protected and nurtured, then there is no time more appropriate for it than now.

Old proverbs

This is the time to remind ourselves about the deeper meanings of old proverbs such as: 'United we stand divided we fall', which can be amended to read 'United we win divided we lose', and 'Hope for the best, prepare for the worst'. While we diligently practise social distancing and quarantining the infected and the exposed people we should also remind ourselves that, 'No man is an island.' Therefore, it is important that we maintain the balance between the

physical separation and emotional/mental unity with fellow members of society.

If we look at the history of pandemics and or epidemics the world has endured within the last hundred years, including what we know so far about Covid-19, we can learn about the precautionary measures to prevent people from getting such a virus and the treatment that can save lives.

The earliest traceable times during which social distancing had been practised were around the 5th to the 15th century when quarantine complexes were created for people with Leprosy, called 'leper colonies.' Then in early 1918, towards the final years of World War 1, the first wave of 'Spanish Flu' spread across the countries infecting over 500 million people with a death rate of about 50 million.

Numbers higher

The numbers were higher than those of the polio epidemic in the early 1900s since some of the constraints such as limited movement of people across countries, that were holding polio under control were different with the Spanish Flu. This first wave was assumed to have been brought by Chinese labourers working in Europe.

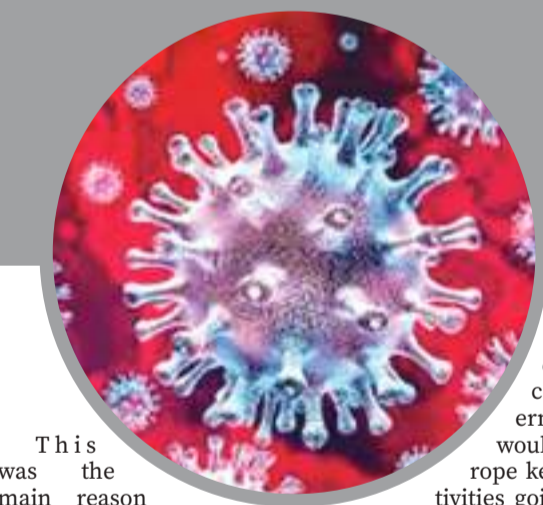
The virus reached most of the European countries, Australia, Japan, India and some African countries within about two to three months. Thereafter it subsided making the first wave mild with only a few deaths. The second wave started attacking people worldwide in September 1918, much more ferociously than the first, killing around fifty million people. India alone lost over twenty million

of its population to the second wave of the Spanish Flu. It attacked twice more, making the second wave by far the deadliest of all pandemics in the recorded history of the planet.

One of the reasons for such a large number of fatalities was the lack of knowledge about the virus at that time. The second wave of the Spanish Flu showed what is called the W-curve where a large number of deaths was among the young and old with a large spike in the middle indicating an unusually high number of deaths in the age group of 25 - 35. During this time the world medical community started paying attention to social distancing as a viable method of slowing down the rate at which the virus was spreading. But, in the

Asian Flu pandemic during 1957 - 58, millions around the world were infected with over 1.1 million deaths.

It showed that the world had not learned the lesson of 'social distancing' properly even though the pandemics prior to that had provided ample opportunity to do so. Of course, the lack of technology and or the scientific knowledge is not the only reason for the large death toll during the second wave of the Spanish Flu. After the first wave there was a sense of complacency across the world feeling that the worst is over. People got back to their normal lives and started travelling around and conducting their national and cultural festivals and business as usual not knowing what was to come.



This was the main reason why they lost control of the virus. In addition, the viruses themselves may go through mutation processes so that the second time around it will not be answering the remedies used in the first wave. Therefore, we should not make any assumptions such as that young children have a lesser chance of getting it or that the young have a better chance of fighting it.

We have seen that global trade

and alliances fail in crises such as this where every country is practically left to itself. The government of each country would have to walk on a tight rope keeping the economic activities going while saving human lives. There should not be any political games between ruling parties and oppositions or majorities and minorities.

This certainly is not a time to conduct any nationwide activities such as examinations, elections, ceremonies and/or political rallies. It is obvious that the highly contagious Covid-19 is even more dangerous than most of those other viruses in the past with an incubation period of two to three weeks in a human body. The fact that some people can get infected and recover from it within two to three weeks without even showing any symptoms makes Covid-19 very dangerous since that infected person can spread the virus around to hundreds of people without making anyone aware of the transmission.

There can be hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of others who may be showing mild symptoms but not tested, and also who may be infected but not showing any symptoms and hence not tested either. What that means is that none of us can be sure about having the virus for quite some time and therefore the best way to minimise the possibilities of being a transmitter of the virus is to practise personal hygiene and social distancing.

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



Neither Indian nor any other national visited Minuwangoda facility - Brandix

Health and worker safety allegations to be addressed

By
Aanya Wipulasena



As allegations levelled against Brandix mounted the company issued a press statement refuting them. One of the biggest complaints was that the company had brought down Indian nationals who did not follow quarantine laws.

"We can confirm that no parties from India or any other country have had access to the facility during this period.

We would also like to clarify that our facility in Minuwangoda does not use any fabric from India nor has it taken in any orders from our facility in India as well," the company said adding that the employees returning to Sri Lanka from India on chartered flights followed due health guidelines.

Brandix operated three chartered flights to bring Sri Lankan employees and their families from Visakhapatnam India.

The company confirmed that all returnees adhered to the protocol for the prevention and control of Covid-19 which includes PCR testing and a 14-day quarantine and a 14-day self-quarantine under the supervision of Public Health Inspectors.

The company statement added, it must also be noted that none of these Sri Lankans nor their family members visited the Minuwangoda manufacturing facility. It was brought to the company's notice a social media video that was circulating accusing the Brandix management of forcing employees to work despite detecting the first Covid-19 patient within its Minuwangoda facility.

"We have identified that the primary female party is the owner of a hostel, while the two members occupying her hostel and the supervisor being referred to are employed by a third-party cleaning service provider contracted by the Brandix Minuwangoda facility. We confirm that none of these individuals are employees of Brandix," the company release stated.

Also refuting allegations levelled against Brandix, Army Commander Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva said the claims made on social media accusing the company of housing 20 Indians at the Brandix facility in Minuwangoda were baseless.

Supervision

However, the Public Inspectors Association said none of the Brandix employees who arrived in Sri Lanka from India was quarantined under the supervision of Public Inspectors.

Fabric and Apparel Accessory Manufacturers Association (FAAMA) called the incident 'unfortunate' and said that Brandix was a key contributor to the country's apparel and textile industry.

"On October 4 a Brandix employee from a facility in Minuwangoda was confirmed positive after she was subjected to a PCR test. Based on this finding as a responsible corporate entity Brandix engaged with the relevant authorities to conduct PCR tests for the entire workforce and their immediate family. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, there was a rise in Covid-19 positive cases in Sri Lanka," FAAMA's President Pubudu De Silva said.

This is an unfortunate incident, he said adding that no company or industry will intentionally put their workforce or people at risk.

The apparel sector is one of the country's largest exporting arms, generating an income of over USD five billion a year while providing employment to over 1 million Sri Lankans.

The sector has always been recognised globally by leading brands as an industry that complies with global standards in social, environmental and governmental or international regulations.

THE APPAREL SECTOR IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST EXPORTING ARMS, GENERATING AN INCOME OF OVER USD FIVE BILLION A YEAR WHILE PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO OVER 1 MILLION SRI LANKANS.

This track record has given prominence to Sri Lanka on the global platform. The Industry is fervently committed to continue complying with these standards in the future.

"As a nation we owe much to the apparel and textile sector workers, who even during the height of the pandemic, have discharged their duties to bring in the much needed foreign exchange to the country.

They have also manufactured Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks and medical

gowns for our very own healthcare workers and armed forces," FAAMA said.

Donating funds

It added that the apparel and textile industry also stepped-up during the peak of Covid-19 by donating funds, equipment and lending certain facilities to be used as quarantine centers by the Government of Sri Lanka.

FAAMA urged the public to be empathetic and respectful to-

wards all families affected by this situation. "We urge people to work together with the relevant authorities as well as to be responsible in dealing with social media to protect the image of our industry and country during these trying times. Let's stand together as one nation and pull through this with dignity and respect for one another," FAAMA's president added.

Brandix is yet to address several other allegations made against it with regard to disregarding of health and safety of workers.



Minuwangoda Brandix factory workers sent for quarantine
Pic: Samantha Weerasiri



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SINCE 1844

News Feature

Covid-19: Cluster analysis and tracing associates done effectively - Lt. General Shavendra Silva

Neither Indian nor parties from elsewhere visited Brandix Minuwangoda facility

Situation across the world to get tougher in October and November-WHO

By **Rajitha Jagoda Arachchi**

ing to Chief Epidemiologist, Dr Sudath Samaraweera. Also, the number of Covid suspected patients was 39 by last Sunday.

However, the number of patients increased with the Covid positive case reported from Divulapitiya, Gampaha on October 4. The patient was identified as an apparel worker of Brandix, Minuwangoda and a week later it became the biggest cluster reported in the country since March.

Health authorities identified 1,052 Covid-19 patients related to the Brandix cluster by yesterday (10) morning.

Accordingly, the number of Covid-19 cases reported in Sri Lanka increased to 4,523 and the number of active cases rose to 1,214 while around 350 suspected cases are in hospitals.

However, Dr. Samaraweera assured that Sri Lanka is still not in the social transmission level of Covid-19. "We still do not have clear evidence to

say that this has developed to a social transmission level. However, we can decide the direction of the new wave according to PCR tests in the next few days" he said.

In the wake of the Divulapitiya Covid case, Health Authorities conducted PCR tests on 1,394 Brandix employees of the Minuwangoda factory. The Security Forces launched a mission to trace around 800 other apparel workers of the same factory who had gone on leave.

The Police and the Security Forces are yet to identify all workers and their close associates of the factory as some are avoiding identification. However, the Police traced a female employee of Brandix, Miniwangoda while she was hiding in Dikoya.

Police Media spokesperson Senior DIG, Ajith Rohana told the media on Friday that the grace period given to those who had gone missing had lapsed.

"Maximum action will be taken

against those avoiding identification and the immovable assets used for hiding will be seized," he said.

The Minuwangoda cluster which has spread throughout the country had worsened the social transmission of the pandemic, according to health authorities. According to the authorities Covid contacts have been identified in Nikaweratiya, Nelumdeniya and Warakapola in the Kegalle district, Nivithigala, Ratnapura, Godakawela, Kalawana, Imbulpe, Ayagama in the Ratnapura district, Colombo, Koggala, Ginthota, Manikattuwa, Kandy, Kirielia, Chilaw, Kalpitiya, Negombo, Mannar, Jaffna and Biyagama.

A woman was reported dead while travelling to the Welikanda quarantine centre. The Welikanda Police said medical tests had confirmed she has died due to a stroke. Her body was cremated in Aralaganwila in keeping with quarantine regulations. The deceased was a 64-year-old mother of four from Warapalana, Gampaha, a.

Opposition MP Manusha Nanayakkara queried in Parliament the truth in bringing down Indian workers and accommodating them at the Brandix Minuwangoda factory without adhering to quarantine guidelines.

However, on the same day Army Commander and Head of the National Covid Operation Centre, Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva refuted the claim. Officials of Brandix too responded to several allegations made against them via social and web media.

Releasing a statement for the second time on October 7, Brandix officials said that neither anyone from India nor other country had visited the Minuwangoda factory. While admitting the fact that Sri Lankan employees of Brandix in India were brought back via three chartered flights, the company also affirmed that the government-mandated 28 day quarantine period was adhered to by all the employees and their families.

"We understand that there have been concerns with regard to foreign nationals working at our facility in Minuwangoda and would like to clarify as follows.



Health workers on duty

We can confirm that no parties from India or any other country have had access to the facility during this period. We would also like to clarify that our facility in Minuwangoda does not use any fabric from India nor has it taken in any orders from our facility in India as well".

Chartered flights

"With regard to concerns on employees returning to Sri Lanka from India through chartered flights, we can confirm as follows. We operated three chartered flights from Visakhapatnam, India for our Sri Lankan employees working in India and their families, who returned to Sri Lanka. We confirm that they, including their families, followed the Sri Lanka Government protocol for the prevention and control of Covid-19, which includes PCR testing and a 14-day mandatory quarantine at a government-regulated quarantine facility, as well as the 14-day self-quarantine process done under the supervision of the respective PHIs. It must also be noted that none of these Sri Lankans nor their family members visited the Minuwangoda manufacturing facility".

"As an organisation, we rally together to care for the affected employees and their families, whilst endeavouring to minimise the impact on our communities and our nation

in a collective effort to emerge from this crisis".

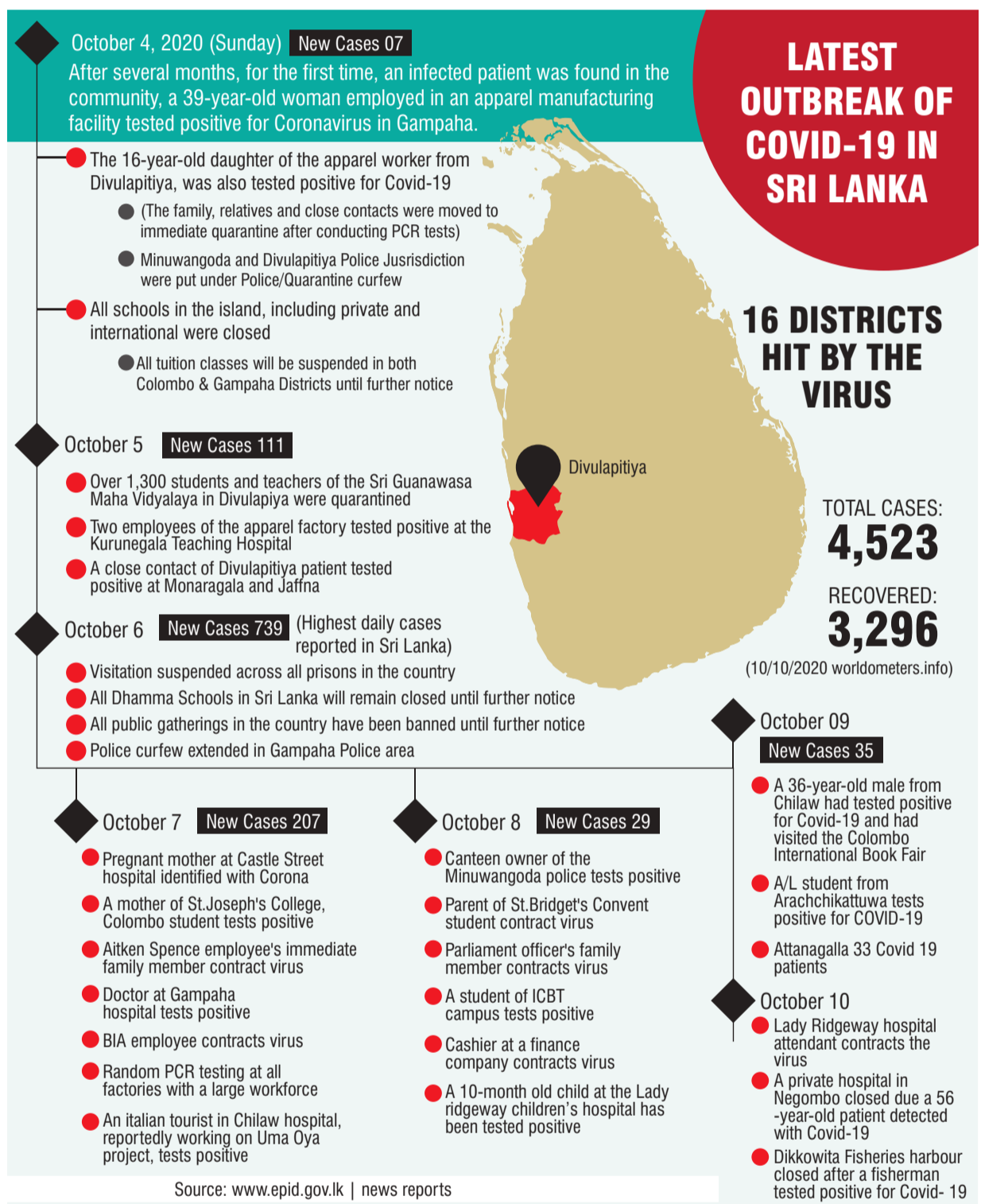
However, even after the official statement from Brandix, several social media activists urged Brandix to declare details pertaining to arrival dates, dates and places quarantine of workers who came from India claiming the official statement from Brandix lacked vital information.

Following the sudden health emergency, the Gampaha District Health Division has decided to seek the services of public health inspectors of other districts to meet the shortage of PHIs in the district. Ten PHI officers from the Puttalam District have already extended their services strengthening the 175 PHI cadre in the Gampaha district.

The Welikanda Covid Treatment Center in Polonnaruwa which could house around 110 patients has also reached its fullest capacity, health officials reported last week.

Police curfew was imposed in Gampaha, Ganemulla, Kirindiwela, Dompe, Malwathuripitiya, Mirigama, Nittambuwa, Pugoda, Veyangoda, Minuwangoda, Weerangula, Weliveriya, Pallewela, Yakkala, Ja-ela, Kandana, Seeduwa and Divulapitiya.

However, Lt. General Shavendra Silva told the media yesterday that islandwide curfew will not be imposed immediately as analysis of the cluster and tracing of close contacts are being carried out effectively.



A health worker sprays disinfectant on a street in Minuwangoda

Eight Covid 19 vaccines in final stage of clinical trials

Covid-19 vaccine may be ready by late 2020 - WHO expert

Excerpts:
Q: When can we expect a safe and effective vaccine for Covid-19?

A: What's good to know is that so many vaccine candidates are being developed around the world - about 200 vaccines and 31 of them have reached the clinical phase of testing. As you know we go through phase 1, 2 and 3 in clinical trials and there are at least eight candidates now which are in late stages of clinical testing.

What this means is that we will see results from some of these clinical trials by the end of 2020 or early 2021. And we'll get an idea about how they are performing, in terms of their safety and efficacy - the protective power. After the clinical trial results are made available, regulators across countries will have to look at the data and make decisions on approving them.

Then, vaccines need to be produced and shipped across the world. So by the time people get the vaccine it would be somewhere in the middle of 2021.

Hopefully there will be more than one or two vaccines that turn out to be good.

Around eight Covid-19 vaccines are in their final stage of clinical trials said World Health Organisation (WHO) Chief Scientist Dr. Saumya Swaminathan during an interview with Vismitha Gupta-Smith of WHO Communications, on developing a Covid-19 vaccine.



Dr. Saumya Swaminathan

Q: Could you describe what the ideal vaccine for Covid-19 would be like before we get into vaccines?

A: We would like to see one that is effective, protecting at least 70 percent of people that receive the vaccine and the minimum stan-

dard. The minimum standard that we have set is 50 percent. Fifty percent should be protected. It should be safe in the short and long term.

It should be safe for different age groups from children to pregnant women to the elderly. Ideally it should be given in a single dose.

It should provide immunity for several years. It should be easy to store and distribute, which means that it should not require ultra cold storage facilities, which are not available in many places.

Q: As the world rushes to develop a vaccine for Covid-19, there are concerns about its safety and efficacy. How will WHO and countries ensure that this vaccine is safe?

A: That's a really important question, because people should be reassured that the standards that have been set globally for licensing vaccines and drugs are going to be followed in this case, as well and that there will be no short cuts. So while we talk about speed and scale and what we can do to support that, we must remember the benchmarks that have been set. So we talked about the minimum efficacy of a vaccine, the safety profile of a vaccine, and the other characteristics of the vaccine that regulators would look at.

Those must be fulfilled and the developers must be able to show the data, both to the regulatory agencies and countries, as well as to WHO. As you know we have a process

called prequalification where we give a vaccine or a drug a stamp of quality approval, all of these factors are taken into consideration. We also have the Scientific Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation - the SAGE that makes the policy guidance on vaccines.

And they will be looking at the data carefully before they make recommendations on the use of vaccines, which populations, you know, what precautions are to be taken, how it is to be used, etc.

Q: Once a vaccine is approved for mass deployment, how would WHO and health authorities decide who should get this vaccine and why?

A: This is something that we

SINCE WE ARE GOING TO HAVE LIMITED DOSES OF VACCINES INITIALLY, EVERYONE CANNOT GET IT ON DAY ONE.

have been discussing with the member states. I think every government is thinking about this now, people are thinking about it.

This is also an ethical question for people and I think there's a sort of general agreement now that those at highest risk of infection, you know we've seen the frontline workers and healthcare workers really impacted by Covid-19.

Therefore, in most countries, I think the consensus is that they need to be protected, those who are at the frontlines, who have to do their jobs to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Since we are going to have limited doses of vaccines initially, everyone cannot get it on day one. It will take months and years to be able to ramp up to the billions of doses needed to protect, 60 percent- 70 percent of the population.

Next in line would be those who are highly vulnerable, the elderly, people who have pre-existing diseases, underlying conditions, which put them at higher risk of mortality and of getting seriously ill with Covid-19. Those would be the people to prioritise and then gradually one could expand into the other parts of the population.

AG indicts New Diamond Captain



BY AANYA WIPULASENA

In a new turn of events, Attorney General, Dappula De Livera filed an indictment against the Captain of the crude oil tanker MT New Diamond this week.

Coordinating officer to the AG, State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne told media that the indictments filed at the Colombo High Court was for the oil spill and the failure by the Captain to report it. This violated section 26 and 38 of the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) Act, she said. The ship's captain was banned from leaving the country in September.

The owners of the MT New Diamond earlier agreed to pay Rs. 442 million to Sri Lanka to cover the expenses incurred in controlling the fire which erupted on-board on September 3, when it was sailing 38 miles off Sangamankanda Point, East of Sri Lanka.

The AG first submitted a claim of Rs. 340 million on September 16 and later increased it to Rs. 442 million on September 24. The amount is to be paid to stakeholders including the Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Sri Lanka Air Force, MEPA, and Sri Lanka Coast Guard.

The attempts made by the stakeholders were made tougher due to high winds and extreme temperatures on the ship. A second fire broke out on the ship days after the first fire was extinguished. Environment authorities were concerned of the possible spill of nearly 270,000 tonnes of crude oil into the sea.

Sri Lanka Navy spokesperson Indika de Silva told media that during this time a team of Naval officers joined experts from India's coastguard and specialists who arrived in the country at the bidding of the owners of the ship to assess the situation on the ill-fated ship.

Navy spokesperson Silva said the fire ignited in an engine room boiler, and continued to burn for days.

The crude oil tanker was transporting crude oil from the port of Mina Al Ahmadi in Kuwait to the Indian port of Paradip.

The state-owned Indian Oil Corp has a refinery in Paradip where the ship was headed.

It sails with a Japanese certificate and is registered in Panama.

Later, an oil patch, subsequently identified as heavy fuel oil, was observed for over two nautical miles from the ship. A Dornier aircraft of the Indian Coast Guard was flown to the site to airdrop diesel dispersant to minimise the potential impact to the marine environment, Silva said. Twenty-two crew members, including an injured crewman, who were on board were rescued and initially taken to the port city in Galle.



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa visited the Sandahiru Seya, Anuradhapura construction site to inspect the progress. The construction work on the stupa was started in 2010 under the patronage of then President, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. The shrine is 85m in height and 244m in circumference.

CIPM
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Interested parties should submit their written proposals together with their company profile to reach the Secretary Building Project Committee, Chartered Institute of Personnel Management Sri Lanka on or before 30th November 2020.



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43, Vijaya Kumaranatunga Mawatha,
Colombo 5.

Contact:
Wathsala - 0773677835



The Ambassadors Forum of Sri Lanka felicitated *Sunday Observer* Editor-in-Chief Dinesh Weerawansa for his 34-year service in the field of journalism at their recent sessions at the Organisations of Professional Association of Sri Lanka, Stanley Wijesundera Mawatha, Colombo 7. Here Ambassadors Forum President and former Sri Lanka Ambassador to Israel and UAE Sarath Wijesinghe PC presenting the memento of appreciation to the *Sunday Observer* Editor-in-Chief.

Catholic church acts on Covid-19

The Catholic Archdiocese of Colombo, in a media release, said that taking into consideration the Covid-19 situation, the Archdiocese has decided to take steps in support of the measures taken by the Health Authorities and the Security Forces.

Spokesman for Colombo Archdiocese Rev. Fr. Camillus Fernando stated that the Archbishop has taken the following measures in respect of religious observances: Catholic Private Schools and Catholic Dhamma Schools (Catechism Classes) within the Archdiocese of Colombo will remain closed until further notice. There will be no offering of Holy Mass or any religious service in all the Catholic Churches within the areas where curfew is on, and lockdown is imposed until the Authorities inform changes in the situation. There will be no offering of Mass on the next two Sundays in any Catholic Church in the Gampaha District. Daily Holy Masses, Catholic weddings Masses and Funeral Services could be held with permission obtained from the authorities and limiting participants to 50 persons.

Colombo and Kalutara districts under the administration of the Colombo Archdiocese could continue to conduct offering of Mass with permission from the Health authorities and in keeping with Covid-19 advice and instructions. Steps should be taken to ensure washing of hands, wearing masks and to observe one-metre social distance at every gathering for religious services in the mission/parish churches.

External sector recovers in August

Sri Lanka's external sector continued to recover in relation to many aspects during August 2020, mainly supported by an improved trade deficit and a notable increase in workers' remittances, the Central Bank announced last week.

The trade deficit improved on a year-on-year basis, with the reduction in merchandise imports due to regulatory restrictions on the importation of non-essential goods and lower crude oil prices, despite earnings from merchandise exports recording a year-on-year decline during the month.

Nevertheless, the export performance remained strong for the third consecutive month in spite of the pandemic affected global demand. Workers' remittances recorded a substantial growth in August 2020, strengthening the current account. In the financial account, marginal foreign investment outflows were recorded from the government securities market, while the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) also recorded some foreign investment outflows during the month.



With increased net inflows to the domestic foreign exchange market, the Central Bank was able to absorb foreign exchange during the month to build gross official reserves. The Sri Lankan rupee, which had some volatility in mid August, stabilised towards the end of the month.

The deficit in the trade account in August 2020 narrowed to US dol-

lars 342 million from US dollars 541 million in August 2019, as imports declined at a faster pace than the decline in exports. Also, on a cumulative basis, the trade deficit narrowed by over US dollar one billion to US dollars 3,812 million from January to August 2020 from US dollars 4,855 million in the corresponding period of 2019.

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Theshara Jayasinghe
Chairman/Director General,
National Youth Services Council

SUNDAY OBSERVER

Cluster management, a precision job

At the time of writing, nothing is certain about culpability for the so-called Minuwangoda cluster, which is the largest such agglomeration of Covid-19 patients recorded so far in the country since the pandemic began.

With facts unknown, apportioning blame is unfair, but that does not mean that the private enterprise concerned should not be subject to a thorough investigation.

The company concerned has issued a release stating that its staff that was repatriated from India were all Sri Lankan and that none of the returnees had been to the Minuwangoda factory belonging to the same concern. If that's true, it's a wide open question as to how the Minuwangoda cluster originated?

This private company also seems to be somewhat matter of fact in its explanation that a cleaning company employer had released a video about a sub-contracted worker being asked to report for work at the factory that was the epicenter of the outbreak. That explanation seems to infer on the face of it, that the said concern is eager to pass the buck.

It's correct that the company is not responsible for any work-related instructions issued by a cleaning concern to which it had contracted work. However, shouldn't the company have immediately informed all sub-contractors to suspend their services forthwith due to the developing situation?

On the flip side, there can be no premature conclusions made. That's unfair by almost everybody, and it will cause heartache where none is necessary. The first woman to be identified for instance was not the super spreader or the first spreader in the cluster. This should have been obvious because the mere fact that she was the first person to fall sick from the disease, does not infer that she started the cluster.

The societal finger-pointing in this regard was relentless though, and this sort of patient shaming is wholly unnecessary and is pure evil, as one person is being singled out for no fault of her own. Even if she was indeed the first spreader in the cluster, she cannot be blamed because this is a contagion, and anybody can catch the bug from a source that is positive for the virus. Any individual can be blamed only if such a person is willfully negligent, and the likelihood of such egregious conduct is remote especially in a context in which even the authorities do not know yet where the cluster first originated, how and from whom.

All of the above indicates one thing — there is enough confusion to warrant a thorough investigation which nobody should evade. All involved parties should come clean on their commissions and omissions if any, regarding the emergence of the cluster and its sudden spread, apparently so far from no known epidemiological source.

No organisation should be inured from blame no matter how effective, efficient or useful such a concern would have been in the past. Covid prevention is different from day to day administration and if the protocols were not followed, and if PCR tests were not administered where they should have been — there are lessons to be learnt, blame and recriminations notwithstanding.

There is no alternative to halting all reparations of Sri Lankans meanwhile, under the circumstances. PHIs are not super human in the midst of super spreaders. When a cluster is raging, even in an incipient stage, there is nothing a PHI could do if there is a case that somehow gets past the protective guardrail.

Ending all reparations will stanch all risk at least while there is a fight on the hands of the authorities to end the spread of a cluster that's difficult to control. There can be no vagueness about it — it is the military that can enforce the discipline of contact tracing and containment especially when some of the patients, it is said, have been less than cooperative.

But cluster containment is possible, which does not mean that private companies etc. should relax their strict prevention policies. From all accounts the Free Trade Zone environment of migrant workers from villagers reporting for work from packed worker hostels — 'boarding rooms' as they are known here — is a powder keg in terms of the possibilities these environs present for an outbreak.

How long will this situation continue, and until when can reparations be halted, are all questions that are academic in the face of the immediate wrath of the cluster. Long-term considerations are irrelevant when there is a contingency that threatens to undo all the gains that were made in the past few months with arduous lockdowns and other measures that required tremendous sacrifice on the part of the people.

So far the Government has avoided blanket lockdowns. It means that the authorities have full confidence in the contract tracing mechanism at its disposal, after several close brushes with rapidly spreading clusters in Kandakadu and Welisara.

The contacts in this instance, have reportedly been traced to areas outside the police divisions that have been hit with curfews, but such discovery of victims has been few and far between.

But a cluster cannot give way to a secondary cluster, and that's imperative. Persons and institutions have to pro-actively cooperate and what seems to have been the rather relaxed attitude in some of the Free Trade Zone factories is absolutely not an option.

The voice of the people

'Sovereignty' deconstructed over 20th Amendment

Courts considered submissions of Counsel in SC Determination

by
Rajpal Abeynayake



The main thrust of the petitioners' submissions last week against the 20th Amendment in the Supreme Court, was that repealing the 19th Amendment went counter to the sovereign rights of the people.

The following is straight reportage of some of the proceedings in that case. It's fact and not analysis, as this is not the time to engage in any back and forth, as the Judges of the Supreme Court are deliberating on their determination, even as this is being written.

The Attorney General and Intervent Petitioners such as Presidents' Counsel Kushan de Alwis, Shavindra Fernando PC and this writer were of the view that the 'sovereignty question' could not arise, as the Amendment was essentially a reversal to the status quo ante.

The Attorney General lay most emphasis in the fact that the Amendment in fact enhances the sovereign rights of the people, and interestingly he cited the matter of the dissolution of Parliament, which was the subject of a notoriously vexed case in 2018, when the then President Maithripala Sirisena dissolved the House irrespective of the provisions of the 19th Amendment.

The AG cited the possibility of unstable governments, even though he said the actual situation that arose in 2018 which he alluded to was not his main submission. A dissolution of Parliament early in the term of office of an elected Legislature is a necessity that obviates the ill effects of hung parliaments and such, he submitted.

The counter submission of enhancement of Sovereignty was an interesting rejoinder, and earlier President's Counsel Kushan de Alwis had alluded to something on similar lines when he made a full-throated case for the legitimacy of the 20th Amendment — which he said was the product of the sovereign people's vote to repeal the 19th Amendment

This writer had submitted to the Supreme Court on the same matter, that early dissolution of Parliament was a common agenda power in parliamentary democracy, and was a sine qua non in parliamentary practice. The submissions were made on behalf of Intervent Petitioner D. M. Dayaratne.

The following is an extract from my written submissions to Court in this regard:

'In any event dissolving Parliament early is an accepted aspect of parliamentary tradition in most democracies — and this is called strategic dissolution of Parliament. The book Strategic Parliamentary Dissolution by Kaare Storm and Stephen Swindle testifies to these



facts.' Excerpt: An important agenda power in parliamentary democracies is the discretion over the dissolution of Parliament.

We argue that variation in constitutional rules and the political environment will systematically affect the frequency of early elections. We hypothesize that dissolution will be more frequent under single-party governments, when the Head of State plays an insignificant role, when neither Parliament nor the Cabinet can inhibit dissolution, when minority governments are in power, when the Head of State can dissolve unilaterally, and later in the constitutional term. Unquote.

EXCEPTION

'Enhanced Sovereignty' was a submission made by the Attorney General on more than one occasion, and it was adduced as a riposte in the most unexpected of situations, with reference to the sovereignty argument adduced by the Petitioners.

The argument was made by AG Dappula de Livera with regard to the issue of Urgent Bills which the Petitioners portrayed as impinging on the sovereign rights of the people, that such a provision for fast tracked legislation enhanced Sovereign rights as such Bills expedited legislation where necessary in matters that were of urgent national import.

He said that if anybody should take exception to such review of Urgent Bills it should be the Supreme Court that deliberates on such matters. However, he submitted that the Judges of the apex court had shown consistently that they were competent enough to pronounce on such Bills when the exigency arose.

The status quo ante aspect of the 20th Amendment was stressed also, but the Attorney General underscored that it's the powers that belonged to the Executive that were alienated to the Constitutional Council in the first place.

He said that these powers had been bestowed upon the Executive when the

1978 Constitution was promulgated, and added that the executive powers that were given over to the Constitutional Council for appointment, etc. could not be exercised for instance, without the presidential nod of approval. If the President did not approve Constitutional Council appointments, there was nothing that these Councils could do about it, he submitted.

This writer made the following submissions earlier citing the case of the 2015 Supreme Court determination on the 19th Amendment:

So long as the President remains the Head of the the Executive, the exercise of his powers remains Supreme or sovereign in the executive field and others to whom such powers are given must derive the authority from the President or exercise the Executive power vested in the President as a delegate of the President. — as held by K. Sripavan CJ in determination, with the two other Judges agreeing.

Therefore, it was my submission to Court that what is the President's can obviously be given back to him, as 'what is his, is his.' These were delegated powers and that had already been held incontrovertibly in a Supreme Court determination.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

With regard to the provision for Dual Citizenship that is sought to be reintroduced to the Constitution, this writer in his submissions averred that:

With regard to Clauses that deal with permitting dual citizens to be elected to the legislature, again this is a reversal to the state quo ante.

Countries such as Germany, and even the United States allowed dual citizens to be members of the legislature. The well-known Senator Ted Cruz of Texas was a dual citizen of Canada while he was a member of the U.S. Senate.

A former German politician who was once tipped to succeed the current German Chancellor Angela Merkel is a

dual citizen of Germany and the UK and a member of the German legislature. As such, it is clear that advanced polities do not consider so called divided loyalties that compromise national security, etc, on this matter.

If they can allow dual citizens involvement in their legislatures there's no reason that we cannot do so without infringing the sovereign rights of the people. (Reference: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-06/fact-file-the-dual-citizenship-scandal/9147418>.)

The Attorney General submitted that the question of divided loyalties does not arise, as dual citizenship is conditional upon certain clearly delineated provisions, and could therefore always be withdrawn from the grantee.

Earlier, Gamini Marapana PC stated in his submissions that he has furnished Court with written submissions that have dealt with the processes by which the 19th Amendment came to be made into law.

This writer in separate submissions to Court stated that these processes of enactment, can be taken into account by Court particularly in reference to submissions made by the Petitioners with regard to the grundnorm etc stating that the 19th Amendment had created a new grundnorm vis-à-vis the Constitution.

UNORTHODOX

My submission was that the parliamentary process was not orthodox in the process of the passage of the 19th Amendment, and there was a situation in which a commandeered two-thirds majority was made use of — unlike the organic two-thirds majority that the people had granted this government with the express mandate of repealing the 19th Amendment Bill.

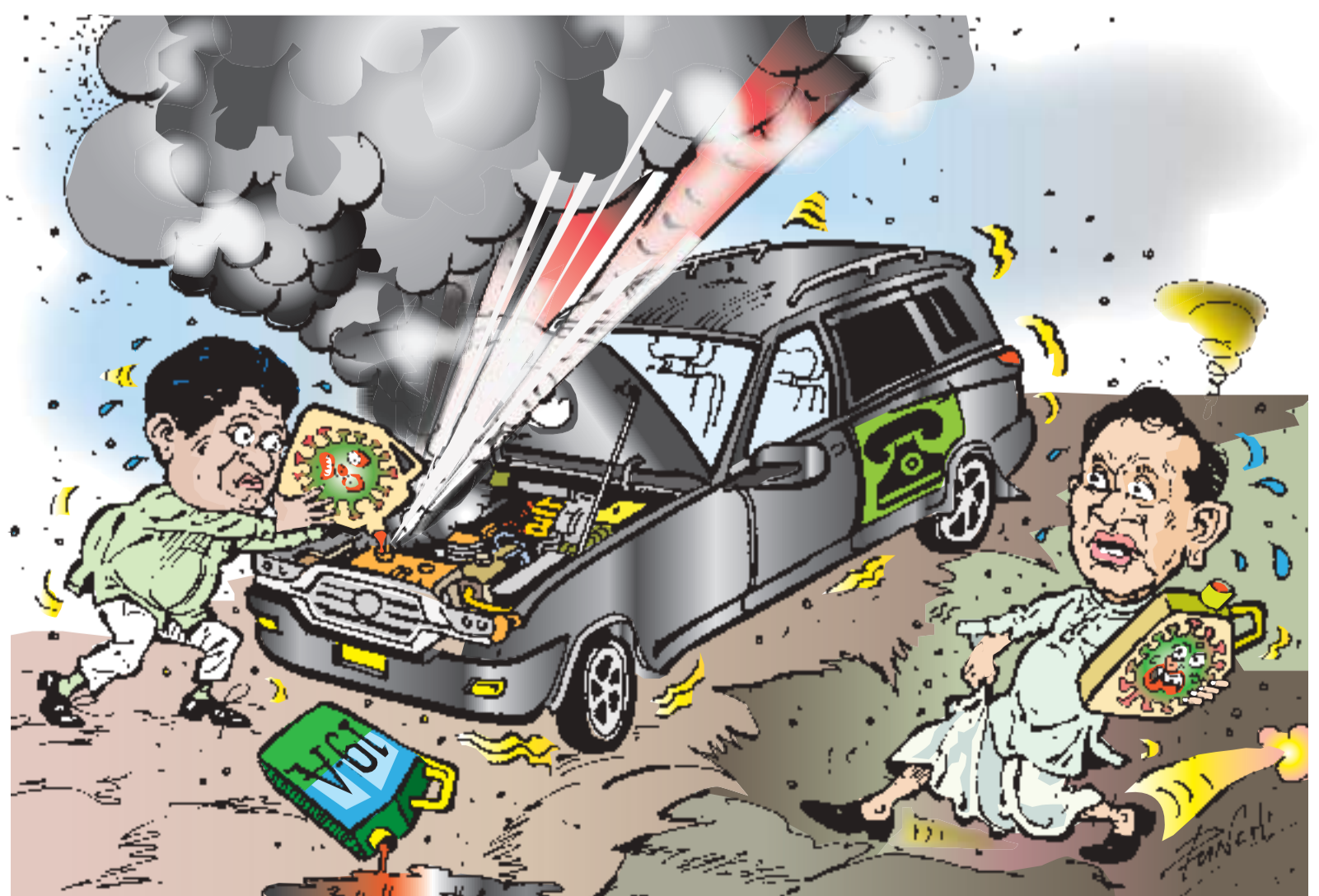
Besides, Committee stage amendments had been used in an unorthodox manner in enacting the 19th Amendment to ram through some rather illogical if not irrational clauses, as it later transpired.

In any event, the commandeered two-thirds majority of then could not be compared to the organic two-thirds majority given by the people, that obtains today.

The AG also alluded to the mandate and stated that the people are supreme and that therefore an Amendment that is backed by a people's mandate cannot possibly impugn the sovereign rights of the people of the country.

He also stated that the Honourable Judges of the Court are called upon to decide on whether the 20th Amendment would trigger a Referendum in terms of Article 83 of the Constitution and this was the only consideration that called for a determination by Court.

The five judge Supreme Court Bench comprising Justices Jayantha Jayasuriya, Sisira de Abrew, Priyatha Jayewardene, Buwaneka Aluwihare and Vijitha Malalgoda will deliver its determination on the Bill in due course.



PROMOTION OF EXPORTS: A DIRE NEED

BY HEMANTHA KULATUNGA

Exports are an important factor in the modern economy as they provide numerous benefits for the growth of an economy. Export performance can contribute to the national economy by creating employment, earning foreign exchange and upgrading general economic conditions. Almost every country, irrespective of the World Bank country classification of GDP per capita, attempts to develop export markets.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, realising this salient factor, has revived an Export Development Council under his chairmanship as per his pledge in 'Vistas of Prosperity' to develop export trade.

The scope of this institution is to expand exports carried out by the public and private sectors. They will seek new market opportunities for diversified products throughout the world.

Tasks, such as revising and modernising related trade policies, the establishment of export production villages and restricting re-exports will come under the institution. The President is planning to set targets for everyone in this sphere. He has instructed the heads of foreign missions to improve efficiency with immediate effect.

Trade deficit

The trade deficit or negative balance of trade creates critical setbacks in the economy. As per the experts, if the country continues to maintain trade deficit at the current level, other countries can acquire funds to buy capital in the country. In the long run, foreign investors will eventually own a sizeable portion of the country's economic resources.

Apparels, the largest export product in Sri Lanka that brought in the highest amount of US\$ 5 billion in foreign exchange has received a sucker punch and is still struggling to recover from the first few months of the Covid-19 issue. Many small-timers who were compelled to close down, can now breathe a sigh of relief as the large players are gradually recovering with their order books, according to information from industry leaders.

Even though the full revival is likely to be delayed for probably a year or longer, the trend of receiving new orders is slowly taking place.



Industry experts revealed that the exporters who supplied to multiple buyers in the USA and Europe are somewhat recovered although single brand exporters are yet to reach normalcy.

The export potential of other products in Sri Lanka needs to be looked at immediately to bridge the gap of lost revenue due to the global recession created by Covid-19. Although the disparity between the revenue of apparels and other products is fairly large, with the advantage of the reputation Sri Lanka has earned for export product quality, a certain market share of the global demand of other exportable products can be captured through effective and vibrant promotion campaigns.

The minor export crops in particular, which are known to be of a higher quality than many other competitors, can be a force to reckon with in the world markets if promoted properly. Export agricultural products, such as pepper,

cinnamon, cloves, cardamom, coffee, and cocoa that have a huge demand in the world market are some of the marketable products. Even though these products are exported, research reveals that Sri Lanka supplies a fraction of the world requirement.

To cite an example, Sri Lanka exports around 7,000 metric tons per year when the required world demand is around 400,000 metric tons. Unfortunately, the exports of other similar products are also comparatively lower even when the quality of Sri Lankan products is factually and reputedly much higher than other competitive countries, such as Myanmar, Indonesia and Vietnam.

The export of minor crops is exceptionally important.

The opportunities available in the world arena are immense. One of the key factors in this regard is the demand growth for spices in the world. The trend for spicy foods is growing around the world according to experts. Demand created in

the markets for value addition of many of these products, such as a variety of essential oils produced through minor crops is also mounting. Food supplements, medicine, other healthcare products and fragrances have an increasing demand in many countries.

Minor crops

The Government is taking action to protect local producers of minor crops, on the directive of President Rajapaksa.

As per the Presidential Media Division, in a recent discussion with stakeholders, Ministers, and members of the economic revival task force, the President has reiterated the importance of creating a positive environment to earn the highest possible income through international markets.

The gesture and the enthusiasm of the Government is a welcome sign to those who are keen to export these minor crops. The Minister of

Agriculture and the State Minister seem to be proactive, conscious and genuinely interested in their approach in the matter.

Besides the traditional export products, President Rajapaksa, who has a genuine desire to develop international trade, has appointed capable, young and passionate State Ministers to promote domestic industries, such as ayurvedic products, ceramics and porcelain, batiks and handlooms, ornamental fish, clay, cane and brass.

They are entrusted to develop these rural small scale industries to be in the export market as early as possible.

The country eagerly expects the State Ministers, who were already given timelines to perform will deliver the goods for the nation.

The Export Development Board, spearheaded by a versatile, qualified, well experienced and proven personality with successful private sector exposure is engaged creditably to promote Sri Lanka's exports.

This writer briefly communicated with the present Director General long before she became the DG and remembers the exceptionally cordial assistance provided on a business matter. In interviews conducted on export industry, a few top exporters commended the efficiency and effectiveness of the EDB that is a rare occurrence about government institutions. With the new trend where the domestic non-traditional exports are being promoted on a government initiative, the EDB says they are geared to provide any assistance by way of advice, promotions, facilitation, or providing required knowledge to new exporters.

Factors such as relative competitiveness, quality of products and value additions determine the level of exports of Sri Lanka. To increase this level, the exporters should be offered the best possible incentives to cut costs by which they can be competitive.

The Government must provide side policies such as education and training and do away with unnecessary red tape and delays due to government regulations. The irony is that despite straightforward Presidential instructions, some of the senior bureaucrats tend to disregard them due to poor attitudes.

Tariff barriers

The Government is taking steps to promote private sector productivity concerning exports. New technology and management techniques must be provided to the export trade, particularly to new entrants. Lower tariff barriers can immensely help increase trade.

However, the issue of tariff barriers must be implemented with caution to avoid possible damage to the domestic industry. In theory, competitive advantage will increase overall economic welfare.

If Sri Lanka wishes to be strong in export, the Government should view foreign trade strategically and reduce the country's dependence on imports.

The Government has rightly imposed restrictions and bans temporarily, aiming to balance foreign exchange reserves. However, some interested parties are still trying to challenge this temporary policy for short term business gains.

A complete study through a panel of experts in economics, trade, and policy planning must be done, and ban or restrict unwanted and non-essential imports.

Sri Lanka sends back 21 containers of 'recycling' to UK

Previous illegal containers had rags, bandages and body parts from mortuaries

260 tonnes of rubbish first arrived in Colombo port in 2017

Another 242 containers from Britain remain abandoned at the port

BY NICOLE CONNER

Sri Lanka has shipped 21 containers full of 'recycling' back to the UK because it was full of rotting medical waste.

The Government said container-loads of waste were brought into the island in violation of international laws governing the shipping of hazardous material.

Previous illegally imported containers had included rags, bandages and body parts from mortuaries, according to officials. The type of hospital waste was not revealed, but they departed Sri Lanka on Saturday according to customs.

The 21 containers with 260 tonnes of rubbish had first arrived by ship in the Colombo port between September 2017 and March 2018.

The containers were meant to carry used mattresses, carpets and rugs, but had also contained hospital waste, officials said.

Customs spokesman Sunil Jayaratne said: 'The shipper had agreed to take back these 21 containers.'

'We are working to secure compensation from those responsible for getting the containers into the country.'

Another 242 containers from Britain remain abandoned at the same port and at a free trade zone outside the capital.

The government said they were



The 21 containers with 260 tonnes of rubbish brought into the island in violation of international laws governing the shipping of hazardous material (AFP)

carrying illegal garbage in violation of international law and also arrived between 2017 and 2018.

The government is currently engaged in legal action against the shipper to have the 242 containers removed from the country.

The investigation last year into

nearly 3,000 tonnes of illegally imported hazardous waste found the importer had reshipped about 180 tonnes to India and Dubai. In the past two years several Asian countries have turned back container-loads of waste from foreign shores.

Dailymail.co.uk

Nobel Peace Prize, a humbling, moving recognition of work - WFP

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the World Food Program (WFP) is a humbling, moving recognition of the work of WFP staff who lay their lives on the line every day to bring food and assistance for close to 100 million hungry children, women and men across the world. People whose lives are often brutally torn apart by instability, insecurity and conflict, stated WFP headquarters, Rome in Italy in a press release.

'Every one of the 690 million hungry people in the world today has the right to live peacefully and without hunger.'

Today, the Norwegian Nobel Committee has turned the global spotlight on them and on the devastating consequences of conflict. Climate shocks and economic pressures have further compounded their plight. A global pandemic with its brutal impact on economies and communities, is pushing millions more to the brink of starvation.

'The Nobel Peace Prize is not WFP's alone. We work closely with Governments, organisations and private sector partners whose passion for helping the hungry and vulnerable equals ours. We could not possibly help anyone without them. We are an operational agency and the daily work of our staff is driven by our core values of integrity, humanity and inclusion.'

'Where there is conflict, there is hunger. And where there is hunger, there is often conflict. Today is a reminder that food security, peace and stability go together. Without peace, we cannot achieve our global goal of zero hunger; and while there is hunger, we will never have a peaceful world.'

WFP Sri Lanka branch in a release stated, 'WFP is the largest humanitarian organisation in the world. Last year, it assisted 97 million people in 88 countries. Two-



WFP Sri Lanka Country Director Brenda Barton presenting a take-home ration pack to a student in Kalpaluwawa

thirds of WFP's work is in conflict-affected countries where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in countries without conflict. There can be no lasting peace when children are hungry. By saving lives during times of crisis and changing lives in times of peace, WFP is delivering an invaluable service to humanity.

WFP was recognised 'for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict,' said Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

The Covid-19 crisis has added to global food insecurity with an increasing number of people going hungry. The pandemic, with its brutal impact on economies and communities, is pushing millions of people worldwide to the

brink of starvation.

WFP focuses on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations.

In Sri Lanka, WFP has worked with the Government and other partners to save lives and livelihoods and make changes to ensure people have better access to food and nutrition.

'For more than half a century, WFP staff have dedicated themselves to helping communities in Sri Lanka, from assisting during the tsunami and post conflict period, to providing nourishing school meals to children,' said Brenda Barton, WFP Country Director in Sri Lanka.

'We are profoundly honoured that WFP has received this award, which is in recognition of WFP staff worldwide, including those in Sri Lanka, who work tirelessly to develop a better future for vulnerable communities everywhere.'

Arjuna keen to lead UNP

On Friday, October 9, over 100 Government MPs called for a full investigation on the release of former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen's brother who was arrested by the CID on suspicion of aiding and abetting the terrorists who carried out the Easter Sunday attacks.

A letter signed by 100 Government lawmakers claiming that Riyaj Bathiudeen was released by the CID without following proper legal procedure, was presented to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa by Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage at Temple Trees on Friday.

The MPs in their letter have stated that despite strong evidence against Riyaj, he was released by the CID on September 30 without being presented in court and without any legal procedure.

The Parliamentarians have called on the President and the Prime Minister to order a full investigation into this act by the CID and to re-arrest him and enforce the law in a proper manner.

No direct links

However, State Minister of Internal Security Chamal Rajapaksa informed Parliament last week that he was released because it was confirmed by the CID that he had no direct links to terrorism. However, Minister Rajapaksa said that release does not mean the suspect is vindicated of all charges.

The Minister said that he would be taken into custody if new evidence surfaces. Responding to a question raised by SJB Badulla district MP Chaminda Wijesiri, the Minister said that the suspect had been detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for three days for questioning and thereafter, detained for two three-month periods with permission of court. Minister Rajapaksa said, "As there was no evidence to prove that the suspect aided and abetted the terrorists to carry out the attacks, he was released on Sept 29. However, if there is new evidence, he would be arrested again."



WHEN THE SUSPECT WAS NABBED, THE POLICE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT THE POLICE HAD EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT THE SUSPECT AIDED AND ABETTED THE TERRORISTS BY TRANSPORTING EXPLOSIVES. NOW, AFTER A COUPLE OF MONTHS, THE SAME SPOKESMAN SAYS THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE. WHAT STATEMENT ARE WE TO BELIEVE? - WIJESIRI



University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

MP Pathirana told the House since the word Aanandaya is mentioned, "I asked both Ministers Gunawardena and Disanayake the meaning of the word. We have heard of Aanandayan Pragnawata (from delight to wisdom). Does distributing this book among parliament staff mean that they are being asked to smoke ganja?"

The Speaker said he will look into the matter.

No political deal

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has said that the Government has not entered into any political deal with Parliamentarian Rishad Bathiudeen. The clarification from the President came days after Bathiudeen was photographed with Minister Chamal Rajapaksa and other Government politicians at an event, leading to speculation that he is being courted to win support in Parliament for the 20th Amendment to the Constitution Bill.

The President in a post on his official Facebook page, stated, "I emphasise that our Government has not entered into any political deal with Parliament member Rishad Bathiudeen. I assure my citizens that I will not forsake the trust that they have placed in me and I will most certainly continue to work towards strengthening the built trust."

President Rajapaksa said, "Ensuring national security is the first and foremost responsibility of my Government. I am not prepared to hand over the power of arresting or arbitrarily releasing people to politicians, as happened in the past. I will also take action to rectify any omissions or mistakes made by the authorities or officials."

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) have agreed to strengthen their relationship and work in unison. The decision was taken during a meeting involving SLFP and SLPP stalwarts including Basil Rajapaksa. The discussion had revolved around using the alliance between both parties in a more effective manner.

The SLPP said that local government representatives of both parties will work unitedly and a committee will be appointed with the representatives of both parties to work at the district level. An agreement had also been reached to provide representatives of both parties equal opportunities to engage in development related activities.

Steps down

Former Minister and former Parliamentarian Arjuna Ranatunga has stepped down as the United National Party (UNP) Gampaha district leader. Ranatunga has sent his resignation letter to UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe. In the letter, Ranatunga says he decided to step down as Gampaha district Leader as the party's new Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene works under him in the district and that does not seem ap-



propriate. Ranatunga had recently said he was prepared to accept the UNP leadership post.

SLPP Chairman Prof. G. L. Peiris played down dissenting voices within the Government against 20A insisting that it was part of the democratic process.

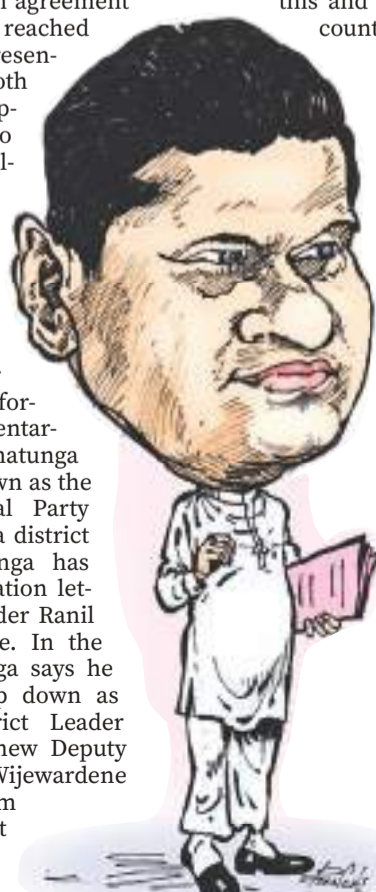
He told reporters that opposing views on several clauses included in the 20A by NFF Leader Wimal Weerawansa and SLPP Parliamentarian Wijeyadasa Rajapaksa was part of the democratic process of citizens having the right to express their views.

"There are several stages to getting important legislation of this nature passed. There are 39 petitions before the Supreme Court and we are awaiting the court's decision on whether or not we need to hold a referendum. This decision will be conveyed to the Speaker by October 12, which is the end of the three-week period specified in the Constitution. There will be changes at the Committee Stage and we have already said that some changes will be made," he said.

Prof. Peiris defended the inclusion of dual citizenship, reiterating that it was only introduced in the 19th Amendment to target specific members of the Rajapaksa family. Independent investigation State Minister of Highways Nimal Lanza told the media that he is requesting the Government to conduct an independent investigation into why former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen's brother, Riyaj Bathiudeen who was alleged to have had contact with a bomber and extremists who launched the attacks on Easter Sunday was released, without following legal procedure.

Lanza said when Riyaj was taken into custody by the Police five months ago, it was revealed that the Police had uncovered powerful evidence against him that he had had contact with the terrorists who launched the attacks. He asked, how was it that Bathiudeen was exonerated of those allegations after the lapse of five months? Was the mobile phone belonging to him examined properly? Was a proper court procedure followed when releasing him?

Lanza said investigations should be conducted into this and revealed to the country and that he



is making this request to the Justice Minister.

The State Minister said society is focusing strong attention on politicians and their close associates who provided political protection to the accused in the Easter Sunday attacks and if accused persons are released in this manner, serious doubts would arise, not only among the Catholics, but overall society about the investigations. He said it is the responsibility of the Government to eliminate those doubts.

Follow instructions

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has urged the public to follow the instructions given by the health authorities and obtain the information from official Government information services without being deceived by the "false propaganda spread by various groups".

In a message posted on his official Facebook page, the President stated, "At a time when the Covid-19 pandemic is sweeping the globe, we defeated it together as a strong nation. Today, Covid-19 is activating back in our country. As before, our health, security and other services are doing their best to save us from this pandemic."

"In this challenging situation, I urge you to follow the instructions given by the health authorities and obtain information from official government information services without being deceived by the false propaganda spread by various groups."

No detrimental agreements

Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage said the Government will not sign any international agreement detrimental to the country.

The Minister made this observation joining the debate on the Adjournment Motion moved by Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Dr. Harsha de Silva on the economy.

Moving the Adjournment Motion, Dr. De Silva said that the economy was deteriorating as a result of the Government's economic policies. Large scale business and small and medium enterprises have been severely affected by the Government's economic policies.

De Silva said that the Government has failed to manage the economic crisis that occurred due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Minister Aluthgamage responding to Dr. de Silva said, "Your Government and ours are totally different to each other. You need to remember that first. Our policies are different. Your Government had pro-western, pro-capitalist policies. Our policies are suitable for a country with a strong local economy. There is a major difference between our development plans and yours. The previous government came up with a taxation policy. It suppressed the public. What kind of an economic development plan is that?"

Irresponsible statements

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi on Friday requested the Opposition not to waste the time of the House by selectively quoting her statements regarding the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

Wanniarachchi pointed out that she did not make any irresponsible statements and asked the Opposition to listen to her entire statement and not partially. Sri Lanka has not yet hit the fourth stage of the pandemic where randomly selected people test positive for the virus.

Minister Wanniarachchi made these observations when SJB Parliamentarians alleged that the Government had let its guard down and ignored Covid-19 precautions, resulting in the public losing fear of the virus and the pandemic spreading at a faster rate in the second wave.

Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella said, "None other than the Health Minister made statements that Co-



HE WAS RELEASED BECAUSE IT WAS CONFIRMED BY THE CID THAT HE HAD NO DIRECT LINKS TO TERRORISM. HOWEVER, THE RELEASE DOES NOT MEAN THE SUSPECT IS VINDICATED OF ALL CHARGES - CHAMAL

vid-19 was eradicated from society. She boasted that Sri Lanka was the world's first country that removed the coronavirus from its territory. Such statements resulted in people losing their fear and letting down their guard. That is the reason for the second wave that is prevailing now."

Health Minister Wanniarachchi in her reply said, "I kindly request Opposition MPs to go through my statements in full. You have listened only to a section of the statement that I made. They take a section out of context and try to create the wrong impression."



OUR POLICIES ARE SUITABLE FOR A COUNTRY WITH A STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY. THERE IS A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND YOURS. THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT CAME UP WITH A TAXATION POLICY. IT SUPPRESSED THE PUBLIC - MAHINDANANDA

News/Obituaries

UNDP and SLTDA to support female entrepreneurs

Citi to provide financial assistance

BY ASHRAFF A. SAMAD

With the outbreak of Covid-19, Sri Lanka's tourism industry was one of the worst affected.

A rapid assessment undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) has found that women were disproportionately impacted during this period as 67% among those who lost their jobs were female workers.

The UNDP and SLTDA with financial assistance from Citi, are developing a livelihood support mechanism for female entrepreneurs, with a focus on women unable to access livelihood support services to revive their businesses. A meeting in this regard was held last week.

The project will engage Provincial Councils to identify the women entrepreneurs to sustain the efforts of the initiative. The program is in-line with the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to Covid-19 that calls on countries to build for the future.

The Government has made significant progress in initiating early relief measures to businesses, however, as women make up a majority of the segment of unregistered (informal) service providers in Sri Lanka, this has posed a set of problems as informality translates into low wages, precarious



Tourism authorities in Provincial Councils have been asked to identify women engaged in the tourism sector and women who have already registered with the SLTDA will also be considered

working conditions and the absence of social protection. Coupled with an increase in unpaid work and care burdens during the pandemic, female workers face barriers in accessing these services.

Resident Representative of UNDP in Sri Lanka, Robert Juhkam said, "Building resilient social protection systems that help informal sector workers to withstand shocks are a critical element of Covid-19 responses. Supporting female workers affected

by the crisis is a vital component to ensuring that no one is left behind in Sri Lanka's socio-economic recovery efforts. This is direct relief and recovery, and the initiative will test new approaches to inform future social protection policy thinking."

Chairperson of SLTDA, Kimarli Fernando said, "The program will directly support 900 women from all the Provinces. Project initiatives will benefit at least 3,500 men and women indirectly throughout the country. This

will be a grant and it will be a relief to the affected parties. Tourism authorities in Provincial Councils have been asked to identify women engaged in the tourism sector and women who have already registered with the SLTDA will also be considered.

"Selection of beneficiaries will be by a panel and it will be a transparent process. Each beneficiary will get assistance valued at around Rs. 50,000. The selected women will receive business development services to enhance their skills for alternative livelihood development.

"A system will be set up to support them to use the grant for developing a complimentary livelihood with the support of the provincial tourism authorities. Female entrepreneurs will be further supported to obtain business registration with SLTDA, enabling them access to livelihood support from the Government in the future."

Citi Country Officer in Sri Lanka, Ravin Basnayake said, "Citi again pledges its unwavering commitment to serve the local community to fight the pandemic. We are proud of our partnership with the UNDP and the SLTDA on this timely initiative that also demonstrates our shared commitment to women's economic empowerment. We will continue to demonstrate Citi's values through our philanthropy to make a difference to those in need."

Bogus driving licence issuing house raided

BY RAJA WAIYASEKERA
Tissamaharama special corr

Udawalawa Police raided a house at Karametiara where bogus driving licences were issued at exorbitant rates. The police said that they found two bogus rubber stamps bearing the name of the Ratnapura district commissioner of motor vehicles, a date stamp, two NICs, two bogus driving licences, 15 applications for driving licences and 78 milligrams of heroin at the house. The owner of the house, a bus conductor has been taken into custody.

The police said that he is a drug addict and running the bogus driving licence issuing centre to find money for drugs. Police are investigating.



Education Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris visited the examination centre at Rahula Balika Vidyalaya, Malabe to inspect the preparations for the Grade 5 scholarship examination yesterday. The Education Ministry decided to hold the examination as planned under strict Covid-19 health regulations. Examinations Commissioner General B. Sanath Poojitha was also present.

College of Education, a quarantine centre

BY S.M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Corr.

The Army on Friday took over the Wayamba National College of Education at Bingiriya, to turn it into a quarantine centre for Covid-19

patients in the Kurunegala and Puttalam Districts.

About 600 resident teacher trainees and 150 lecturers of the College have vacated the hostel and college premises.

Four Covid-19 cases Kalutara under surveillance

BY KAPILA SOMARATNE,
Panadura Group Cor.

The Kalutara District is under surveillance of the Public Health Inspectors on the instructions of Kalutara District Director of Health Dr Udaya Ratnayake for Covid-19 as four positive cases had been traced at the Horana Base Hospital.

The Health authorities in Hor-

ana and Madurawala had traced four positive cases from Horana Kananwila and Madurawala. They were related to employees of the apparel company Covid-19 groups. Ward nine of the Horana Base Hospital and another ward were closed temporarily. The occupants of the houses where the Covid-19 cases had been traced were placed under self-quarantine.

Chinese delegation adhered ...

From page 1

From the hotel, they were escorted to the President's office and the Prime Minister's office for official engagements, Kandeepan who is also the contact person at the Foreign Ministry for Covid-19 Task force said.

The Foreign Ministry issued the following release on the delegation's visit yesterday, "As part of the Government's sustained efforts at strengthening neighbourly relations, the Foreign Ministry facilitated on Friday (9/10) a high-level Chinese delegation composed of a key Political Bureau Member of the Communist Party and Diplomat Yan Jeichi along with the Chairman of China's International Development Cooperation Agency Wang Xiaotao and Chinese Foreign Ministry official Cheng Song to arrive in Sri Lanka.

The delegation held discussions with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Friday, Oc-

tober 9, in the presence of Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, Secretary Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage and other Government Ministers and dignitaries. Taking stock of the economic cooperation, the leaders recalled the catalytic role played by the Chinese FDI projects operational in Sri Lanka valued at over USD 3 billion, and the significant employment opportunities the projects have so far generated. The delegation and the Government underscored the importance of concluding the projects early towards reaping the benefits from the full potential of these mega Foreign Direct Investments in the country.

Recalling the immense support extended by the Chinese government in times of the Covid-19 pandemic, the President thanked the delegation for the valuable assistance and support consistently made available by the Chinese Government. The leaders also

expressed their gratitude for the continued support and solidarity extended to Sri Lanka during the humanitarian operation in the North and China's steadfast support in the Human Rights Council in trying times.

Reviewing the two-way trade, the Government called upon the Chinese leaders to facilitate market access to some of Sri Lanka's unique commodities that could find demand in the Chinese domestic market towards increasing the trade turnover and improving the trade balance which is in favour of China. Both agreed the export basket to China need to be reviewed to increase the trade volume and the need to resume negotiations on the stalled talks on the Sri Lanka-China FTA. The first ever visit by Chinese leaders, during the Covid-19 pandemic to Colombo was organised under strict compliance of the health protocol - an air-bubble concept, of the Ministry of Health."

St. Mary's Church, Yatiyantota holds 125th annual feast



BY J. ANTONY

The 125th Annual Feast of the Yatiyantota Parish of the Diocese of Ratnapura, will be held today, presided over by the Archbishop of Colombo Malcom Cardinal Ranjith.

St. Mary's Church stands on a mount overlooking the Kelani Ganga, about 200 metres from the town, on the Avissawella Hatton road. Yatiyantota has a mixed population comprising Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

St. Mary's Church was built in 1895. It was the time when the Southern province and the Kegalle district, including Yatiyantota were under the administration of the Colombo Archdiocese. Yatiyantota was overlooked by the Parish Priest of Kegalle, who used to travel to Yatiyantota to say Mass and visit the sub stations. There was no transport facility at that time and the priest travelled in a bullock cart.

In 1892, a temporary church was built at Meegawela on a leased land. In 1893, the Galle Diocese was carved out of the Colombo Diocese and became an independent Diocese. Rev. Fr. Joseph Van Reeth S.J. was appointed as the first Bishop of the new Diocese. Rev. Fr. Theobald Neute S.J. was appointed as the Parish Priest of Kegalle. In 1907, he was transferred to Galle as the Manager of St. Aloysius College. Rev. Fr. Paul Del Beque S.J. was appointed as the Parish Priest of Yatiyantota. Gurugalla, Dehiowita, Deraniyagala, Maliboda, Nooriya, Sapumalkande, Karawanella, Bulathkohupitiya, Ruwanwella, Chesterford and Kithulgala sub-stations are under the Yatiyantota Parish. In 1925, Rev. Fr. Joseph Pirone S.J. was appointed as the Parish Priest of Yatiyantota. The large statue of Our Lady of Holy Rosary and the large Crucifix installed at the Yatiyantota church were brought from Belgium by Fr. Prone. The statue of Our Lord's Resurrection was brought from India by Gomez.

In 1939, Rev. Fr. Guispe Icono S.J. was appointed as the Parish Priest of Yatiyantota. He was enthusiastic about opening an English school in Yatiyantota. Gabriel Gomez's wife volunteered to construct the building in memory of her husband. The building was named as St. Gabriel's College. After his transfer, Rev. Fr. C. Iannacoco S.J. was appointed as the Parish Priest of Yatiyantota. He built the teachers' quarters on a land donated by the Government. He purchased a bus to transport schoolchildren. He bought a piece of land at Gomaduwala and built the Good Shepherd Convent. The foundation stone was laid by the then Prime Minister Sir. John Kotalawala.

In 1964, Rev. Fr. Marino S.J. was appointed as the Parish Priest.

In 1968, Rev. Fr. Joseph Silva was appointed and in the same year, Rev. Fr. Dudley Atanayake took charge of the parish. He pioneered racial and religious amity. In 1981, Rev. Fr. Theodore Lambert was appointed Parish Priest. It was he who installed the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in front of the Mission House. During his period, St. Mary's School taken over by the Government was given back at his numerous requests. He got the church choir to sing Vesak bhakthi gee parading the streets as a sign of religious amity. He divided the parish into five zones.

In 1986, Rev. Fr. Beed Silva was appointed as the Parish Priest. It was during his time that St. Gabriel's College vested in the Government was re-vested in the church.

In 1990, Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando was appointed Parish Priest. He demolished the old church building and built a spacious new church. He was later appointed as the Procurator General and Vicar General of the Ratnapura Diocese under Bishop Malcom Ranjith. He also functioned as the Director of SEDEC, CARITAS.

2nd Year Remembrance



A.M.M. SIDIQUE (S.L.A.S.)

His memory is as dear today, as in the hour he passed away.

Remembered with much love and affection.

May Almighty Allah grant him Jannatul Furdouse.

56th Birthday Remembrance



DINESH WIJERATNE

Although I cannot hold, hug, kiss you and sing the birthday song for you, I take great comfort knowing that the gigantic Heavenly Choir will sing for you beautifully, as the

All Mighty God holds you safely in His care forever.

Along with the rest of your family. Happy birthday my darling.

With undying love and precious memories.

Always your loving wife Chandrika Ekanayake.

Obituaries

ABEYSURIYA - MRS KARUNA of Dodampahala Dickwella (retired Teacher) - Beloved wife of late C.E. Wijesuriya (former VC Chairman Dickwella), loving mother of Gamini, Kumara, Banty, Harshinie and Chamly, mother-in-law of Rekha, Shiranthi, Prashan and Pavithra, loving grandmother of Shantal, Ashley, Nihara, Dinali, Nadine, Nathasha, Dinali, Maleesha, Ranu, Renu and Romy, passed away peacefully at Rivendale Retirement Home (Piliyandala) on 02 October 2020. Funeral took place at Borella Cemetery Crematorium on 04 October 2020. Family members wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone attended and helped in many ways during this unprecedented time. We regret our inability to thank them individually. 062576

CALISTUS MAHENDRAN THAVAVEERASINGHE - passed away peacefully in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on Tuesday Oct. 6, 2020. Mahendran, beloved son of late Oliver and Antonia, loving brother of Angela, Gerard and Linus. He will be missed very much by his family. Viewing at **Chapel Ridge Funeral Home, 8911 Woodbine Ave. Markham, Ontario. L3R 5G1** on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Holy mass at **Prince of Peace Catholic Church 265, Alton Towers Circle, Scarborough, Ontario. M1V 4E7** at 10:00 a.m. followed by internment at **Christ the King Cemetery, 7770 Steeles Ave. E Markham, Ontario. L6B 1A8** 062881

Maithripala Sirisena ignored my request to be appointed Security Advisor – Sarath Fonseka MP

There would not have been Easter Sunday attacks if I was privy to intel reports

BY BHAKTHI DHARMAPRIYA MENDIS

“The country and its people benefited from the 19th Amendment. If someone disagrees with that fact he's a hypocrite. But we agree that the two leaders – the President and the Prime Minister did nothing for the country during the *Yahapalana* rule” said SJB MP and former Army Commander Sarath Fonseka in an interview with *Silumina*, our sister paper

Q: Why do you reject the 20th Amendment?

A: We have many reasons to reject it.

After the 20th Amendment, the person who will be President will have excessive powers.

When you weaken independent commissions, the police will get weakened. The President can manipulate the Public Service Commission and the Judicial Service Commission because he will retain the power to make appointments to these commissions after the 20th Amendment. The members of the Commissions will have to please him to save their positions and these Commissions will lose their independence.

We remember the damage caused by the 18th Amendment.

On the other hand, the Auditor General will not have the offices of the President and Prime Minister under his purview.

He cannot audit the transactions of the institutions under them. That is detrimental. All past leaders who have reigned this country were accused of corruption, what is the guarantee that it will be different this time?

The new Amendment will also deprive the power to audit institutions of which the Government holds over 50 per cent of shares such as Sri Lanka airlines and Sri Lanka Telecom.

The officers in these companies draw heavy paychecks, sometimes, worth millions of rupees.

Q: But the Government has refuted this, it says the President's office and the PM's office can be Audited after the 20-A is introduced?

A: But not only the President's and PM's offices, many other institutions will be exempted from Audit if the 20th Amendment becomes effective.

We are concerned about the way government members are behaving, already there are reports of massive illegal land clearing and destruction of protected forests. Lawmakers seem to be above the law. Alarming, the President says his word should be regarded as official administrative circulars.

Q: But the Government has stressed that the flawed 19th Amendment must be replaced if the country is to flourish?

A: We don't agree with that stance. The 19th Amendment should not be blamed for all the *Yahapalana* woes and blunders. The former President and Prime Minister were weak and they let the issues between them overshadow the most important task at hand - governance. And the country was destabilised as a result.

No Amendment can help if the Heads of Government and the Cabinet are weak in performance. The Constitution should not be blamed for the problems they created.

Q: It is claimed that the 19th Amendment was a curse?

A: The country and its people benefited from the 19th Amendment. If someone disagrees with that fact he's a hypocrite. But we agree that the two leaders – the President and the Prime Minister did nothing for

the country during the *Yahapalana* rule.

Yet, we managed to correct a lot of misdeeds committed up to 2015. Health, Education and Agriculture sectors showed a progress. The 'closest school is the best school' concept gained momentum. Transport and road development too recorded positive trends of progress. "The Gamperaliya program" found solutions for the rural masses.

The Government failed due to the actions of the President, Prime Minister and a handful of other ministers.

Q: It has been ten months since the President assumed office, hasn't he done anything to fulfill the people's wishes in your opinion?

A: He has not fulfilled any of his election pledges. The cost of living has sky rocketed.

Life has become a struggle for the common man, and so is having a proper meal. There is a ban on exports, from a bicycle tire to ordinary garments, people can't find anything to buy. This situation directly affects our economy.

Q: The President's vision is to strengthen local industries by limiting imports, is that a bad policy?

A: We must strengthen our economy, before stopping imports. We cannot afford to stop imports abruptly. First of all, we must develop local production to meet the demand. The best example is the sudden prohibition of turmeric imports. This has created an acute shortage, local production cannot meet the current demand. The housewives are the most affected. The Government has no solution so far.

Q: The Government says they have the two-thirds to pass the 20th Amendment in Parliament?

A: We cannot be certain of anything in politics, which means it's a possibility. There are weak characters in the Opposition. In the past we saw how MPs got sold out. During the 52 day government MPs were bought over. So, the Government might bribe the Opposition MPs to secure two-thirds majority.

THERE ARE NO MAJOR ISSUES WITHIN OUR ALLIANCE. WE ARE THE STRONGEST FORCE IN THE OPPOSITION. WE HAVE DETACHED OURSELVES FROM THE UNCOUTH ELEMENTS THAT WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CORRUPTION AND OTHER MISDEEDS DURING THE LAST GOVERNMENT



SJB MP and former Army Commander Sarath Fonseka

Q: Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage has openly said that 30 MPs from the Opposition will support the Government to pass the 20th Amendment.

A: He speaks nonsense, we don't pay much attention to his utterances. But the team of MPs in the SJB works hard and I'm certain none of them will get sold-out.

Q: You have accused the Government of not apprehending the top men behind the Central Bank Bond Scam committed during the Yahapalana regime?

A: Not just the Opposition, even the people are blaming the Government. The Prime Minister and the President at all election rallies said that the first thing they will do after

the election is to apprehend offenders of the Bond Scam and expose corrupt officials. Where are those thieves now?

This exercise is going to be a big farce. We have seen this trend over and over again in our history. Sadly, the people will be cheated once again.

Q: You are a former Army Commander, what is your view on this Easter Sunday terror attacks?

A: It could have been averted. We fought with a bigger threat – a ruthless terror outfit – and defeated it. If the President and the PM acted accordingly, Easter Sunday terror attacks could have been averted. In fact in 2014, Major General Lal Perera had identified Saharan and warned him.

The then government should also have taken more action in that regard. The *Yahapalana* government had not looked into this at all. The intelligent apparatus and the law enforcement had found out about him and informed the relevant units in the Police and the Government but the leaders have not acted on any of these reports, nothing was done about it, this is clear.

The Minister of Law and Order then was Minister Sagala Ratnayake and later the President had taken over the subject but none of them had acted on these intelligence reports.

Later, when intelligence of his

planned attack on Easter Sunday was received, it was not taken up at the Security Council meeting. The then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe washed his hands saying that President did not allow him to attend the Security Council meetings and the Law and Order Minister and the IGP did the same.

It is more than clear now that they turned a blind eye to the attacks, even after receiving intelligence of the exact date, time and place of the incident.

There was a team of people who assisted Zaharan to carry out the attacks but did not try to prevent it. All of them must take responsibility for the devastation, the mayhem and the suffering of the people. They are directly responsible and they must own up to it. And they must be punished accordingly.

Q: You too were part of the Yahapalana government holding an important Ministry at the time of the attacks, why didn't you act on these reports. Did you know about these intelligence reports?

A: It was completely outside my ministry's purview. I did not know about Zaharan's plans. In fact, those who knew about it did not speak a word about it.

President Maithripala Sirisena did not get me involved in the law and order, judicial or security matters. If they did I would not have let this happen. When Sirisena was elected President, I was not an MP, I was just a leader of a political party. He asked me if I would like to be appointed as a head of a foreign diplomatic mission, I said instead I would like to be appointed as an advisor on security matters.

He did not do it, I reminded him twice, but he ignored it.

Q: There are allegations that the Samagi Jana Balawegaya has lost its unity?

A: That is not true. There are no major issues within our alliance. We are the strongest force in the Opposition. We have detached ourselves from the uncouth elements that were responsible for corruption and other misdeeds during the last government.

Today, we have an immaculate leader and a robust team of members. We are working on having our own government soon. Over 15 former UNP Ministers and MPs contested under the UNP and lost.

We don't need to join them in the future as well, people have rejected them. During the last General Election the mainstream political parties who stood with us are asking for an alliance. That is not a difficult demand. We faced the election as the Samagi Jana Balawegaya party, in future we will be known as the Samagi Jana BalaPeramuna.



World Mental Health Day

Maintaining mental integrity during Covid-19 crisis

BY PROF. ATHULA SUMATHIPALA

World Mental Health Day fell yesterday. This year's theme was "Mental Health for All – Greater Investment and Greater Access for everyone, everywhere".

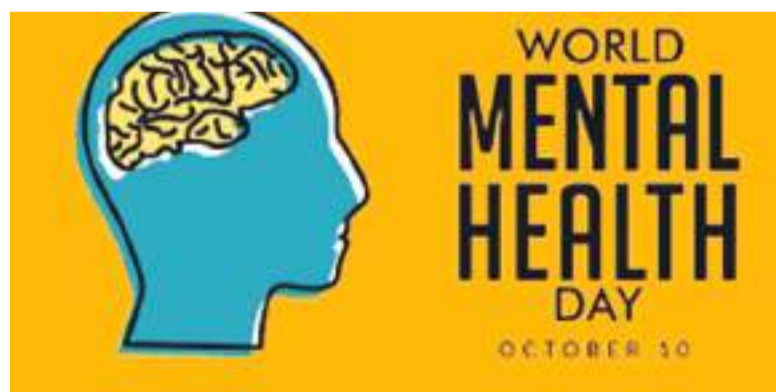
The motto of the World Health Organisation is "No development without health, no health without mental health".

According to the National Mental Health Survey in Sri Lanka, carried out by the Institute for Research and Development in Health and Social Care, 10 percent of Sri Lankans suffer from some form of mental illness.

On this Global Mental Health Day, we are not only talking about that 10 percent, but also about protecting and promoting mental health among the people.

This is more important than ever because of the importance of maintaining the mental integrity of the people in the face of the global Covid-19 crisis.

There is a certain degree of reluctance to talk about mental illness in society. The reason for this is that mental illness is linked with the notion of stigma, and the people suffering from mental illness may be subjected to discrimination. But because we are talk-



ing about mental health, it must be understood that the entire population today is affected in some way. Many people are stressed out. Some others who have Covid-19 may try to hide it from society. None of these are indications of mental illness, but are based on what they think, and feel leading to unhelpful behaviours. In the face of such a complex crisis, we suggest that you use today's dedication to mental health, to bring to the table how you should work collectively at home, at work, to promote and maintain your mental health.

The media has a huge responsibility in this regard. That is, to contribute as much as possible to the role of promoting mental health. It is also the duty

of every politician, every professional, and every citizen.

Mental illness is one of the leading components of non-communicable diseases, especially in the context of changing lifestyles, food habits, human relationships and decaying in traditional values witnessed in the modern world.

The promotion of mental health should be used as a pervasive theme in the school, from the kindergarten to the advanced level, in the university system, and at every workplace. Mental health promotion is not just a slogan, but should be part of social activism. It is the responsibility of every citizen and not just the responsibility of the Head of State or the Ministry of Health.

Minuwangoda battles Covid-19



Brandix workers leaving for quarantine



Gnanavasa MV, Divulapitiya being prepped up for today's Grade 5 Scholarship exam



PHIs in Minuwangoda town



PCR tests being conducted at the Minuwangoda Base Hospital



Serbia's Novak Djokovic runs to return the ball to Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas during their men's singles semi-final tennis match at French Open (AFP)

DJOKOVIC, NADAL ON BRINK OF FRENCH OPEN HISTORY

PARIS AFP: Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, with 36 Grand Slam titles between them, are both just a win away from creating more tennis history at Roland Garros.

Djokovic is chasing a second Roland Garros title and 18th Grand Slam to become the first man in half a century to win all four majors twice. It's such a rare achievement that only Don Budge and Rod Laver have managed it in the history of the sport.

The world number one has four titles in 2020, carved out from 36 wins and just one loss - his now infamous default at the US Open.

However, is the pressure beginning to tell? He dropped his first set of the tournament in his win over Pablo Carreno Busta in the quarter-finals and required treatment on his neck and shoulders. Nadal, the 12-time champion, arrived in Paris writing off his chances of equalling Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles.

He remains cautious over his chances at a tournament being played in the cold and chill of autumn rather than its traditional May-June slot and after finishing

his quarter-final against Jannik Sinner at 01:30 on Wednesday morning, he said it was "dangerous for the body with these very heavy conditions".

Nadal's late night was mostly caused by Schwartzman needing more than five hours to defeat US

Open champion and third seed Dominic Thiem in five sets to reach his maiden semi-final at the majors. By contrast, Nadal is in his 34th.



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates after entering the final of the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on October 9, 2020. (Photo AFP)

Nadal's woes in 'step forward'

Rafael Nadal said his French Open semi-final win over Diego Schwartzman on Friday was his best match of the tournament but stressed he still needs to improve if he is to capture a record-extending 13th Roland Garros title.

The 34-year-old Nadal saw off a dogged Schwartzman 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (7/0) to leave him one victory away from equalling Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slams.

The Spaniard will meet world number one Novak Djokovic in Sunday's championship match.

"I'm in a final, I haven't lost a set, although it's true there have been other times at Roland Garros where I have felt better," said Nadal.

"The conditions are not perfect for my style nor for my impact on the ball, so it means a lot to be where I am."

Nadal registered his 99th win in Paris since his 2005 debut, losing just twice in 16 appearances. A wrist injury forced him to withdraw from the 2016 edition.

Gampaha T20 cricket show ruined

Divulapitiya Young Lions CC, Harry Batsman CC Gampaha, Henegama Cricket Club and All Knights Cricket Club recorded wins in the opening weekend of the Gampaha District Inter Club T20 cricket tournament last week conducted by United Cricket Club with 16 teams in the fray.

All matches were held at Sri Walisinghe Harischandra Cricket Stadium in Katana and the tournament was well contested until the coronavirus crept in to ruin the show.

Henegama Cricket Club beat Titans Cricket Club by 26 runs and All Knights Cricket Club beat Harry Friendly Cricket Club by 91 runs.

Harry Batsman CC beat Blaize Cricket Academy by eight wickets and Divulapitiya Young Lions CC beat SS Cricket Club by the same margin.

Young Lions beat SS Club

SS Cricket Club: 101 (18) (Ashen Soyza 23, Sithul Fernando 20, Kavindu Fernando 5/18)

Divulapitiya Young Lions CC: 103/2 (17.2) (Thilina Devinda 38,

Sudesh Srimal 26 n.o.)

Harry CC beat Blaize

Blaize Cricket Academy: 89 (19.1) (Shane Wijesinghe 20, Vihanga Arangalla 2/10, Pasindu Ushettige 2/18)

Harry Batsman CC: 90/2 (14.2) (Pasindu Ushettige 48 n.o., MP Jayamanne 2/15)

Henegama beat Titans

Henegama Cricket Club: 105 (19.5) (Krishan Batepola 49, Lahiru Malwatta 3/15, Lahiru Sandaruwan 2/18)

Titans Cricket Club: 79 (17.3) (Lyon Madushan 28, Harsha Praboda 2/16)

All Nights win

All Knights Cricket Club: 146/8 (20) (Roscoe Thattil 36, Supeshala Jayatilke 9, Sahan Nanayakkara 27, Hirushan de Silva 3/25, Sameera Ratnayake 3/30)

Harry Friendly Cricket Club: 55 (15.3) (Sachintha Harshadeva 13, Sahan Nanayakkara 2/01, Charith Rajapakse 2/16, Shehan Sandaruwan 2/11)

(YK)



Brazil's Roberto Firmino celebrates his goal

Brazil hammer Bolivia in WC qualifier

SAO PAULO, (AFP) - Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino scored a brace as Brazil romped to a 5-0 victory over Bolivia in their opening 2022 World Cup qualifier on Friday.

Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho and Paris Saint-Germain defender Marquinhos also got on the scoresheet while star forward Neymar set up two goals in a totally one-sided encounter that sent Brazil top of the South American qualifying table. Inside the first minute, winger

Everton volleyed wide from inside the six-yard box and three minutes later his cross was headed off-target by Marquinhos from a similar position.

Bolivia couldn't get out of their half, or on the ball, as Coutinho and Everton created a slew of chances down Brazil's left.

The pressure told on 16 minutes as Marquinhos headed home from an identical position to his earlier chance as full-back Danilo swung over a cross from the right following a short corner.

Matara cricket coaches presented with T-shirts



PIW Jayasekara a senior Cicket coach receiving an official T-shirt and Membership card from Asanka Prasad, Director of ASB Fashion

The Cricket Coaches Association of the Matara District (CCAMD) presented official T-shirts to all member coaches at the Uyanwatte stadium Matara recently.

Asanka Prasad, Director of ASB Fashion sponsored the event and also donated ASB Fashions VIP member cards to 38 Cricket coaches. Shehan Kalpa (Manager Matara Branch), Rohan Ariyatilleke (President of CCAMD) and members of the association participated in this event. (YK)

Sordo wins four stages to lead Rally of Sardinia

ALGHERO, Italy, (AFP) - Spaniard Dani Sordo won the last three stages and four overall to build a lead of more than 17 seconds in the Rally of Sardinia on Friday.

The Hyundai driver has not scored a point in the World Rally Championship this season but won in Sardinia last year.

He took the second stage and then grabbed the lead when he was fastest by 9.4sec on the fourth stage, the last one on the morning loop. He then won the two afternoon stages.

"I am really happy to come back like this," Sordo said. "We pushed hard and made time with good tyre choices."

Finland's Teemu Suninen, who won the opening stage in his M-

Sport Ford, lies second.

Sordo's Belgian team-mate Thierry Neuville, who stalled twice during the day, was second on the sixth and final stage of the day to take third from Frenchman Sebastien Ogier. In the driver champi-

onship, Ogier is second to Toyota team-mate Elfyn Evans.

Evans did interrupt Sordo's winning streak by taking the third stage but ended the day in fifth, 51 seconds behind the leader and 16 seconds behind Ogier.



MORE SPORTS ON PAGES 16, 21, 22, 23 & 24

National Sports Festival events not held

The marathon, race walking and cycling events of the National Sports Festival which were to be held yesterday and today in Kataragama has been postponed.

Sri Lanka Athletics (SLA) has also postponed the first athletic selection trails (open category) which was scheduled to held at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo.

The vice president of the Sri Lanka Athletics GLS Perera said that the world Athletic Technical Official Education and Certification System (TOECS) level one course and examination that was to be held this month at the National Institute of Sport Science in Colombo 7 has also been postponed.

Meanwhile the senior and junior athletic championships scheduled for December are scheduled to be worked off according to SLA president Palitha Fernando. (DR)

Jaffna Gladiators demolish rivals to claim Northern Premier League



Skipper of the Jaffna Gladiators S. Niroshan receiving the Champion trophy from Sri Lanka Cricket vice president Ravin Wickramaratne

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Jaffna Gladiators cricket team emerged champions at the recently concluded inaugural Northern Premier League (NPL) at the Vavuniya Town Hall playground.

The tournament was jointly conducted by the Northern Province Cricket Association and Vavuniya District Cricket Association under the guidance from Sri Lanka Cricket.

Jaffna Gladiators defeated Mullai Panthers by 134 runs in the final to take the champions trophy and Rs. 200,000 while the runners up received Rs.100,000.

Five teams representing Vavuniya, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Manner districts participated in is inaugural T-20 tournament.

In the final Jaffna Gladiators batted first scoring 191 for seven wickets in their 20 overs and in reply Mullai Panthers were bundled out for just 53 runs in 12.5 overs.

Sooryakumar Ajith was adjudged man of the final for his fine all-round capabilities as he took 3 for 13 and scored a brisk knock of 53 in 37 deliveries to guide the Gladiators to victory.

Gladiators skipper S. Niroshan also made a fine knock of 50 in 37 balls and won the best

batsman award.

In addition A. Pradeep of the Gladiators who captured 15 wickets during this tournament won the best bowler award while A. Anchayan of the Mullai Panthers who aggregated 180 and captured eight wickets during the tournament was adjudged best player of the tournament.

Sri Lanka Cricket president Shammi Silva, vice president Ravin Wickramaratne, HR senior manager Major Tanesh Dias, Head of National Cricket Development Kamal Dharmasiri and Sri Lanka cricketers Bhanuka Rajapakse and Vishwa Fernando also graced the occasion and presented the awards.

SPORT

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OCTOBER 11, 2020

MENDIS SMASHES 113 BUT PRASANNA UPSTAGES IN VICTORY MARCH

Kusal Mendis hammered his first century in the inaugural Army Commander's T20 Cricket League but his Eastern Warriors team lost by two wickets to Northern Warriors at the Dombagoda ground in Kalutara yesterday.

Mendis scored an unbeaten 113 runs in 66 balls with 11 boundaries and five sixes in a total of 166 but Northern Warriors reached the target with three balls to spare as Seekkuge Prasanna hit a quick-fire 67 to lead the charge.

Prasanna the skipper made his 67 off 29 balls with seven sixes and four fours and reached his 50 in just 17 balls which marked the fastest in the tournament.

He hit 28 runs in one over bowled by Thulina Dilshan while Dasun Shanaka made 59 with four sixes and three fours.

In another match of the same tournament yesterday at the same venue Western Warriors beat Southern Warriors by 55 runs to lead the points table with three wins.

Western Warriors have in the process earned 12 points from five matches.

Southern Warriors recorded three wins so far and earned 12 points after beating Eastern Warriors twice and Northern Warriors. They lost to Western Warriors twice.

Avishka Fernando from Western Warriors made 56 in 38 balls with four boundaries and three sixes as he and Harshajith Virendra (23) put on 71 for first wicket.

Dinesh Chandimal representing Southern Warriors made 67 in 38 balls with two boundaries and seven



Kusal Mendis

Seekkuge Prasanna

sixes as he and Thushan de Zoysa (24) put on a 71-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Scores:

Eastern Warriors: 166/5 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 113 n.o., Thulina Dilshan 10, Asela Gunaratne 10,

Shihan De Silva 1/16)

Northern Warriors: 167/8 in 19.3 overs (Seekkuge Prasanna 67, Dasun Shanaka 59, Sanjeev Coomaraswamy 2/14, Hashan Sandeepa 2/18)

Western Warriors: 175/8 in 20 overs (Avishka Fernando 56, Samitha Wanigasekera 32, Yashoda Mendis 25, Harshajith Virendra 23, Thisara

Perera 13, Dhammika Prasad 12, Madushan Bothotage 2/39)

Southern Warriors: 120 in 17.3 overs (Dinesh Chandimal 67, Thushan Zoysa 24, Gihan Korralage 13 n.o., Harshajith Virendra 3/32, Thisara Perera 2/11, Gayan Chandrabosh 2/14)

(YK)

Anthonian boy hits 208 in 80 balls, team makes 401 in 31 overs

Promising St. Anthony's College batsman Harsha Weerasooriya made an unbeaten 208 against Sangamitta MV Gampaha in their first round fixture of the Gampaha District Inter School Academy Under 15 cricket tournament conduct by RB Cricket Foundation recently.

Weerasooriya scored his unbeaten 208 in just 80 balls with 33 boundaries and two sixes as he and Shanel Thimana (99) put on a 325 runs stand for first wicket.

St. Anthony's College Wattala in the process scored 401 runs for one wicket in just 31 overs.

Some 24 schools and academy teams in the Gampaha district participated in this tournament.

At Wattala
St. Anthony's College: 401/1 dec (31) (Harsha Weerasooriya 208 n.o. Shanel Thimana 99, Thishan de Silva 53 n.o.)

Sangamitta MV, Gampaha: 52 (29.2) (Chamod Sandeepa 5/20 Thishan Abishek 3/7)

At Kirindiwela
SN Cricket Academy: 204 (47.2) (Kavishan Nadeesha 98, Chemitha Ridmal 34, Yasith Ishina 6/74)

St. Joseph's College Wattala 115 (31.2) (Nemitha Dewkith 46, Anjana Anushka 28, Saviru Nimal 3/19, Kavishan Nadeesha 2/04, Thimira Mikashana 2/15, Savin Induwara 2/35)

At Yakkala
York International Cricket Academy: 97 (42.1) (Matheesha Costa 40, Ahinsa 6/20, Yesith Ekanayake 3/20) and 5/1 (4)

Serendib Cricket Academy: 90 (35.4) (Ahinsa Nainayake 24, Vidura Wettasinghe 4/24)

At Kirindiwela
Mathews Cricket Academy Wattala: 70 (25) (Sandun Prabash 36 n.o., Deneth Nirmal 5/23, Vidura Wettasinghe 2/12) and 3/0 (1.5)

York International School, Sapugaskanda: 229/5 dec (33) (Manoj Bandara 54, Dilan Jayaweera 50 n.o., Vidura Wettasinghe 46, Prabash Nirwan 25 n.o., Udara Sewwanda 3/42)-(YK)

Ashwin outwits Buttler

SHARJAH AFP: Ravichandran Ashwin won his latest battle with England's Jos Buttler a season after their ugly 'Mankading' showdown as Delhi Capitals inflicted a fourth straight Indian Premier League defeat on Rajasthan Royals to go back top of the table.

Last year's game between the two was dominated by the sportsmanship row that erupted after Ashwin took off the bats at the bowler's end when

Buttler strayed too far out of his crease looking for a run.

There was no repeat in the new clash but Ashwin did claim Buttler's wicket as his side took a 46-run victory in the sweltering Sharjah heat.

This time Buttler could not complain.

He was one of a host of Rajasthan batsmen to give their wickets away cheaply in the latest disappointment for captain Steve Smith.




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OCTOBER 11, 2020



A review of Sri Lanka's heritage sector, an urgent need – Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya

By
Frances Bulathsinghala



This is the second part of the interview with Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, an international activist on heritage.

Q: In the discussion last week you said that 'Heritage' is a relatively new term coined with Europe's new conservation discourse. You said that Sri Lanka needs to break away from heritage related concepts drafted during colonial rule in the 1940s. You said that what we have are antiquities (*puravasthu*) predated 1815 or those that are older than 100 years. You spoke on the importance of looking at the intangible aspects of these. Could you elaborate further?

A: We have started following the western notion of heritage which was based on the divide and rule policy they followed in general. The Western mind functioned in a manner that divided the tangible and intangible. How can you separate tangible and intangible from the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic which is an ancient monument. It is a sum of tangible (temple building, arts and crafts) and intangibles (rituals, belief, traditions, perheeras, associated with the belief based rituals and craft-making).

It is all these that make it a complete sacred site. It continues to maintain some traditions and practices for over two millennia. Thus, tangibles and intangibles cannot be separated as they form part of the whole. In defining the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic as part of our heritage, what matters most is not that it was built before 1815 or 100 years ago but those intangibles that link people to it and their ancestrally passed down traditions.

My argument was that heritage cannot only be defined by tangibles or based on the date of construction. These divisions came only with the introduction of the western conservation discourse. Some countries have moved away and begun to define, understand and manage heritage on their own terms based on values to their people. Sri Lankan universities should think carefully about this.

We should study Sri Lanka's ancient structures to find out how these feats were done and if we can emulate such truly 'sustainable' structures today.

We must be aware that it is the intangibles or the knowledge, skills and practices that shed light on sustainability, usefulness and adaptability for contemporary usage. Unfortunately, the focus has been to merely study history and archaeology of the tangibles.

Q: You said that the Jetavanarama Sanskrit inscription of the 9th century AD provides advanced traditional conservation principles. Could you explain what these are?

A: It talks about a village where skilled carpenters and masons were living, whose job was to attend to the renewal/ conservation work of religious buildings. In conservation, what we believe is that there should be skilled and knowledgeable human resources if we are to conserve, and sustain our heritage for the use of present

and future generations. The lack of such knowledge promotion to build up the required human resources is a global phenomenon.

Sri Lanka's unique and ancient example tells us what we should be doing. The Jetavanarama inscription speaks of trained staff being appreciated and treated respectfully. They should be experts in their tasks, honing their knowledge to perfection. The inscription refers to 'clever' crafts persons. One of the most important aspects of modern conservation is to maintain records of the work. The inscription suggests that 'duties shall be recorded in the register'. There had been an 'officer who supervises work'. Inscription underscores that the 'blame shall be attributed to those who do not perform duties according to arrangement'.

There are more principles we can adapt to modern day conservation practices. However, we need to recognise that the traditions as well as traditional knowledge systems are not static. Therefore, we may have to study them and decide what is applicable and adaptable in today's context. What should motivate us is the conviction that this knowledge is time tested and meant to be used for generations for the good of the people of the country.

It is in this context that I titled the conference held in 2015 with participants from across Asia to discuss the subject 'adaptability and applicability of traditional knowledge systems in conservation and management of heritage in Asia'. Countries, such as New Zealand have incorporated these aspects into their law, while China and Indonesia use their traditional knowledge for managing World Heritage sites. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has since 2005 recognised the traditional management systems for managing World Heritage sites. The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) has included the use of Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS) into the convention.

Q: You said that the expanded definition of heritage has led to recognise rice fields in China and Indonesia which have become World Heritage Sites. In contrast, you said that Sri Lanka is struggling to recognise its agricultural / irrigation sites as heritage. Could you explain?

A: We talk much about our ancient agricultural/irrigation systems and are proud about them. They are inseparable and an indispensable part of our living heritage. But we have failed to recognise or list them as part of our heritage. Hani rice fields in China, Subakrice fields of Bali in Indonesia, Ifugao rice terraces in Philippines and Grand canal in China have been recognised as part of their heritage within expanded definitions. UNESCO too has recognised them as part of the World Heritage or the heritage of 'Outstanding Universal Value'. Our ancient irrigation/agricultural systems should have been recognised as part of our heritage to inspire and celebrate while using and protecting them long ago.

Q: Despite our ancient 'Do No Harm' based heritage of agriculture (where we had natural methods to keep away insects and treated them not as pests but as fellow beings) we and our food today are infested with chemical agriculture which is killing us, our soil and the ecosystem. If we are conserving our ancient agrarian

methods, should we not begin with adopting the agrarian philosophy of non violence that we had as opposed to the destructive Chemical agriculture of today?

A: I agree with you. In reverting to our ancient agricultural philosophy, we may also be able to revive some agrarian rituals and practices which were linked to Buddhism. There is a major move in this direction.

A Sri Lankan agrarian system, the "ellangamma" or Cascaded Tank-Village system in the Dry Zone is designated under the program. The FAO recognises that these ancestral agricultural systems constitute the foundation for contemporary and future agricultural innovations and technologies. Their cultural, ecological and agricultural diversity is evident in many parts of the world, maintained as unique systems of agriculture.

However, there are difficulties of fully reverting to traditional systems.

Q: There have been many sustainable development related discourses in the world. Yet our sustainable practices, such as living in clay houses, using bullock cart, using Oru or Paru, use of nature friendly ways of living, such as using mats, traditional medicine and ancient agrarian methods, are seen as symbols of poverty or backward/non scientific. Do you think that we can genuinely talk of sustainability and heritage until we change our education models to revert back to understanding, appreciating and using heritage practices?

A: What is important for us is to contextualise and integrate lessons from the past in developing strategies and programs. The most critical step is to change our mindsets that heritage indeed can contribute to sustainable development whatever definition we give to it. We need to study and establish how heritage has contributed to improving the livelihood of the people in the past.

These may be applicable or adapt-

THE MOST CRITICAL STEP IS TO CHANGE OUR MINDSETS THAT HERITAGE INDEED CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WHATEVER DEFINITION WE GIVE TO IT. WE NEED TO STUDY AND ESTABLISH HOW HERITAGE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PAST.



able in today's context in varying levels but we should look at them through the lenses of the main pillars of Sustainable Development. Heritage in the past have contributed to them in diverse ways. These lessons can be used today to set an example to the rest of the world which is looking for sustainable lifestyles to battle global ills, such as climate change. There is a need to change our education models in schools to include education on heritage practices that we can adopt.

While practitioners have evolved localised approaches based on early practices, educators/academics need to do more to contribute to research or develop approaches to understand intangible aspects embedded in tangible heritage. We can study the work of our ancestors for academic gains but we need to focus on conveying lessons learnt for the benefit of the society to be used. Our education system should be geared to acquire our heritage knowledge and to contextualise to pass it onto students so that this knowledge can be made use of in everyday life. According to the UNESCO convention (2003), intangible heritage means 'the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of

their cultural heritage'.

The Intangible Heritage Convention of 2003 in its new 'Operational Directives related to sustainable development encourages States Parties to safeguard health practices recognised by communities as living heritage and harness their potential to achieve quality health care for all' for which they have started working with the World Health Organisation (WHO). It is for all these reasons that heritage should be incorporated in education.

Q: In Sri Lanka's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic to make recoveries possible and for prevention, it is well known although not formally recognised, that the quarantine centres used many elements of Sri Lanka's traditional medicine and diet. How do you link the aspect of heritage conservation to letting the world know that it is Sri Lanka's traditional medicine system/traditional food that helped us in this difficult time in which the world is badly afflicted?

A: I think the pandemic has provided a great opportunity to send a message to the rest of the world about the significance of Sri Lanka's traditional medicine and other practices in recovering from threats, such as this. UNESCO and WHO in 2017 has started a dialogue on this.

Q: What is your view on tourism and Sri Lankan heritage?

A: I think there are many areas we need to think and adjust our tourism programs. Authentic Sri Lankan experience is important not only for foreign tourists but more for the locals. We have placed very little emphasis on local tourism which can be a great potential.

We have ignored the local pilgrimage tradition although most of our sites are sacred sites. On the other hand, we have to carefully think of the negative impacts of tourism in society as well as heritage. There is much we can do to give tourism a holistic approach through heritage of Lanka, especially, in the post Covid-19 era.

Careful planning and the extensive use of tangible and intangible heritage could give us a powerful tourism model, and prevent cultural erosion. We could have great potential in this if we plan carefully, at a time when the world is reeling with an unknown future and complicated health based threats. As a country which had the world's first hospital in Mihintale we have not asserted enough our powerful medical heritage for global recognition especially through tourism.

Q: Last week you said that a definition

on heritage should be our own. What about our town planning and construction policy?

A: We have not made a serious attempt to study and integrate the wisdom of our ancestors in areas such as town planning. The late Dr. Roland Silva, my guru had studied the great traditions we had in the past and raised a voice on several occasions on related subjects but there wasn't sufficient support at national level. He even went on to say that the best solution if we are to go for provincial administration systems would be to revert to the ancient divisions of RUHUNU, MAYA and PIHITI.

Q: Could you comment on Sri Lanka's initiatives such as to set up the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) and the best way forward for such institutions?

A: The CCF was created for the implementation of the UNESCO Sri Lanka Project of the Cultural Triangle, focusing on the conservation of six identified heritage sites in the country: Jetawanastupa; Abhayagiristupa; Alahana Pirivena in Polonnaruwa; Sigiriya archaeological site; Dambulla cave temple; and the Sacred City of Kandy.

This was a project sanctioned by UNESCO under its program (now concluded) for safeguarding world cultural heritage that started with the successful Nubian campaign project in the 1960s. In many aspects, this project did serve to lay a strong foundation for the future of conservation in Sri Lanka, specifically by developing a much-needed large human resource base and finances. I am subject to correction, but I think the CCF in 2018 collected about Rs. 4,000 million annually as revenue.

The CCF was the brainchild of Dr. Roland Silva, widely acclaimed as the greatest contemporary visionary for heritage, who also designed and implemented the Cultural Triangle project. That project ended in 1997, but, so far, no evaluation of the CCF's role, function, and how it benefits heritage and Sri Lankan society more widely has been carried out.

I think it became a victim of its own success over the past few years. My own view is that the CCF requires an urgent conservation effort.

In a public lecture delivered at the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka in March 2018, I highlighted many of the issues discussed in two articles, and made the following recommendations which I think are still valid:

1. Organise a comprehensive review of our heritage-related legislation, institutions and resources. This should specifically include the Department of Archaeology and Central Cultural Fund in its focus.

2. Use the accumulated knowledge that we have acquired to explore possibilities for more people-focused approaches; engaging all concerned through transparent processes in making decisions about heritage and, where appropriate, learning from experiences elsewhere in the world.

3. Ensure systematic organisation of matters related to World Heritage.

4. Encourage heritage based professional development and career opportunities for young and mid-career professionals

5. Develop a strategy for building capacity, of not just heritage practitioners but policy makers, communities, and networks as well.





IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE, HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY CHANGES

CONTINUED FROM OCTOBER 4

BY ABHAYA KENDARAGAMA

d). Paddy lands

Since ancient times, paddy lands have been used for lowland rice farming. It has been one of the oldest land use systems in the country. Paddy cultivation has been confined to Maha and Yala seasons. It is the staple food crop of the nation. The cultivation is practised in the lower portions of the landscape as paddy requires sufficient water for attaining a satisfactory yield. According to a research review conducted in 2006, paddy cultivation is practised under four agro-climatic situations: dry zone, intermediate zone, inland region of the wet zone and coastal region in the wet zone.

Rice in paddy lands in the wet zone

Paddy farming is practised in the districts of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Vavunia, Mulathivu, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Hambantota and some parts of the adjacent districts in the dry zone. Almost all paddy lands have been cultivated during Maha and a greater fraction in Yala depending on the availability of rain or irrigation water. In recent decades, commercial scale upland seasonal crops have been grown to a limited extent during Yalaon lands having well drained soils, especially if rice cultivation is not possible due to water shortage.

Inland salinity, coastal salinity, water stress, flooding and yield stagnation have been the major land related production constraints. Recent climate change has aggravated these production constraints and therefore, this matter must be adequately taken into consideration in designing climate smart systems of farming.

Paddy lands in the intermediate zone mainly lie in districts of Ampara, Badulla, Kandy, Kurunegala, Matale, Moneragala, Puttalam and some parts of the adjacent districts. Paddy has been cultivated in both Maha and Yala seasons depending on the availability of water. Similar to the dry zone, upland seasonal crops have been grown during Yala to a limited extent due to lack of water for paddy cultivation. Inland salinity and water stress have been the major production constraints. Such limitations can be aggravated due to climate change effects.

Paddy lands in the inland region of the wet zone mainly lie in the districts of Kandy, Kegalle and Ratnapura and some parts of the adjacent districts. Paddy has been cultivated both in the Yala and Maha seasons. Water stress, flood and iron toxicity have been the major land related production constraints. These production limitations may aggravate under global warming.

Paddy lands in the coastal regions in the wet zone mainly lie in five coastal districts: Colombo, Galle, Gampaha, Kalutara and Matara. Historically, a single crop of long duration paddy, such as Ma wee has been cultivated. However, in recent decades, short duration paddy varieties have been introduced to promote double cropping in the Yala and Maha seasons. The possibility for growing other crops, particularly, leafy vegetable has been limited in extent. Many production constraints, such as water stress, flood, iron toxicity, acid sulfate toxicity, coastal salinity, sea water intrusion have been dominant production limitations.

Conventional paddy land farming systems need inclusion of packages of strategies and practices to develop a climate smart nature. Components to be considered at the land preparation stage include: initiating discussions at the paddy tract level for synchronising farming practices particularly seedling, transplanting or seed sowing, making repairs on field irrigation canals, commencing farming with the

onset of seasonal rains to cut down supplementary irrigation water requirement, reconditioning bunds periodically to minimise water losses and to destroy rat breeding sites, introducing organic manure production units to individual farmers to cut down chemical fertiliser use, application of organic manure prior to first ploughing to keep a considerable period for facilitating partial decomposition, considering short duration field crops if water availability is not adequate for paddy according to weather and climate forecast information, quick land preparation within a shortest possible time, introducing laser leveling techniques for reconditioning irrigation terraces and providing adequate drainage facility for lands having boggy soils.

Strategies and practices to be considered after land preparation include: considering varieties well suited to the earth and climate in the season (short age, salt resistant, flood tolerant varieties), practising self-seed production at farmer or farming tract level, providing seeding trays for practising parachute method in transplanting, row seeding using drum seeder followed by mechanical weeding, application of slow release chemical fertiliser if possible, providing vegetable seeds for promotion of bund cultivation, soil test based chemical fertiliser use if slow release fertiliser application is not feasible, use of leaf colour chart in urea application for saving soil application of nitrogen, foliar application of kieserite and zinc sulfate only when necessary, application of water saving techniques in crop irrigation, such as alternate wetting and drying method, integrated pest and diseases management, use of combine harvesters in crop harvesting, providing paddy dryers, particularly under wet weather, introducing efficient storage systems at small scale for farmers and large scale for community based organisations, selecting

MITIGATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ADDRESSING ISSUES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE. TANGIBLE IMPACTS CAN BE ACHIEVED IN AREAS, SUCH AS ENERGY RESOURCE USE, SCIENCE BASED INDUSTRIES, TRANSPORT SERVICES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

an appropriate market channel for selling crop produce, residue management after harvest in an appropriate manne to avoid setting fire on straw and introducing short duration sandwich crop (green gram or cowpea) preferably after the Mahaseason to provide an extra income for the farmer.

Factors to be considered in formulating a package of strategies and practices depend on land characteristics and climate in the season. Similar to home gardens, consultation of a field agriculture extension agent is suggested for finalising a climate smart farming package.

Mitigation of greenhouse gas emission

Mitigation of greenhouse gas emission plays a significant role in addressing issues related to climate change. Tangible impacts can be achieved in areas, such as energy resource use, science based industries, transport services and waste management. Agriculture on the other hand, may have more limited avenues for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from farming systems. Carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have been identified

AT MATURITY, TREES CAN BE HARVESTED FOR TIMBER AND USED FOR MAKING LONG LASTING WOODEN PRODUCTS, SUCH AS BUILDING MATERIALS AND FURNITURE, WHICH HELPS STORE CARBON IN A SECURED FORM FOR MANY MORE DECADES. HENCE, STRENGTHENING THE PERENNIAL TREE COMPONENT IN HOME GARDENS DOES PROVIDE A METHOD FOR ACCELERATING THE CARBON SEQUESTRATION ALBEIT IN LIMITED FORM



Challenges to agriculture

Part iv

major greenhouse gasses emitted from agricultural lands due to farming activities. There are a few strategies and practices available for controlling greenhouse gas emission from farming systems.

a). Carbon dioxide

Measures for the mitigation of carbon dioxide emission from the agriculture sector include: avoiding haphazard clearing of natural forest for farming, introducing conservation tillage practices, such as reduced tillage and minimum tillage, practising agro-forestry, minimising fossil fuel use for operating farm implements, reducing land use intensity and maintaining adequate fallow periods to provide a rest for soil, and crop maintenance options, such as promoting organic manure use and residue management, such as avoiding biomass burning.

In addition to reducing emissions, carbon sequestration can reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide by depositing it in more secured reservoirs in the environment. For example, the home gardens as an agro-forestry system can play a significant role in accelerating this sequestration process as it captures and deposits carbon in plants, particularly in trees for many decades. At maturity, trees can be harvested for timber and used for making long lasting wooden products, such as building materials and furniture, which helps store carbon in a secured form for many more decades. Hence, strengthening the perennial tree component in home gardens does provide a method for accelerating the carbon sequestration albeit in limited form.

A tree component can also be introduced to other farming systems. Steps should be taken to reintroduce alley cropping technology for upland farming systems in the dry and semi-dry areas and expand gliricidia tree hedgerow based technology for sloping agricultural lands in the wet and semi-wet areas of the country.

Home gardens as an agro-forestry system for enhancing carbon sequestration

b). Methane

Methane gas emission occurs in natural land systems as well as man-made farming lands. The natural land systems associated with farming areas include wetlands and termite colonies. Some of the ag-

ricultural induced methane emissions are related to animal production systems. Methane emission occurs in dung heaps and other farm wastes exposed to open environment and microbial digestion in livestock. Flood irrigation for paddies on bog soils, fossil fuel use for operating farm implements and landfills are other sources of agricultural methane.

Some mitigation measures include restricting irrigation and promoting dry farming techniques, such as Kekulan and Manawari methods in paddies, drainage improvement in bog soils, immediate use of animal dung and other farm wastes for bio gas production to minimise duration of heaping in open environment and the use of alternative energy sources for operating farm implements.

c). Nitrous oxide

Nitrogen applied to soil in excess of crop requirements is subject to losses, including volatilisation from the soil surface and leaching down to deeper soils for biological decomposition in the form of nitrate. This lost fraction of nitrate serves as an input for the denitrification process particularly under anaerobic condition. As an intermittent product of denitrification, nitrous oxide is produced and emitted out to the atmosphere. Most farmers, particularly in commercial scale farming systems in Nuwara Eliya, Boragas, Keppetipola, Bogahakumbura, Welimade, Boralanda, Bandarawela, Kalpitiya peninsula (Norochcholai, Etalal, Talawila, Narakkaliya), Dambulla, Kimbissa, Sigiriya, kilinochchi and Jaffna peninsula (Kondari, Urumpirai, Chunnakam, Mylankadu, Achchelu, Palai) use more than recommended quantities of nitrogen fertiliser and organic manure. The major nitrogen containing chemical fertilisers are urea and ammonium sulfate and organic manures include green manure, cattle dung, goat dung, discarded poultry litter and compost.

Measures for reducing nitrous oxide emission to atmosphere include use of slow release or controlled release nitrogen fertilisers (granular urea, prilled urea, sulphur coated urea and mud coated urea), use of nitrification inhibitors, such as dicyandiamide and 3, 4-dimethylpyrazole phosphate, application of commonly available nitrogen fertilisers based on leaf colour information, safe storage of organic manure in open areas until required for soil application, application of organic

AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE BY LOCAL AGRICULTURE IS TO DEVELOP AND ADOPT PACKAGES OF ADAPTATION STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES TARGETED TO EACH SPECIFIC AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION SYSTEM. ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE LITERATURE, BUILDING RESILIENCE CAN BE BRIEFLY DESCRIBED AS THE CREATION OF AN ABILITY OF A SYSTEM TO BOUNCE BACK OR RETURN TO NORMAL FUNCTIONING AFTER CLIMATIC ADVERSITY

manure in place of chemical fertiliser as much as possible and promotion of inter-cropping practices with leguminous crops.

The available nitrification inhibitors are expensive in the market and therefore, immediate local research is needed to develop methodologies for local manufacture of such inhibitors at affordable costs for farmers. The high price is the major reason for restricted use of slow release fertiliser in local farming.

Support services for climate smart agriculture

An appropriate way to build resilience to climate change by local agriculture is to develop and adopt packages of adaptation strategies and practices targeted to each specific agriculture production system. According to available literature, building resilience can be briefly described as the creation of an ability of a system to bounce back or return to normal functioning after climatic adversity. For example, management strategies, such as quick land preparation immediately after the onset of seasonal rains play a significant role for adaptation to climate change.

For this purpose, at present in most of farming communities, family labour is not adequately available and hired labour is not affordable due to high cost involved. As a result, there is a need to consider the use of mechanised farm implements as an adaptation strategy. However, in this country, most farmers have not been equipped with required set of farm implements under their own custody.

Farm implements are intensively used for only a short time during land preparation and crop harvesting. Hence, particularly smallholder farmers are reluctant to maintain their own collection of farm implements. Hiring implements from private owners is also expensive and availability is not assured at the required time in most cases. Therefore, establishing farm implement rental centres at the community level serves as a support service to facilitate farm mechanisation and ensure quick land preparation.

Some support services, such as management packages to promote the buildup of resilience in the affected farming systems include: a). Providing a facility for hiring farm implements, b). Re-promoting the Aththam method in labor use particularly in hill agriculture, c). Practising the bethma method in seasons having water shortages, d). Installing electrified fences to protect crops from major wild animal pests, e). Introducing crop insurance schemes particularly for commercial scale farming, f). Introducing value-added land races for different climatic regions, g). Producing byproducts from adapted crops and h). Establishing effective market chains.

TO BE CONTINUED...

TIME OPPORTUNE TO THINK OF MARINE POLLUTION

Avoid throwing non degradable items on land

BY HARSHANI PIYADIGAMA

The Earth is called the blue planet as two-thirds of the surface of the earth is covered with oceans. They provide ecosystem services for both terrestrial and aquatic biospheres, and act as a buffer on changes in the composition of the atmosphere. The global thermal equilibrium is maintained by oceans. The oceans regulate the hydrological cycle, and are a sink for all types of waste, facilitate the formation of different sedimentary and metamorphic rocks and oceans serve the largest pool of flora and fauna.

Oceans are important in global warming because they act as a sink of carbon dioxide. They provide fishery and seaweeds, salt and minerals, drinking water in some countries, petroleum resources including oils and gases under the sea bed. The importance of the ocean is manifested in the declaration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 14 clearly states, "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" and has outlined seven main and three associated targets to achieve the goal.

Unprecedented threats

Any threat to the oceans' ecosystem could impact severely on the well-being of humans. Despite their importance, oceans face unprecedented threats, because of human activities. Over exploitation and harvesting, dumping of waste, pollution, alien species, land reclamation, dredging and global climate change have become prominent factors that disrupt the balance of the marine ecosystem.

Sri Lanka, which is 65,610 sq.km in extent, is located in the Indian Ocean, south of the Indian subcontinent. Sri Lanka has a warm climate with ocean wind and

“THE SHINING WATER THAT MOVES IN THE STREAMS AND RIVERS IS NOT JUST WATER, BUT THE BLOOD OF OUR ANCESTORS

substantial moisture. She is known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean due to the varying climatic conditions. Sri Lanka is a biodiversity hotspot among the 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world. From the central part of the country 103 main rivers flow to the coastal low lands, and they are the basic sediment suppliers to the coastal region, where about 59 per cent of the total population live.

The highly industrialised and densely populated areas are located in the western and southern coastal regions where most of the effluents come from industries such as ship repairing, tyre and thermal industries, petroleum refining, batik industries and municipal and domestic leachate which are mixed with natural water bodies that end up in the sea.

Marine pollution

Sri Lanka has a wonderful coastline about 1,585 Km long. Many beaches in the country are wide and sandy and provide ideal habitats for nesting turtles. Both land based and sea based sources are contributing to marine pollution. Solid waste, sewage, nutrients, heavy metals and chemicals are prominent pollutants which come from land bases. Oil spills, wastes and ballast water are common in the sea based sources.

Marine debris is defined by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as 'any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment.' More than

80 percent of marine debris is plastic which includes macroplastics and microplastics. These are negative effects on all marine species such as sea turtle, marine mammals and seabirds. The impact of plastic includes entanglement, ingestion, toxic exposure, disease and death. Most plastic litter in the oceans are from land based sources.

Plastics vary in their specific weight in the marine environment, some items float lighter than sea water while others sink to the bottom. According to studies scientists have estimated that the global abundance of pieces of plastic is at least 5.25 trillion pieces or 720 items for every person alive today.

Plastic debris

Also the total weight of floating plastic debris worldwide has been estimated to be about 93,000 – 267,000 tons. The plastic which are not floating, called, 'missing plastics' contribute towards microplastic debris. An additional 28-71 million of plastic are said to have been added to the oceans from land-based sources between 2011 and 2017. A majority of the marine plastic take decades or centuries to fully degrade. The removing of some of the marine plastic is possible but is expensive, time intensive and inefficient.

The ingestion of plastic debris is a major issue the world over. Another issue is chemical absorption. The accumulation of chemicals on plastic debris in sea water would increase with time. This is now under research which is a serious risk to marine organism.

The experiments have proved that microplastic particles have the ability to inhibit hatching, decrease growth rate, alter behaviour, interfere with energy uptake, and badly affect reproduction. Most sea turtles have been listed as vulnerable to

critically endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list. Plastic litter

ingestion and entanglement of plastic litter have been recognised as serious threats to these species worldwide. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in plastic litter can accumulate in marine animals and be biomagnified in higher organisms including humans within food chains.

Marine plastic also acts as an attractive substrate to quickly colonise by opportunistic species such as bacteria and algae. This could be a negative effect on the wider ecosystem.

The ultimate message is don't throw any non degradable disposable items on land, because their ultimate end point is the ocean. As human beings with super intelligence we should be more responsible than at present, for the better habitats of our future generations.

"The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water, but the blood of our ancestors."

"The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes and feed our children. So you must give the rivers the kindness that you would give any brother."

"The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

-Chief Seattle-

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Alternatives to traffic congestion

BY DR. JAYALATH EDIRISINGHE

It is very difficult to find a major or minor town in any country which does not suffer from traffic congestion. Various countries try different techniques to reduce traffic congestion to minimise public inconvenience, loss to economy and pollution.

Traffic congestion occurs when there is an imbalance of available facilities (roads and parking places) and traffic volume. To solve the issue, either an adequate number of roads should be provided or traffic volume should be reduced. To have a better compromise, both can be tried parallel to each other to meet the space required for vehicles plying on roads.

Many scientific studies have proved that increasing road space by widening roads for increased parking spaces alone will not solve traffic congestion. There will always be new traffic generated to fill the extra road space or parking lots. Therefore, a systematic approach is required with due consideration to all the related aspects to combat this issue.

To increase available space for vehicle movement before building more roads, many things can be tried. Due attention should be paid to regain wasted space in roads which were meant for vehicle movement but now are used for various private purposes.

Given below are a few reasons for traffic congestion due to misuse of road space and the permitting of public roads for private use.

Inadequate space or improper locations of bus halts and the unavailability of proper bus bays is one such

problem. The practice of waiting for longer periods at bus halts to pick more passengers add to the traffic congestion. Even if we have a road density of 1.50 km/km² in our country, a significant number of roads have one lane in each direction. In such a situation, blocking traffic at a bus halt will create congestion upon other traffic.

Inadequate facilities at junctions such as an adequate number of lanes and dedicated lanes for vehicles turning right is another issue. Further, allowing drivers to change the lane during the last few metres at junctions also add to this problem.

Access roads

Providing too many access roads to roadside facilities from major roads add to this problem. The standard and scientific approach is to provide access roads to various properties through an existing access road or to connect all the access roads and connect such roads to main roads. In that way, turning from or to major roads will be controlled.

In mountainous roads and terrains slow moving vehicles are a major issue. If such vehicles cannot be restricted to operate during periods of less traffic such as late night, some passing bays also known as overtaking lanes may improve the traffic congestion especially in areas where only one lane is provided in each direction.

The other side of this story is the illegal occupancy of roads. A considerable number of garages, and tyre shops carry out their business on the shoulder of the road or sometimes encroach on to one lane.

There is a misconception that the



road shoulder is (space out of regular traffic lanes) is for parking. But the truth is, the shoulder is to provide a lateral support to the road and to park a vehicle only for a short period during an emergency or to use that space for avoiding an accident. When there are vehicles parked at the shoulder, drivers are not able to drive comfortably as there can be someone entering the road between parked vehicles. In some areas, idling buses park at the shoulder and they carry out all kinds of maintenance activities during such periods.

Encroachment

Various government and private organisations encroach the road space to provide parking facilities for their employees and customers also contribute significantly to this problem. Even though parking spaces provided in their layout diagrams of maps/plans as per the government rules and regulations, after obtaining the CofC (certificate of conformity) the owners of buildings convert such spaces for various other activities.

and office traffic.

Therefore, many countries enforce laws to ban time insensitive vehicles (vehicles which do not have a time restriction such as heavy vehicles transporting building materials) to travel during such peak hours. Some countries either restrict driving during day time or provide incentives for those who are driving during night.

Control

Many countries controlled traffic congestion through improving high quality integrated public transport systems. Through mass transit systems such as buses and trains the smaller vehicles can be controlled. Even if we have adequate infrastructure facilities for buses, in many parts of the country due to the poor quality of public transport the majority of people try to use their personal vehicles to fulfill their transport needs.

Distributing peak hour traffic, the problem may be controlled to some extent. Many countries use staggered opening hours to distribute the morning peak hour. If schools open at one time and offices at another time and hospital clinics, shops at different time slots people will travel at different times. Shops may open on Sundays and have a holiday on Monday to reduce the congestion. Anyway, since the social situation and culture in the country is different a few studies may be required to implement such rules.

Various countries made attempts to control vehicles entering busy areas using various concepts. One was banning vehicles entering

traffic congested areas based on the number plate. We had Covid-19 peak restrictions based on the last digit of the identity card.

To promote high occupancy vehicles some countries provide a special lane for vehicles with more than two passengers.

Car sharing and car pooling are commonly used in some countries as a measure to avoid congestion.

With the popularisation of recent mobile phone app based rider sharing systems, some car owners joined a car sharing facility to drive with someone travelling in the same direction or to the same destination.

Park and ride is very popular in many countries to eradicate traffic congestion. In some cities large car parks are provided closer to railway stations, ports and airports for commuters to drive up to the station and ride on a public transport.

Finally, the contribution of driver behaviour towards traffic congestion should not be underestimated. Driver misbehaviour is a major contributory factor for traffic congestion in countries like Sri Lanka. Frequent change of lanes while driving, overtaking while there is a queue of vehicles are major issues in our country. Especially changing lanes during the last few metres of approaching junctions is one of the major contributory factors for congestion at junctions and a queue behind that.

Therefore, since we are not isolated on this issue and many countries are far ahead in handling, this problem, we should be able learn lessons from other countries and modify their practices to suit our culture and eradicate this issue.

The Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A CHAIN THAT LINKS HEAVEN AND EARTH



The famed Chapel of the Apparitions of Fatima

—By—
Rear Admiral
Dr. Shemal
Fernando, PhD

Mary's Prayer teaches us to stay afloat in the ocean of life, with all of its undertows.

“After Jesus was taken up into heaven, the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers” (Acts 1:12-14). The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she provides the Church in answer to the praying of the Holy Rosary by the faithful. The liturgical feast on October 7 was introduced by Pope St. Pius V to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Naval Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. The Pope attributed more to the “arms” of the Holy Rosary than the power of cannons and the valour of the sailors.

On May 13, 1917, the three children – Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco took their flock of sheep to a natural hollow in the ground known as the *Cova da Iria*, just outside the town of Fatima to graze. There was a sudden flash, and a Lady of dazzling light appeared and stood. The Lady asked them to recite the Rosary daily and to return to the site on the 13th of every month. The visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her prophecies remained apparent to the three children.

In response to a prophecy, almost one hundred thousand people flocked hither on October 13, 1917 and they witnessed the miracle known as “the dance of the sun.” One of the most important aspects of the six apparitions was the way in which Our Lady focused particularly on the Holy Rosary. She emphatically asked the Holy Rosary to be recited daily and in her final apparition she declared, “I am the Lady of the Rosary.” The Popes on the Holy Rosary

All Popes of recent centuries have written about the Holy Rosary. Pope St. Pius V (papacy 1566-1572) did much to further the spread of the Holy Rosary and officially established the devotion to the Holy Rosary in 1569. His successor, Pope Gregory XIII (papacy 1572-1585), moved the feast to the first Sunday in October, to be celebrated as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Rosary of Our Blessed Lady. Pope Leo XIII (papacy 1878-1903) known as “The Rosary Pope”, issued twelve encyclicals and five apostolic letters concerning the rosary. He added the invocation ‘Queen of the most Holy Rosary to the Litany of Loreto’ and strongly promoted the increase of devotion to the Blessed Mother by encouraging the constant use of the Rosary. Pope St. Pius X (papacy 1903-1914) moved the feast day back to October 7 in 1913.

The Holy Rosary is primarily a scriptural prayer. This can be summarised by the traditional phrase used by Pope Pius XII (papacy 1939-1958) that the Rosary is “a compendium of the entire Gospel.” He and his successors actively promoted veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in the Sanctuary of Fatima, which is credited with a new resurgence of the Rosary within the Catholic Church. Pope St. John XXIII (papacy 1958-1963) deemed the Rosary of such importance that in 1962, in an apostolic letter he appealed for the recitation of the Rosary in preparation for the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council.

In the recent past, Pope St. Paul VI (papacy 1963-1978) devoted the

fantry battle on floating platforms.’ Over the following decades, the increasing importance of the galleon and the line of battle tactic would displace the galley as the major warship of its era, marking the beginning of the Age of Sail.

The banner for the fleet, blessed by the Pope, reached the Kingdom of Naples on August 14, 1571. There, in the Basilica of Santa Chiara, it was solemnly consigned to Don John of Austria, who was just twenty-four years of age. He was to prove himself an admiral of genius. Once in Italy, Don John was joined by volunteers from all the Mediterranean countries and set about assembling a fleet. He managed to get about 208 ships, mainly contributed by the Papal States, Spain, and Venice, with a few from other Italian states.

This fleet was manned by 40,000 sailors. In addition, it carried approximately 20,000 fighting troops of Spanish, German and Italian origin as well as 5,000 professional Venetian soldiers. The victory of the Holy League is of great importance in the history of Europe and of the Ottoman Empire. Conscious of the desperate nature of this undertaking, the Pope beseeched all Christians to pray for this Armada by a daily recitation of the Rosary. When the ships set out from the Sicilian port of Messina on September 16, 1571, all of the men had rosaries too.

“If the day is yours, then God has given it to you,” Admiral Don John of Austria, laconically, warned his crew. The lookout on his flagship, ‘Real’ sighted the Turkish van at the dawn of October 7. He called a Council of War and decided to offer battle. He travelled through his fleet in a swift sailing vessel, exhorting his officers and men to do their utmost. The Sacrament was administered to all, the Holy League was raised to the truck of the flagship.

As the decisive battle took place on October 7, 1571, Pope Pius V experienced a miraculous revelation of the victory at the same moment. This saintly Pope always upheld that the victory of Lepanto was due to the special intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, obtained by the praying of the Rosary.

Later, when the news reached Europe, there was general relief, rejoicing, and thanksgiving. As for Pope Pius V, he gave credit where it was due, declaring October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of Victory.

Some accounts say that as the fleets came within fighting distance of each other, the wind favoured the Turks and blew their ships forward against the Christian vessels. Then, the wind shifted, and Admiral Don John's ships were able to draw close to the enemy. This was necessary, because sixteenth-century naval warfare included hand-to-hand fighting on the

decks as well as bombardment by cannons and arrows.

The Holy League lost about 8,000 men and at least double that number was wounded, but only a dozen ships. Around the same number of Turks died, but thousands more were captured, fifty ships were sunk, and at least 117 vessels were captured. An unforeseen development was the rising up, from the depths of the Turkish galleys, of several thousand Christian slaves who had been forced to row the ships.

St. Francis de Sales said the greatest method of praying is to pray the Holy Rosary. St. Thomas Aquinas preached 40 straight days in Rome, Italy on just the Hail Mary. St. John Vianney, patron of priests, was seldom seen without a Holy Rosary in his hand. Pope Adrian VI introduced, ‘The Rosary is the scourge of the devil.’ Pope Paul V declared, ‘The Rosary is a treasure of graces.’ St. Padre Pio, the stigmatic priest said, ‘The Rosary is the weapon.’ Pope Leo XIII wrote nine encyclicals on the Rosary. Pope John XXIII spoke 38 times about Our Lady and the Rosary and prayed 15 decades daily. St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort wrote, ‘The Rosary is the most powerful weapon to touch the Heart of Jesus, Our Redeemer, who so loves His Mother.’

The Holy Rosary, in the sense of ‘crown of roses’ or ‘garland of roses’ refers to a set of prayers used in the Catholic Church. The prayers that compose the Rosary are arranged in sets of ten Hail Marys, called decades. Each decade is preceded by one Lord's Prayer and traditionally followed by only one Glory Be. During recitation of each set, thought is given to one of the Mysteries of the Rosary, which recall events in the lives of Jesus and of Mary. Five decades are recited per Rosary.

The Mysteries of the Rosary are meditations on episodes in the life and death of Jesus from the Annunciation to the Ascension and beyond recited daily. Pope Pius V established a standard 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, based on long-standing custom - the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries, and the Glorious Mysteries. In 2002, Pope St. John Paul II added a new set, the Luminous Mysteries.

The Rosary also represents the Catholic emphasis on “participa-

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS DEDICATED TO THE MOST HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

tion in the life of Mary, whose focus was Christ,” and the Mariological theme “to Christ through Mary.” Devotion to the Rosary is one of the most notable features of popular Catholic spirituality. Pope St. John Paul II placed the Rosary at the very center of Christian spirituality and called it “among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplation.”

Saints and Popes have emphasised the meditative and contemplative elements of the Rosary and provided specific teachings for how the Rosary should be prayed, for instance the need for “focus, respect, reverence and purity of intention” during Rosary recitations and contemplations. Scriptural meditations concerning the Rosary are based on the Christian tradition of *Lectio Divina*, as a way of using the Gospel to start a conversation between the person and Christ. St. Padre Pio, a Rosary devotee said, “Through the study of books one seeks God; by meditation one finds him.”

Magnificent history of the Holy Rosary

According to pious tradition, the concept of the Rosary was given to St. Dominic in an apparition of the Virgin Mary during the year 1214. The 150 Hail Marys were subdivided into fifteen decades by the Dominican friar, Henry Kalkar (1328-1408), with each decade referring to an event in the life of the Jesus and Mary. The practice of meditation during the praying of the Hail Mary is attributed to Dominic of Prussia (1382-1460), who termed it “Life of Jesus Rosary.”

The Dominican, Alanus de Rupe (1428-1475) further divided the episodes in the history of salvation and attributed the origin of the Rosary, then known as the ‘Psalter of the Blessed Virgin’ to St. Dominic. He thus spurred the Dominican Order to make the Apostolate of the Rosary their special concern and since then, promulgated the Rosary with notable results. From the 16 to the early 20 century, the structure of the Rosary remained essentially unchanged. During the 20th century, the addition of the Fatima Prayer to the end of each decade became more common. There were no other changes until 2002, when Pope St. John Paul II instituted new

Luminous Mysteries.

Pope Leo XIII explained the importance of the Rosary as the one road to God from the faithful to the Mother and from her to Christ and through Christ to the Father, and that the Rosary was a vital means to participate in the life of Mary and to find the way to Christ. This emphasis on the path through Mary to Christ has since been a key direction in Catholic Mariology. Pope Pius XII endorsed the Rosary as a family prayer in his encyclical, *Ingruentium malorum*. He shared, “The custom of the family praying of the Holy Rosary is a most efficacious means.”

The Holy Rosary and Brown Scapular

Rosary beads provide a physical method of keeping count of the number of Hail Marys said as the mysteries are contemplated. The fingers are moved along the beads as the prayers are recited. The Hail Mary is said on the ten beads within a decade, while the Lord's Prayer is said on the large bead before each decade. Beads may be made to enclose sacred relics or drops of holy water. It is common for beads to be made of material with some special significance, such as olive seeds from the Garden of Gethsemane.

The Apostolate of Holy Motherhood writes that the Virgin Mary encourages the faithful to wear the Rosary and Scapular because “it will help them to love Jesus more.” Many religious orders wear the Rosary as part of their habit. A rosary ring is a ring worn around the finger with 10 indentations and a cross on the surface. These rosary rings are given to some Catholic nuns at the time of their solemn profession. A finger rosary is similar to a ring, but is somewhat larger.

“The Rosary and the Scapular are inseparable” were words attributed to the Virgin Mary by Lucia Santos, one of the three children who reported the Marian apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917.

In the final appearances in Fatima, she had a Brown Scapular in one hand and a Rosary in the other. The history of the rosary itself is magnificent – it demonstrates how the Holy Spirit enriches the spiritual legacy of the Church.

Our Lady had revealed to Blessed Alan de la Roche (1428-1475) that after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, there could not possibly be a finer devotion nor one of greater merit than that of the Holy Rosary, which is like a second memorial and representation of the life and passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us recite this beautiful prayer of the Holy Rosary daily as a means in order to draw closer to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary. O Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

(The author hold a PhD, MPhil and double MSc; his research interests encompass a variety of topics; he is a recipient of National and Presidential Accolades for Academic pursuits and regularly pens exclusive stories)



A panoramic view of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary and its colonnades



DJOKOVIC CONFRONTED BY PRESSURES OF PARIS

PARIS AFP: Novak Djokovic is just two wins away from becoming the first man in half a century to win all four Grand Slams twice, but once again Roland Garros is threatening to turn against him.

The world number one's collection of 17 Slams is made up of eight Australian Opens, five Wimbledon titles, three triumphs at the US Open but only one so far in Paris.

Rafael Nadal is mostly responsible for Djokovic's slim pickings in the French capital, capturing 12 titles, winning 98 matches and losing just twice since both men made their debuts in 2005.

Djokovic, who struggled with injury and mood swings before beating Pablo Carreno Busta in the quarter-finals on Wednesday, has always endured a love-hate relationship with the French Open.

His former coach Boris Becker believes that the Serb is feeling the pressure as he gets closer to his place in the record books.

"No, it wasn't that at all," snapped back the top seed after his 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 win over Carreno Busta, in-

sisting the problem was physical -- neck and shoulder injuries -- not mental.

"I had to deal with that. I told you guys many times I'm over it. I'm not thinking about it at all. I mean, zero percent." Djokovic's one French Open triumph came in 2016 which allowed him to complete the career Grand Slam.

However, falling short in Paris in 2011 and 2015 prevented him from emulating Rod Laver in clinching a rare calendar Grand Slam.

Roger Federer defeated him in the semi-finals in 2011, ending Djokovic's 43-match winning run while, four years later, his loss in the final to Stan Wawrinka dented his hopes again.

The chapters of disappointment are many for a player whose first two visits to Paris ended with injury retirements in 2005 and 2006.

In the 2012 final against Nadal, having won eight games in a row, he was up a break and pushing to level the match at two sets apiece when rain brought an overnight suspension.

Play resumed the following day but Djokovic's momentum was lost and a double-fault on championship point completed his misery.

Twelve months later, Djokovic was poised for a semi-final win over Nadal with just a routine putaway required to help give him a 5-3 final set lead and a chance to serve for the match.

However, he chose a spectacular smash rather than a soothing touch.

He tumbled into the net, losing the point and Nadal pounced to eventually take the tie after four hours and 37 minutes.

More was to follow. In 2018, he lost a quarter-final to world number 72 Marco Cecchinato of Italy.

Last year he was beaten in the semi-finals by Dominic Thiem in conditions which he likened to playing in a "hurricane".

That match took two days to complete, featured numerous rain stoppages and winds so strong that a court-side umbrella was sent flying across court.

This year, the French Open is again being played in damp, cold

weather with the temperature dropping as low as 10 degrees (50F) on some days.

On Wednesday, Djokovic wore two shirts for his quarter-final, the evening chill not helping his physical state.

He required treatment from the trainer on his neck and shoulder and at one stage appeared to make a gesture to his box that he was on the verge of quitting.

Had he done so it would have been his seventh retirement from a Grand Slam tournament.

"As the match went on, I felt better, didn't feel as much pain," said Djokovic.

"I had some neck issues and some shoulder issues. I'll just say that. I don't want to get really too much into it." Carreno Busta seemed to cast doubt on the gravity of Djokovic's ailments.

"Probably the last years he's always doing this when he has problems on court," said Carreno Busta, the beneficiary when Djokovic was defaulted at the US Open, the Serb's only defeat this year.

Astech Bath win Futsal tournament

RUZAIK FAROOK

Astech Bath Touch Private Limited beat Abdullah Traders by 2-0 in the final to win the Futsal tournament for corporate teams conducted by Finwin Eventz and held at the Indoor Futsal Sports World, Peliyagoda.

Captain of the winning team Astech Bath Touch Private Limited Abdul Raqeeb received the champion award, medals and prize money of Rs. 60,000 from the Chairman of the Finwin Group Faroon Hamim while the runner-up team Abdullah Traders, Mohamed Fazeen, received the trophy, med-

als and Rs. 25,000 in prize money from Finwin Group Quality Director Rishard Faleel.

The Best Goal Keeper award was presented to Astech Bath Touch Private Limited MHM Muneer by Nestle (Milo) Sales Promotion Officer Dinuka Madushan.

The Best Player award was taken by Abdul Raqeeb from Astech Bath Touch Private Limited. The award was presented by Finwin Group Quality Director Rishard Faleel.

Group Director Thaha Magbool, Head of Finwin Edu Campus Fazeen Musesafer and staff were also present.



(From L) Mayor of Sarajevo, Abdulah Skaka, Prince Albert II of Monaco and chairman of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Olympic Committee, Izet Radjo (R) pose in front of the Sarajevo's museum of XIV Winter Olympic Games, during the reopening ceremony, in Sarajevo, late on October 8, 2020. - The museum was originally opened in 1984. It was bombed and burnt in 1992, at the beginning of the siege of Sarajevo, during 1992-95 war in Bosnia. (Photo AFP)

Doctor admits destroying banned drug

LONDON AFP: Former British Cycling and Team Sky doctor Richard Freeman has admitted destroying a package of the banned substance testosterone in 2011 as his medical tribunal resumed this week.

Freeman told a hearing in Manchester that he was unable to explain his motive for destroying the product after being ordered to remove it from British Cycling's

headquarters by his then-boss, former medical director Steve Peters.

He denied "knowing or believing" the testosterone gel was to be administered to an athlete to improve their performance, asserting he was bullied into ordering it by Shane Sutton, the former technical director at British Cycling and Team Sky head coach, in order to treat erectile dysfunction.

Braves blank Miami to line up Dodgers clash

LOS ANGELES AFP: Will Smith had five hits and drove in three runs Thursday as the Los Angeles Dodgers routed the San Diego Padres 12-3 to book a National League Championship Series showdown with the Atlanta Braves.

After amassing the best record in Major League Baseball's pandemic-shortened regular season, the Dodgers are back in the NLCS for the fourth time in five years.

They'll take on a Braves team that has used powerful pitching to make their deepest playoff run in 19 seasons.

Braves pitcher Kyle Wright struck out seven batters over six scoreless innings in a 7-0 victory over the Miami Marlins that completed their three-game sweep in their NL division series on Thursday.

In American League action, the big-hitting Houston Astros are one round from the World Series for the fourth year in a row.

The Astros had two home runs from Michael Brantley plus homers from Carlos Correa and Jose Altuve in an 11-6 victory over Oakland.

Houston will face either the Tampa Bay Rays or New York Yankees in the American League Championship Series. The Yankees forced a decisive game five in their division series with a 5-1 victory.

The Dodgers scored 23 runs in three games against the Padres.



Will Smith

Smith's five hits -- with two doubles and three runs-batted-in -- were the most ever for a Dodger in a post-season game.

"That's pretty cool," said Smith, calling his performance at the plate "just one of those days." "I've been swinging it pretty well lately, just nothing really to show for it," he said. "They found some holes tonight and I put together some good at-bats." The Dodgers had 14 hits and nine walks against 11 Padres pitchers, breaking the game open with five two-out runs in the third-inning.

The Dodgers put it out of reach with four runs in the ninth and set up a meeting with an Atlanta team who are in the NLCS for the first time since 2001.

"It means a lot," Braves star first baseman Freddie Freeman said.

"Coming from where we were five years ago to where we are now is a complete 180," added Freeman of a Braves team that lost 95 games in 2015. "For us to be in this situation is completely incredible."

The Astros beat Oakland 3-1 in their best-of-five American League matchup.

The Astros downed the Dodgers in seven games in the 2017 World Series, lost to Boston in the 2018 ALCS and returned to the World Series last year, falling in seven games to Washington.

"Experience had a lot to do with it," Astros slugger Brantley said. "We came up short last year.

Eliud Kipchoge beaten as Shura Kitata takes title



Suara Kitata leading with Eliud Kipchoge, former champion following on the right (BBC pic)

World record holder Eliud Kipchoge was beaten in the London Marathon as Shura Kitata won a thrilling sprint finish to claim an unexpected victory last Sunday.

Four-time winner Kipchoge was the favourite, but fell behind with two laps to go and finished eighth.

Ethiopian Kitata pushed ahead of Kenya's Vincent Kipchumba on the home straight to finish in two

hours five minutes and 41 seconds. Brigid Kosgei, who holds the women's world record, defended her title.

Both races were run in cold and wet conditions on a specially designed closed-loop course because of coronavirus restrictions.

The women's race started at 07:15 BST with the men's following three hours later and the wheelchair

aces, with male and female athletes competing at the same time, coming after.

Great Britain's David Weir was denied a ninth London Marathon wheelchair title as Canada's Brent Lakatos emerged victorious in the men's race, while Manuela Shar suffered a shock defeat to Nikita den Boer in the women's.

(BBC)

Ireland name six uncapped players in Six Nations squad

DUBLIN AFP: Ireland on Thursday named six uncapped players in a 35-strong squad to complete the final rounds of the interrupted 2020 Six Nations.

Andy Farrell's team take on Italy in Dublin on October 24 before facing France in Paris the following week.

Ireland sit fourth in the Six Nations table, one point behind Scotland and four points behind England and France, who have all played an extra game.

The competition was postponed in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The six uncapped players in the squad, captained by Johnny Sexton, are Ryan Baird, Ed Byrne, Will Connors, Shane Daly, Hugo Keenan and New Zealand-born scrum-half Jamison Gibson-Park.

"There has been a huge effort right across Irish Rugby to ensure that the professional game could return safely and that work is greatly appreciated by the national management," said head coach Farrell. "We have protocols in place to safeguard the welfare of the players and staff and are looking forward to completing the Six Nations championship.

"We have two competitions to play in over the coming months but will focus first on a strong finish to the Six Nations." Following the conclusion of the Six Nations, Ireland take part in the eight-nation Autumn Nations Cup, which replaces the traditional international Test window.

Ireland squad Forwards: Ryan Baird (Leinster), Finlay Bealham (Connacht), Tadhg Beirne (Munster), Ed Byrne (Leinster), Will Connors (Leinster), Jack Conan (Leinster), Caelan Doris (Leinster), Cian Healy (Leinster), Dave Heffernan (Connacht), Iain Henderson (Ulster), Rob Herring (Ulster), Ronan Kelleher (Leinster), Peter O'Mahony (Munster), Andrew Porter (Leinster), Quinn Roux (Connacht), James Ryan (Leinster), John Ryan (Munster), CJ Stander (Munster), Josh van der Flier (Leinster)

SPORTS

BETTER DAYS ARE AHEAD FOR RUGBY

THE NEW HEAD OF SRI LANKA RUGBY SEES A STRAIGHT ROAD AND CLEAR FIELD AHEAD TO SCORE THE OPENING TRIES FOR HIS LONG CHERISHED VICTORY

BY INDIKA WELAGEDERA

The new president of Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) Rizly Illyaz says he sees bright days ahead for the sport despite uncertainty due to the coronavirus and was confident nothing will stand in the way of his election pledges.

He made the remarks in an interview with the Sunday Observer and reiterated that he was certain and determined that his master plan to take rugby forward will bear fruit.

"We will market all nine Provinces and we will draw in the sponsors for both men's and women's rugby," Illyaz declared without batting an eyelid.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Since being elected uncontested, what are your priorities to get Sri Lanka back on track to be a top Asian nation in both formats Sevens and Fifteens, especially Sevens?

A: In my manifesto my Committee and I have drawn up a short term two year and long term five year plan for Sevens to be in the top three in the Asian Division and in the fifth year to be No 1 or 2 consistently.

Q: But we have seen Sri Lanka perform very well a few years ago in junior rugby as well, being placed first in Asia. Why have they lost momentum and not played consistently or not progressed. Is it the structure to be revamped for us to reach decent ratings in Asian rugby?

A: Our juniors are still in the top league once again in the Sevens and what is lacking in the Sri Lanka rugby structure is the middle layer like an academy U21 and U24 and B division tournaments. We have to draw up this Program as our short and long term goals.

Q: Sri Lanka is now trying to start the Sevens first leg in Colombo and don't you think it is safer to have the second leg in Colombo as well making it easy



Rizly Illyaz

to follow health guidelines safe for spectators?

A: We did all to restart rugby after the pandemic with a workshop and drawing further guidelines on top of IRB requirements and all was well in place for us to get the okay to kick off the Sevens inter club tournament by end October and now you know the current coronavirus high alert status will cause some delay in getting back to rugby.

The plan was to get back to rugby in Colombo and Galle even without spectators to give life to the sport we all love and also to support the economic issues faced by players, coaches administrators and businesses and the many communities that look forward to the sport. The Committee was well focused on these ensuring safety precautions and within the guidelines of the Government

Q: How are you going to cover the deficit that SLR has acquired during the last few years, even when you were secretary with Asanga Seneviratne as president and deputy with Lasitha Gunaratne as head. What is your plan to overcome this deficit?

A: We need to attract sponsors to come and invest in rugby. Even

though in these difficult times there are companies having marketing budgets and we are looking at them to market their products and brands through us.

My Committee and I are confident we can find good partners.

Q: Will you bring back the referees under SLR. We saw some progress when Chula Dharmadasa was president under an interim committee and got the famous Gareth Williamson to train our referees with Dilroy Fernando also assisting?

A: We are in progress of having discussions with the referees Union and SLR has a mandate from all eight major clubs in the SLR Council to have an elite referees panel under SLR and I believe this will happen with both Unions working in parallels and in a transparent manner.

Q: How are you going to structure the voting system where the eight A Division clubs should have a majority of votes. We still see small clubs manipulating by placing Ad-hoc sides to get votes?

A: This matter was discussed at the last Council meeting and soon a Special General Meeting (SGM) will be called for the stakeholders to make a decision on this matter. As by a directive issued by the Ministry the SGM was postponed to be held after SLR's AGM and now this will take place.

Q: The Western Province having the majority of the votes was sidelined because of non-payment of membership fees. How can such serious errors of this magnitude be corrected by the WPRFU? Don't officials remind clubs of such non payment of dues?

A: This matter has also been rectified at the SLR Exco and Council levels and the WPRFU will be back to its full representation.

Q: Your manifesto that you put out seems a very good one, but will your Council members follow it or just sit at monthly meetings with no proper plan or structure in mind to revive rugby?

A: We have a well balanced Council with seniors and new comers who are in the corporate structure. We will see the change as we move on and the game restarts.

Q: How do you propose to bring in sponsors during this Covid 19 pandemic unless you start playing rugby? Will your Executive Committee help with sponsors as you indicated before?

A: We are currently in discussions with several sponsors. As I told you earlier we have different properties at provincial men's and women's rugby and school rugby. Our structure is with seven provincial unions and now some sponsors have shown interest in the northern and eastern provinces. We will market all nine provinces and we will draw in the sponsors for both men's and women's rugby.

Q: Will the schools section cooperate with SLR on all matters going forward. We know you had a productive meeting with the head as well. Was the outcome successful?

A: We are having a very cordial relationship and I see no reason why this cannot be so as we need to back the schools and work closely with them and the Schools Association president and secretary and Committee are doing a tremendous job on the structure of the all island schools tournament which is the feeder to the clubs and to the national side. We should support them and my Committee is committed to this.

Q: Once we pass this Covid 19 setback, what is the guarantee that there will be a proper structure in place to get rugby back on track?

A: Most certainly, there will be.

Fencing office bearers elected uncontested

Office bearers for the National Association of Fencing Sri Lanka (NAFSL) were elected uncontested with the unanimous decision of Council members at their AGM held on August 27 at the Unichela Board Room Panadura.

The EXCO was elected for a period of four years from 2020 to 2024.

Office Bearers:
President: Lt Col Ajith Siyambalapitiya (rtd) (Kalutara DFC)
Secretary: Samantha Weerasinghe (Colombo DFC)
Treasurer: Bhasuru Wijewickrama (Colombo DFC)

Vice Presidents: Sasini Senarath, (Gampaha DFC), Eranga Fonseka, (Gampaha DFC), BA Abeyratne, (Sri Lanka Schools Fencing Association)

Asst. Secretary: Sameera Perera, (Kegalle DFC)
Asst. Treasurer: Angelo Jesudasan, (Kegalle DFC)

EXCO Members: Shivantha de Silva, (Kandy DFC), Janaka Weerasinghe, (Kurunegala DFC), Chandana Amarasinghe, (Galle DFC)

EXCO Rep: Asiri Wijesinghe (Fencing Coaches' Association), Gayan Bandara, (Fencing Referees' and Judges Association)

Siam Cement and John Keells remain unbeaten

Siam City Cement and John Keells Group 'B' remain as the only unbeaten teams in the ongoing third Fairfirst Insurance Trophy - MCA 'F' division, 25-Over League Tournament 2020.

Siam City Cement with three wins and a no-result (14 points, NRR + 2.19) head group 'A', followed by Expo Lanka Group (12 points, NRR + 3.58), Janashakthi Life, Dialog Axiata and MBSL Insurance respectively.

John Keells Group 'B' with four wins (16 points, NRR + 1.34) head group 'B' followed by South Asia Gateway Terminal with three wins and a loss (12 points, NRR + 1.37), Deutsche Bank AG Ansell Textiles and DPMC 'B' respectively.

Cargills Bank with three wins and a loss head group 'C' (12

points, NRR + 0.73), followed by Commercial Bank 'B' (12 points NRR + 0.41), Technomedics International, HNB 'B' and Acme Printing.

Tournament highlights as at October 4 after 29 matches:

Best Team Total: 262 for 7 in 25 overs by Expolanka Group vs. MBSL Insurance

Lowest Team Total: 39 all out in 12.3 overs by Acme Printing vs. HNB 'B'

Best Batting: 170 in 80 balls, inclusive of 17 sixes and six fours by Lahiru Lakshitha from Expolanka Group vs. MBSL Insurance.

Best Bowling: 5 for 13 by Thilana Ayesha from Technomedics International vs. Acme Printing and 5 for 14 by Dinesh Panditharatne from HNB 'B' vs. Acme Printing. (YK)

Sri Lanka to contest Asian Nations Chess

The Sri Lanka men's and women's chess teams are ready to participate in the Asian Nations Cup Online Championship 2020 to be held from October 10 to 24 via Chess.com online platform.

Sri Lanka fields a strong Youth team this year under the captaincy of Minul Doluweera of Royal College with Sri Lanka's best International Master elect Harshana Tillekeratne (Maliyadeva College), the new National champion Ranindu Dilshan Lianage (Ananda College), the youngest LMST de Silva (Nalanda College)

and Theekshan Denuwan (Ananda College).

The Sri Lanka women's team is led by experienced Sachini Ranasinghe and will consist of the new National women's Champion Nethmi Fernando (Girls High School, Kandy), Sandeepani Tharushi (Devi Balika Vidyalaya), Ashvini Pavalachandran (Wycherley International School) and THD Tharushi Niklesha (Visakha Vidyalaya)

As many as 39 Asian countries have registered in the men's Division while 32 are confirmed in the women's event. (DR)

Raikkonen in record 323 Formula race

Kimi Raikkonen is set to start a record 323rd Formula One race at this weekend's Eifel Grand Prix but is happy if his landmark in longevity is overshadowed by the names Hamilton and Schumacher.

The 40-year-old Finn, who is the oldest driver on the grid, famously loathes publicity and any invasions of his family or private life so if Lewis Hamilton succeeds in equalling Michael Schumacher's record of 91 victories, he will be delighted.

"It's not something I care about, not really," he said of his own record. "If someone asked me about the number of races, I would have no idea. I'm here because I like to drive. I still enjoy it." As 'The Iceman' defies his advancing years, the fresh-faced son of seven-time champion Michael Schumacher will make his F1 debut alongside him on Friday in the Alfa Romeo garage.

Mick Schumacher, 21, leader of the Formula Two series, will run in opening practice for the Ferrari powered team and will probably take tips from the team's taciturn senior man Raikkonen equalled Rubens Barrichello's record of 322 starts two



Kimi Raikkonen

weeks ago in Russia and believes he knows his way around the circuit.

"I've been here a few times and I think I should have won a couple of races, but we've been unlucky -- that's how racing goes," he said, with a familiar shrug.

Fernando Alonso is third on the list of Grand Prix starters with 311 with Michael Schumacher just behind him on 306, winning five times at the Nurburgring Mick was with his father when he suffered a skiing accident in 2013 which caused severe brain injuries.

He is a member of the Ferrari junior academy and is widely tipped to join Alfa Romeo next year -- possibly alongside Raikkonen.

Chelsea goalkeeper's injury poses a worry

Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy has suffered a thigh injury while on international duty with Senegal.

Mendy picked up the injury during a Senegal training session and has returned to London for assessment by Chelsea's medical team.

Blues boss Frank Lampard will hope Mendy can recover in time to face Southampton at Stamford Bridge in his team's next Premier League game on October 17. Chelsea also face Sevilla in their open-

ing Champions League game and Manchester United in the Premier League following the international break. Mendy joined Chelsea from Rennes in a 22 million (\$28 million) deal last month.

The 28-year-old kept his first clean-sheet for the club in his first Premier League start against Crystal Palace last Saturday.

"The Senegalese Football Federation has announced the withdrawal from their squad of Edouard Mendy due to injury," a Chelsea statement said on Friday.

Ugandan runner Cheptegei smashes world record

Paris (AFP) The unwavering advance of technology continues unabated in athletics as two long-standing world records were obliterated within an hour at the same meeting by runners wearing Nike's controversial track spikes and guided by trackside pacemaking lights.

At a near-empty stadium in the Spanish city of Valencia because of coronavirus restrictions, Ugandan Joshua Cheptegei smashed the men's 10,000m world record on Wednesday, slicing an astonishing six seconds off the mark set in 2005 by Kenenisa Bekele.

Cheptegei's performance came after Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey chalked off an equally remarkable four seconds from the previous record for the women's 5,000m set by Tirunesh Dibaba in 2008.

Two world records in highly competitive events set in one heady hour did not just come about by accident.

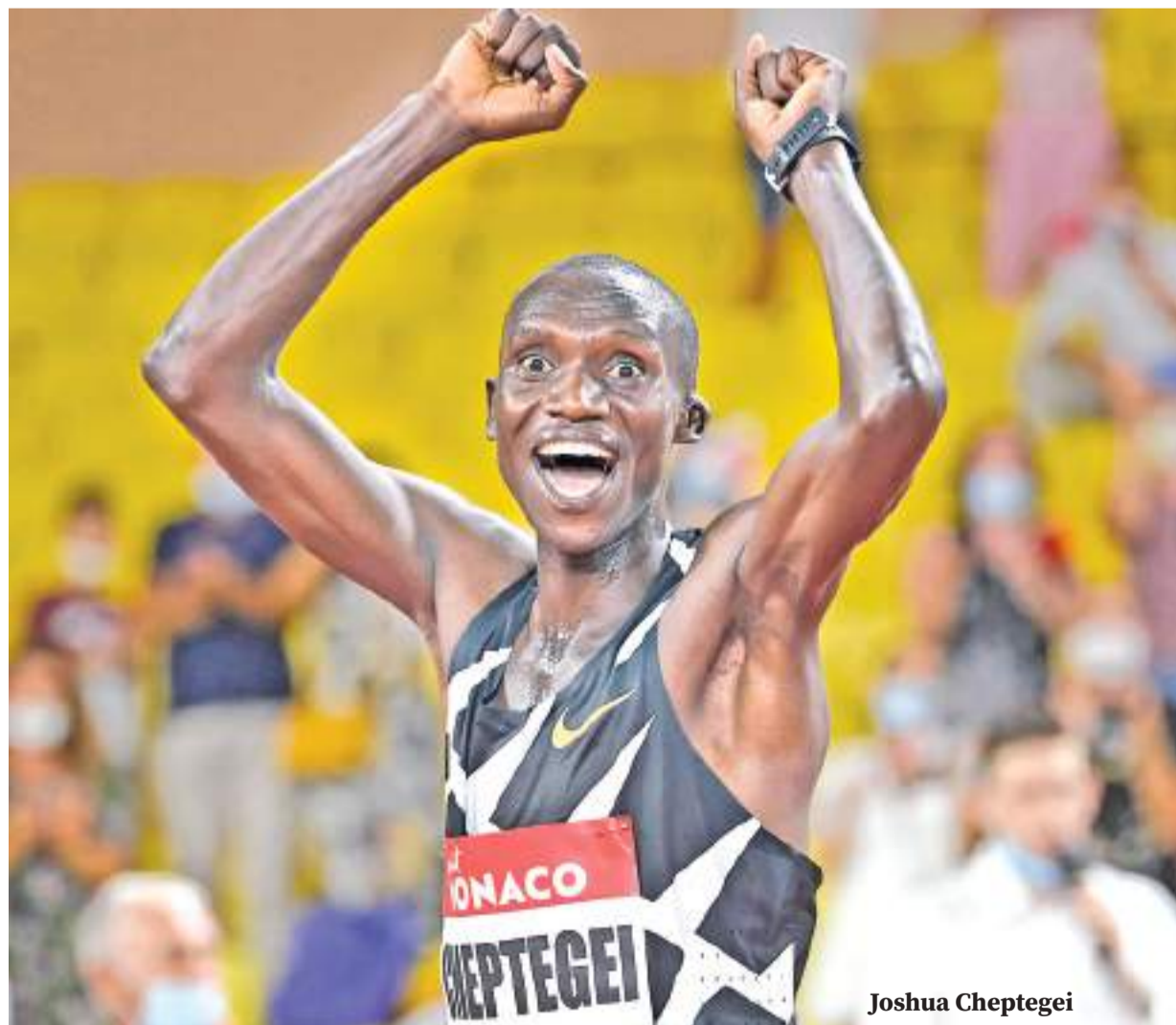
They were premeditated and both performances factored in the latest technological advances, something that threatens a rash of new marks, just as swimming saw its record book rewritten with the introduction of the full-body suits -- that were later banned.

Both Cheptegei and Gidey were wearing Nike ZoomX Dragonfly spikes, containing a carbon plate and a unique foam which lend a propulsive sensation to every stride.

Critics claim the new shoes are the equivalent of mechanical doping, while supporters hail them as a revolutionary technical advance in footwear after decades of stagnation.

The spikes, nevertheless, are approved by World Athletics, track and field's governing body.

Not only were the two athletes wearing the controversial Nike spikes, but they had a team of pacemakers around them who utilised Wavelight technology -- a trackside visual time guidance system which



Joshua Cheptegei

lights up to indicate the desired world record pace.

It guarantees metronomic pacing and it looks like a system that is here to stay.

Just last month Briton Mo Farah and Ethiopian-born Dutch runner Sifan Hassan smashed the men and women's one-hour records, also wearing Nike shoes and using Wavelight.

Cheptegei's effort in the 10,000m caps a truly extraordinary year for the 24-year-old Ugandan,

whose chains have been unshackled on the track following the Covid-19 enforced postponement of the Tokyo Olympics.

If they had gone ahead this year he would have doubtless been focusing on medals rather than seeking a string of world records.

Fresh from claiming the world cross country title in Denmark and world 10,000m track gold in Doha last year, Cheptegei sliced 1.99sec off Bekele's world 5,000m record, clocking a stunning 12:35.36 in Mo-

naco in August. That was preceded by a world record over the 5km road race, also in Monaco, in February.

After taking Bekele's 5,000m record in Monaco, Cheptegei insisted that technological advances were part and parcel of track, and it was up to each era of athletes to embrace them.

"We are in 2020," Cheptegei told letsrun.com. "We are not in 1980s, we are not in 1990s, we are not in 1970s."

FINGERS CROSSED BUT ALWAYS A STRAIGHT BAT



Bangladesh bowled out

And finally the uncertain and agonizing wait is ended. The Bangladesh cricket tour to the country which was a 'yes', 'wait and see', 'no', 'yes' has finally been buried on the Sri Lankan turf cricket wickets and will be resurrected again probably next year.

After much agitation between Sri Lanka Cricket and the Bangladesh Cricket Association the tour has been left to rest and it has left cricket crazy fans dejected and disappointed in the country.

Not only the spectators, above all the cricketers and SLC officials who strained every nerve and sinew to see that the visitors would be here and umpires call 'PLAY' must be in an angry mood.

From the outset when the tour became a possibility and with Sri Lanka Cricket doing all it can to make the tour a reality and satisfy the locally starved international cricketers and the spectators, the Bangladeshi officials kept dilly dalling. They kept making some strong demands from the local cricket board.

While the discussions were going on some of the Bangladeshi cricketers were tested positive for covid-19. And again uncertainty of the tour set in.

Then the Bangladeshis demand that the quarantine period be reduced. Now Bangladesh should have realized that in Sri Lanka like in other countries there are laws to be adhered to.

And with prevailing covid-19 not sport to be played with, the Lankan Government under the strong and caring leadership of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has applied laws and safety measures which is the envy of other countries and has admirably controlled the life threatening illness in the country.

Rules and administration cannot be thrown to the wind given the uncertain environment.

Truth be told, however, the Bangladesh cricketers even if they toured here would not have been much of an attraction because they do not have a star class, and even if a few spectators were to be allowed to watch them in action they would not have been a draw.

Even the TV media companies would not have stood to profit much as advertisers would have been fighting shy to advertise their products given the lack of excitement.

Now that the trauma of the Bangladesh tour is over, there will be no international cricket in the country although Sri Lanka Cricket is striving to get the Lanka Premier League on the turf. Here too there is uncertainty and cricketers will be hoping against hope that the tournament will finally be a reality.

Only Udana in IPL
It is sad that none of the Sri Lanka cricketers other than for left arm bowling all rounder Isuru Udana who is playing for reigning champions Mumbai Indians led by Rohit Sharma and coached by Mahela Jayawardena, no other Sri Lankan cricketer is in the IPL. Sri Lankan cricketers were this time round not attractive enough for the franchise sponsors to make a claim to buy any other than Udana.

So its small satisfaction that in the ongoing IPL other than for Udana, the Sri Lankans on show at times on telly are Mahela Jayawardena and former champion off spinner Muttiah Muralideran as a spin bowling coach.

In the earlier tournaments many franchises contested to have Sri Lankans in their teams with some of them being top attractions who left their marks in the tournament. The days that Sri Lanka cricketers were crowd pullers seem to be eluding us.

The Sri Lankans who played in earlier tournaments are worthy mention: Lasith Malinga, Thisara Perera, Angelo Mathews, Mahela Jayawardena, Kumar Sangakkara, Muttiah Muralideran, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Farveez Mahroof, Chaminda Vaas, Sanath Jayasuriya, Ajantha Mendis, Nuwan Kulasekera, Thilana Thusara, Chamara Silva, Nuwan Zoysa, Chamara Kapugedera, Akila Dhananjaya, Suraj Randiv, Jeewan Mendis, Sachitra Senanayake, Kusal Perera, Dilhara Fernando, Dhusmantha Chameera, Nuwan Pradeep, Dinesh Chandimal, Asela Gunaratne and now Iusuru Udana.

Fantastic sixer hitting
Jessopian hitting was on display at the IPL the manner in which a little known Indian leftie Rahul Tewatia took West Indian left arm fast bowler Sheldon 'general' Cottrell to the cleaners the other day during the match between Rajasthan Royals and Kings XI Punjab.

Never before has such hitting been seen in the history of the IPL. Tewatia smashed seven sixes as he made 53 off 31 balls. In one exhilarating over he hit Cottrell for four sixes in a row, patted the next ball and sent the next ball soaring over the ropes.

Tewatia's brilliance helped Steve Smith's Royals to make 226 after being set 224 for victory which was a record chase in the IPL.

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—By—
Dinesh Weerawansa

The 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year is likely to be postponed after the Covid-19 pandemic bounced back as the Brandix cluster produced more than 1,000 corona virus positive cases.

About a week ago, Sri Lanka was gradually returning to normalcy with some 140 odd Covid-19 positive cases after the mid-March breakout of the deadly virus. Hence, the health authorities had given to green light for the Mega Show with the Colombo Municipal Council too granting its approval.

Accordingly, all arrangements have been finalised to hold the 2020 Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year awards ceremony at the BMICH on November 18. But the unexpected Covid-19 breakout of the virus from the Brandix cluster forced health authorities to caution the public once more and even postpone mass scale public gathering.

We even picked the BMICH to host the show as it is the only place authorized to accommodate 800 guests. The BMICH has a capacity to host 1,600 but when a one-meter distance is maintained, we could have invited up to 800 people.

But now, we have no option but to put off the 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year awards ceremony. But it all depends on how soon we could tackle the new wave of the attack.

It is too early to predict anything since there is more than a month left for the originally fixed date of the Mega Show, November 18. If things move fast, we cannot rule out the outside chance of getting health clearance so that we may even go ahead with the original plan.

Meanwhile, the Most Popular Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer and Schoolgirl Cricketer contests are going on rapid pace in the last stage.

Ananda College's Anuda Jayaweera and Marapola MV, Minuwangoda's Nimesha Wijesundera continued to lead in the Most Popular Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer and Schoolgirl Cricketer contests.

With a few more weeks to go, Jayaweera still takes the lead in the boys contest with 3,935 votes ahead of his closest rival Lohan de Soysa of Dharmasoka College, Ambalangoda.

But Ashan Wickramasinghe of Royal has climbed a step ahead to be in third place with only a 163 votes lead over fourth-placed Shehan Fernando of St. Benedict's College. Fernando was placed third last week.

Nimesha Wijesundera maintained her lead in the Most Popular Schoolgirl contest. She has a 2,898 votes lead over second placed Renuka Damayanthi of Bandaranayake MV. In fact, Damayanthi was in the third slot last week but displaced Suranga Lakmali from the second place in the latest round.

Ex-Sri Lanka captain and former ICC Match Referee Roshan



FLASHBACK: Sadeera Samarawickrema of St. Joseph's College, Colombo was awarded the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel on October 15, 2014. Pic: Sulochana Gamage

Mahanama, was the first to win the prestigious Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year on successive occasions. Having first won the title in 1983, he also won the crown in 1984 to lead as one of the greatest stars who had emerged through the Mega Show. Mahanama, who turned 51 last month, has represented Sri Lanka in 52 Tests to aggregate 2,576 runs with four centuries and 11 fifties.

His career-best innings of 225 was registered against India in 1997, sharing a then record partnership of 576 runs with Sanath Jayasuriya (340) at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo as Sri Lanka recorded the highest team total in a Test.

However Mahanama despite winning the glory on successive years was not the first to win the title twice. It was Sri Lanka's World Cup winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga who won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year twice - in 1980 and 1982. Ranatunga narrowly missed what would have been a hat-trick of wins but he was the runner up to Rohan Bultjens in 1981.

Ranatunga first won the coveted title in 1980 after Ranjan Madugalle but failed to repeat it the following year which was carried away by Bultjens of St. Peter's College. However, Ranatunga bounced back during his final inter-school First XI season for Ananda and was crowned Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1982.

Following Ranatunga and Mahanama to join the select band of schoolboy cricketers to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title twice were Thilan Samaraweera (1994 and 1995), Lalith Peiris (2004 and 2005), Bhanuka Rajapaksa (2010 and 2011) and Charith Asalanka (2015 and 2016).

The last of those six rare occasions was witnessed last year when Richmond's emerging hero Asalanka won back to back titles.

The Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer contest, Sri Lanka's oldest and premier school cricket awards show, is now on for the 42nd year.

Simultaneously, the newly introduced Observer-Mobitel Schoolgirl Cricketer of the Year 2020 will also be conducted for the third year, as women's cricket

in Sri Lanka too is reaching new heights.

There has been a tremendous interest in all corners of the country ever since the beginning of the contest, making it the Mother-of-All-Shows and inspired by the initiative given by the Sunday Observer there has been a couple of similar

events that emerged.

It is extremely happy to see more school cricket awards coming up to reward schoolboy cricketers. After all, it is the country's budding schoolboy cricketers who will be rewarded at the end after a strenuous season.

Sri Lanka Telecom Mo-

bitel is the principal sponsor of the Mega Show for the 13th consecutive year. SLT Mobitel's partnership with the Sunday Observer has opened horizons for school cricketers.

Apart from increasing prize money by big margins, it has also helped to reward coaches and masters in charge who put a lot of hard effort.

A special thank you should go to SLT Chairman Rohan Fernando and SLT Mobitel Chief Executive Officer Nalin Perera for their financial backing. If not for their efforts, a mega event of this magnitude would not have been possible.

The ANCL Chairman and board of management too have always given their best possible support to keep the Mega Show alive and kicking.

Chairman and President's Counsel W. Dayaratne, together with Director Editorial Dharma Sri Kariyawasam, Director Legal and Administration Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana, Director Finance Janaka Ranatunga and Director Operations Canishka Witharana have helped this show to go from strength to strength.

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 **17-10-2020** NO. **32**

Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer

1. Anuda Jayaweera (Ananda College)	77,174
2. Lohan de Soysa (Dharmasoka College)	73,239
3. Ahan Wickramasinghe (Royal College)	71,971
4. Shehan Fernando (St. Benedict's College)	71,808
5. Sukitha Manoj (St. Sebastian's College)	68,018
6. Thevindu Seneviratne (Royal College)	60,290
7. Duniith Wellalage (St. Joseph's College)	50,701
8. Ranudha Somaratne (Trinity College)	50,686
9. Kanishka Rantillekege (Ananda College)	49,655
10. Dimuth Sandaruwan (Richmond College)	37,261
11. Nipun Dananjaya (St. Joseph Yaz College)	30,301
12. Navod Paranavithana (Mahinda College)	26,178
13. Ruchira Adikari (Anuradhapura Central)	22,785
14. Bhanuka Manohara (Richmond College)	22,289
15. Pawantha Weerasinghe (Ananda Sastralaya)	19,011
16. Ruwin Peiris (Trinity College)	18,718
17. Vanuja Kumara (St. Peter's College)	16,533
18. Ashen Daniel (St. Joseph's College)	15,631
19. Savindu Perera (Maris Stella College)	13,899
20. Dilmin Ratnayake (S. Thomas' College)	12,144
21. Matheesha Pathirana (Trinity College)	11,036
22. Nikil Sasmitha (Tissa Central Kalutara)	10,399
23. Abishek Anandakumar (Trinity College)	9,989

Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer

1. Nimesha Wijesundera (Marapola MV)	56,007
2. Renuka Damayanthi (Bandaranayake MV)	53,109
3. Suranja Lakmali (Gonapola BMV)	52,078
4. Janadi Anali (Anula Vidyalaya)	44,318
5. Sachini Nethmini (Wadduwa Central)	40,614
6. Umsha Himeshani (Devapathiraja Vidyalaya)	32,998
7. Kavisha Dilhari (Devapathiraja Vidyalaya)	24,689

SPORT

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OCTOBER 11, 2020

'LET'S NOT USE GUNS FOR THE WRONG REASON'

SPORTS MINISTER NAMAL RAJAPAKSA MAKES AN IMPASSIONED PLEA THAT SHOOTING BE TAKEN TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH AN EYE ON WORLD QUALIFICATION

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Being an Olympic sport plans are afoot to develop shooting to higher levels with the intervention of sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa who spelled out his vision when he graced the Sharp Shooter 2020 championship held at the Hantana Shooting Range.

The winners at this event received their trophy from Minister Rajapaksa.

"For a long time we were compelled to use guns for the wrong reason," said Minister Rajapaksa. "It is time we took shooting to new heights in sports. Shooting has great promise among Sri Lankans. I know that the shooters face a lot of difficulties but we must go forward," added the Minister.

He exhorted that within the next five years shooting should reach international level and Sri Lanka must produce medal winners at the South Asian, Asian, Commonwealth and Olympic Games by 2024.

The armed forces Army, Navy, Air Force and Police along with some private clubs have been striving for success internationally but with very little headway.

Sri Lanka had produced several Olympic shooters in the past and the



The champion Air Force shooting team with Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa comprising Corporal PMMR Fernando, Corporal NP Wijesooriya, Corporal HKDD Fernando, Corporal (miss) MGDPK Muddunkoth, Leading Aircraftwoman HDCL Wickramasinghe, Corporal (miss) AT Mekala, Corporal RGP Madushanka, Leading Aircraftwoman HK Chamila Kumari, Corporal (miss) WMS Waidyaratne, Corporal HTWJ Priyashan, Corporal RGP Madushanka, Corporal HST Gayashan, Corporal GH Kodithuwakku, Leading Aircraftman LLC Chathuranga, Corporal KADSI Bandara, Corporal JPH Padmasiri, Corporal PEGNM Vithana and Leading Aircraftman SKGNS Bandara

ministry is ready to extend their fullest corporation to develop the sport.

Malini Wickramasinghe and Pushpamali Ramanayake were the best shooters produced in Sri Lanka who won gold medals at the 1994 Commonwealth Games while both

of them also had the chance to represent Sri Lanka at the Olympics.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa, a former Sri Lanka rugby captain, is currently on a dream crusade to pull out the island's sports from a huge mess that has plummet-

ted the country's sporting image to a low level on the international scene.

Air Force shooters bagged 11 gold, nine silver and seven bronze medals at the championships that was organised by the Hill Country Sports Shooting Club.

Rogue coaches to be banned

No athletics coach without a valid license will be permitted to coach following a ruling made by Sri Lanka Athletics (SLA) as all athletic coaches who participated at the coaches training level I course obtained good grades.

The course was conducted by Sri Lanka Athletics (SLA) and all of them were presented with certificates of competence by the president of SLA Major General Palitha Fernando who was the chief guest.

The training course lasted twelve days from September 25 to October 6 and SLA plans to conduct more training courses to help elevate the knowledge the coaches. According to the Vice Presi-

dent of SLA, GLS Perera, their officials held discussions with Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa seeking ways of elevating the standard of athletics in Sri Lanka.

They also decided to license all registered coaches and no one without this license will be permitted to coach from 2021.

"Some athletes who retire from the sport go straight away to coaching without any qualification and license. Some of the athletes use prohibited substances to enhance their skills and win at any cost.

Some coaches encourage this method that only results in the athlete being banned for using drugs," said Perera. (DR)

NOC nutrition hampers for athletes

Under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee - Olympic Solidarity, the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka Athletes' Commission assisted athletes who were affected due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Athletes recommend by their respective NFs and Athletes' Commission, who are in a so-called "low income" group were

considered under this project and assisted for their daily needs, training and nutrition for two months. Over one hundred athletes benefited through this project according to the NOC which said the distribution of vouchers to the athletes through the respective NFs was done on September 30, 2020 at the Olympic House.

Packed crowd for Australia, New Zealand rugby clash

WELLINGTON AFP: New Zealand and Australia will play the first rugby Test since the pandemic on Sunday against a backdrop of disagreement and tension after chaos caused by the coronavirus opened up deep divisions.

The All Blacks and the Wallabies will take to the field in front of a packed, largely face mask-free crowd in Wellington just under a year since their last games, at the World Cup in Japan.

The on-pitch hostilities follow a torrid period this year when the two unions have

quarrelled over the Rugby Championship internationals and Super Rugby, whose 25-year run has come crashing to a halt.

The opening Bledisloe Cup Test, the first international rugby since Covid-19 halted the Six Nations in March, will be followed by a second next week in Auckland, before the reformat-ed Rugby Championship starts in Australia on October 31.

Among rugby's many changes since Japan last year, both teams have new coaches already looking ahead to the next World Cup in 2023.

The All Blacks are under Ian Foster, who took over after eight years as assistant to Steve Hansen, while the Wallabies turned to New Zealander Dave Rennie after Michael Cheika's departure. Foster said memories of last year's failed World Cup campaign have already been laid to rest by the three-time world champions.

"We don't need that burden," Foster said. "This is about this team."

"It's about looking at the foundations and making sure we set that in this Test and subsequent ones to make sure we

can launch into the next period." The Wallabies' Rennie, a Wellington native, has never coached at Test level before, but he knows exactly what he wants from his team.

"We have to be really aggressive, to try to force them to kick or to turn over some pill," he said.

After surviving on Zoom calls with coaches and players for part of the year, Foster and Rennie get to launch their head-coach careers in front of a big crowd - days after New Zealand declared victory over its second wave of Covid-19.



INSEE-Clarion Shipping celebrate two-year partnership with badminton tournament

"Mohan Pandithage & Nandana Ekanayake challenge trophy" badminton tournament was held on 3rd October at the MBA badminton courts to cherish the partnership between INSEE cement and Clarion shipping. Mohan Pandithage, the Chairman /CEO Hayleys PLC and Mr.Nandana Ekanayake, the Chairman INSEE Cement participated as the chief guests for the event. Senior officials of Hayleys Advantis and INSEE cement were also present at the occasion. The tournament was organized by INSEE Cement and Clarion Shipping.

INSEE Cement and Clarion Shipping have teamed up since 2018 in order to develop the Sri Lankan economy.

Clarion Shipping (Pvt) Ltd is a premier service provider among the logistics companies in Sri Lanka. As a trustworthy service provider, Clarion Shipping consistently delivers a range of solutions to fit the client's supply chain, ensuring cost efficiency and high quality service.

INSEE Cement has been a leading cement manufacturer in south east Asia since 1969. The company manufactures Santha, Mahaweli Marine, Mahaweli Marine Plus, INSEE Rapid flow, INSEE Rapid flow Plus and INSEE extra cement. INSEE cement is the first company in Sri Lanka to be certified as "Green Cement".



Boxing coaches follow Level One course

Boxing coaches are following a Sports Science Certificate Level One course conducted by the National Institute of Sports Science (NISS) on a request made by Upali Bandara, President of the Boxing Coaches Association of Sri Lanka (BCASL).

The course which began on September 24 will run until November 6 covering a du-

ration of 60 hours and is attended by 60 coaches.

The main objective of this course is to provide them with an extensive knowledge of sports science and to direct their athletes to become international medallists according to Bandara.

Among the subjects in the course syllabus are Applied Physical Qualities and

Training Methods for Boxing, Role of the Coach, Basic Skill, Movements and Techniques, Recovery Methods, Footwork, Nutrition, Psychology and Mental Preparation and Physiology of Athlete Preparation.

The key lecturers are Sajith Jayalal, Director of NISS, former national coach Captain (Rtd) R.K. Indrasena, international boxing official

Rukman Wekadapola, basketball coach and coordinator Chathura Rodrigo, Dr Lal Ekanayake, Director General of the Sports Medicine Institute of the Sports Ministry, Dr Samantha Nanayakkara, a renowned sports and exercise physician, Thisara Jayasekera, RAD Jeewantha, RT Jayasingha and CSA Arachchi.

Viper Gunaratne lands top coaching job at Sri Lanka Rugby

By Hafiz Marikar



Well known Kandy rugby player, coach, referee and administrator Nihal (Viper) Gunaratne has been appointed as the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Rugby Coaching Committee for the year 2020/2022 with immediate effect.

His appointment letter was signed by Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) secretary Jude Pillai.

Some of Gunaratne's long list of professional qualifications in rugby are, World Rugby (IRB) Licensed Coach Educator from 2008, World Rugby (IRB) Level One Coach, World Rugby (IRB) Level 2 Coach, World Rugby (IRB) Level 3 Coach, Panel Member of the World Rugby Elite Coaching,

World Rugby (IRB) Strength and Conditioning Accreditation and Certificate course in Human Resource Management, New South Wales, Australia 2004.

Kandy-born Gunaratne, more affectionately called 'Viper' for his quick breaks, has shown a lot of promise in coaching with years of experience and is one of the top rugby brains while proving his capabilities in the past 40 years.

He has coached many schools and clubs and has been the head of talent identification for Sri Lanka Rugby at junior level besides being its Development manager from 2012 to 2015.

He was also Director of Rugby at St. Joseph's College Colombo 2013, Consultant Coach S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia 2010, Director of Rugby St. Anthony's College

Kandy 2005-2008 and Head Coach Dharmaraja College Kandy 1987-92.

He also coached the Sri Lanka Under-20 team in 2007 and was Sri Lanka coach in 2010 and 2011 at the Junior Asiad in Bangkok, Thailand.

Gunaratne also served Kandy SC as its Director of Coaching in 1990 and 2007.

During his playing days, Gunaratne was a top flanker who was solid in both attack and defence after commencing his career at St. Anthony's College whose team he captained in 1975 and 1976.

Straight from school he joined Kandy SC and played in 1977 under the coaching of the late Col. Bertie Dais.

He led the side in 1984 and wore the Sri Lanka jersey in 1979 at the Rugby Asiad and Hong Kong Sevens. He also played for CR and FC.



Nihal (Viper) Gunaratne

Gunaratne was also picked by World Rugby to Conduct a Level One and Two coaching course in Lahore, Pakistan in 2015, a program in Tokyo, Japan in the same year and in Chennai, India in 2016.

He coached the Kandy Combined Schools from 2010 to 2012 and once more in 2015.



business.suo@lakehouse.lk

OCTOBER 11, 2020

Every year, around **7 MILLION DEATHS** are due to exposure from both outdoor and household air pollution

Air pollution is a major environmental risk to health. By reducing air pollution levels, countries can reduce:

- Stroke
- Heart disease
- Lung cancer, and both chronic and acute respiratory diseases, including asthma

REGIONAL ESTIMATES ACCORDING TO WHO REGIONAL GROUPING:

- Over 2 million in South-East Asia region
- Over 2 million in Western Pacific region
- Nearly 1 million in African region
- About 500 000 deaths in Eastern Mediterranean region
- About 500 000 deaths in European region
- More than 300 000 in the region of the Americas

GROWING REVENUE STREAMS

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TRANQUILITY AMID TURBULENCE

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CAC AND PROFITABILITY

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AIR POLLUTION, A SILENT KILLER

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World Standards Day - 2020

Each year on 14 October, the members of the IEC, ISO and ITU celebrate World Standards Day, which is a means of paying tribute to the collaborative efforts of thousands of experts worldwide who develop the voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards. World Standards Day 2020 is themed "Protecting the planet with standards".

IEC, ISO, ITU logos and Sri Lanka Standards Institution logo.

NEWS SNIPPETS

Increase in workplace stress

This year has been the most stressful year in history for the global workforce and people want robots to help, according to a new study by Oracle and Workplace Intelligence, an HR research and advisory firm.

The study of more than 12,000 employees, managers, HR leaders, and C-level executives across 11 countries found that the Covid-19 pandemic has increased workplace stress, anxiety, and burnout for people all around the world, and they prefer robots instead of other people to help.



Opportunities for trade with the US

Trade can still grow and one way Sri Lankan companies can maximise trade with the United States is to take better advantage of trade preferences.

"For example, did you know that exports under the Generalised System of Preferences or GSP accounted for only 5.32 percent of total exports to the US last year? That seems like a very small percentage," Ambassador of the United States of America to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Alaina B. Teplitz told the AGM of the Sri Lanka-USA Business Council (SLUSABC) in Colombo recently.



Oil prices spike

Crude future prices spiked on Thursday after OPEC said Thursday that the "worst is over" for the oil market.

Front month crude contracts were up 3.08% to \$41.22 by 15:09 ET following the optimistic commentary.

Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo said that OPEC is going to continue its oil market management and said the "worst is over."

The comments came as OPEC unveiled its annual World Oil Outlook. Global inventories are currently 220 million barrels above the 5-year average, according to Bloomberg.



SL, A LEADING SOURCING DESTINATION FOR CHINA

- DR. PALITHA KOHONA

By **Rajitha Jagoda Arachchi**

ing high emphasis on developing trade and investment relations with China.

This may not be new, but the emphasis is certainly new and more vigorous," the senior diplomat said.

In 2019, Sri Lanka exported goods worth USD 229 million to China while the value of imported goods from China exceeded USD 4 billion. Tea, coir products, rubber products, minerals and apparel are some of the key export items from Sri Lanka to China.

"China is a rich and major market and Sri Lanka should explore all avenues to enhance trade.

While emphasising on tea, we should also consider exporting cinnamon, pepper and other spices. We can also supply natural rubber tyres and mattresses to the Chinese market," Dr. Kohona said.

Highlighting the fashion con-



sciousness of the Chinese, he said there is enormous potential for Sri Lanka's quality clothing and garments in China.

"Do not forget gems. Chinese are the biggest buyers of gems in the world at present," he said.

Even though China-Sri Lanka relations go back to the 1950s, Sri Lanka is yet to reap the maximum benefit from the booming Chinese economy, Dr. Kohona said.



Sri Lanka has a proud heritage of arts and craft which comprise a wide range of items set with gems, wooden masks, toys, intricate lacework, wall hangings, table mats and ceramics which make a perfect souvenir for any home. However, low productivity, absence of a stable market and technology are some of the major challenges faced by craftsmen such as those in the picture displaying products at an exhibition in Colombo.

Pic: Wimal Karunatileke

W-shaped economic recovery seems correct

- Former Central Bank Deputy Governor

World Bank forecasts - 6.7% GDP growth for Sri Lanka in 2020

BY LALIN FERNANDOPULLE

The prediction by economic analysts that Sri Lanka will have a 'W' shaped economic recovery appears to be correct with the emergence of the second wave of the global pandemic that will have a heavy toll on the economy, said

former Central Bank Deputy Governor, Dr. W.A. Wijewardena.

He said earlier many analysts had predicted Sri Lanka as other countries will have a 'V' shaped economic recovery. But, to give confidence to the people, politicians predicted a 'V' shaped quick recovery. Now with the latest com-

munity based second wave of the global pandemic, it appears that the analysts are correct.

The World Bank in its twice-a-year regional update predicts Sri Lanka's GDP growth to be - 6.7 percent this year down from 2.3 percent last year "Peru which was way behind as a... TO PAGE 28

Much scope in exporting fresh fruits and vegies to EU markets

Sri Lanka is not yet a major exporter of fresh fruits and vegetables to the EU market although it has great potential, due to the lack of visibility of the country as a sourcing destination for quality agricultural products, experts in sourcing and markets to the EU,

said IPD Expert Sourcing + Markets, Linda Mense told a virtual media briefing conducted by the Delegation of the German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka on the Fruit Logistica, the leading trade fair for fruits, vegetables and spices to be held from February 3-5 in

Berlin, Germany, that Sri Lanka should take steps to increase visibility in the global market by being present at international trade fairs which will help increase awareness of the country's potential to supply quality agri based products to the global market. TO PAGE 28

CSC to add two vessels to fleet

Aims to double coal supply to Norochcholai

BY LALIN FERNANDOPULLE

The supply of coal to the Lakvijaya power plant at Norochcholai will be doubled with the addition of two vessels to the fleet by the next season boosting the revenue of the country's oldest national carrier, said a senior official of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd. (CSC) last week.



Wineendra Weeraman

CSC Chairman Wineendra Weeraman said the addition of two vessels to the current fleet will help increase the supply of coal to Norochcholai by over 50 percent by the next season.

The coal supply season spans from mid September to mid April. The CSC conducts charter operations to many destinations across the globe. CSC operates two cargo vessels and supplies around 2.2 million MT of coal to the... TO PAGE 28

Public investment, key for economic recovery - IMF

Governments around the world are taking extraordinary measures to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. While maintaining the focus on addressing the health emergency and providing lifelines for households and businesses, governments need to prepare economies for the transition to the post-Covid-19 world - including helping people get back to work.

Public investment has a central role to play. Our new Fiscal Monitor shows that increasing public investment in advanced and emerging market economies could help revive economic activity from the sharpest and deepest global economic collapse in contemporary history.

It could also create millions of jobs directly in the short term and millions more indirectly over a longer period. Increasing public investment by 1 percent of GDP could strengthen confidence in the recovery and boost GDP by 2.7 percent, private investment by 10 percent, and employment

by 1.2 percent if investments are of high quality and if existing public and private debt burdens do not weaken the response of the private sector to the stimulus.

In this edition of our Fiscal Monitor, we discuss why more public investment is needed, what the potential impact of public investment may be on growth and jobs, and how governments can make sure investment supports the recovery.

Even before the pandemic, global investment had been weak for over a decade, despite crumbling roads and bridges in some advanced economies and massive infrastructure needs for transportation, clean water, sanitation, and more in most emerging and developing economies. Investment is now urgently required in sectors critical to controlling the pandemic, such as health care, schools, safe buildings, safe transportation, and digital infrastructure. Low interest... TO PAGE 28



Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

	US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
05 Oct - 09 Oct					
Monday	186.75	220.37	1.7869	242.99	28.028
Tuesday	186.81	221.490	1.7865	243.82	28.025
Wednesday	186.75	220.32	1.7850	241.78	28.019
Thursday	186.49	220.71	1.7768	242.30	27.985
Friday	186.34	220.71	1.778	242.63	28.238

Business

Develop and grow new revenue streams



BIZ TALK with
Kishu Gomes

Organisations of all sizes and across all sectors need to plan for further disruptions. Blind spots can hurt you anytime. It's a difficult task for those on your team who have been working round the clock to adapt to changes during the pandemic.

Develop a contingency plan for going into company shutdown mode. What does your weekly or monthly budget look like if you suspend operations? How much cash would you need to cover your weekly expenses in this scenario?

If your business was lucky enough to develop an alternative revenue stream during the pandemic, consider investing in the growth of that new direction. For others who have not yet found an alternative source of income, it's time to think creatively.

What do your customers need right now, and how could you fill that need? How does this dovetail with your existing products and services?

Your brand already has an audience; you just need to pivot to meet them where they are right now. Covid-19 exposed supply chain and logistics vulnerabilities for companies worldwide, especially those that rely on single source providers or

suppliers concentrated in specific geographic areas. Evaluate supply chain risk based on the likelihood of further disruption.

Spike in absenteeism likely

In the current environment, absenteeism is inevitable that may affect especially manufacturing operations. So identify essential functions and cross-train employees to ensure necessary staffing if absenteeism spikes.

Covid-19 exposed operating risks for companies, including overreliance on some personnel to perform critical functions. This presents an operational threat and puts added pressure on individuals tasked with performing these functions. Remote work became a hallmark of the pandemic for businesses.

For those that could remain operational at a distance, this has been a major benefit. If your business shifted to a remote-first approach to work during the pandemic, consider making those policies permanent. If your shift to remote work was fraught with challenge, assess what went wrong and try to improve upon those mistakes. The time is now to evaluate what worked and what you need to improve in terms of online business and remote work.

Put those plans and systems in place now. That is an investment that may very well make the difference between maintaining continuity of operations or shutting down completely.

Develop a formal process for implementing Delegations of Authority and other financial and legal processes so they can be executed remotely.

Ideally, you should have layers two-deep, so you always have at least one available backup. Build a systematic method for suspending,



If your shift to remote work was fraught with challenge, assess what went wrong and try to improve upon those mistakes. The time is now to evaluate what worked and what you need to improve in terms of online business and remote work

closing and resuming operations. The process you implemented during the first wave should serve as a guide. Document all the steps so you can implement them consistently and quickly for any business disruption. Set up or if you already have, update your succession plan should something happen to you or one of your critical employees so the business can continue. All businesses, regardless of size, should have a disaster and business continuity plan in place, along with a crisis team that is ready to put that plan into action.

Communicate with customers

It remains as pivotal as ever that you keep everyone – your employees and customers alike – fully apprised of your plans and expectations during the Covid-19 pandemic. Not only is it important for your business to keep everyone informed, but your customers and employees are looking to your brand for support at an

uncertain and difficult time. Offer that support in a direct and easily understood way. The most important aspect of making all of this happen effectively is communication. Businesses must plan to communicate often with their employees and their customers on a regular basis.

Whatever your unique situation, it is critical to develop a contingency plan. Even if second-wave business closures don't materialise, you will be well positioned for any other unforeseen crises, such as natural disasters or social upheaval. If the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us one thing, it's that all businesses must expect the unexpected; this preparation could be the difference between surviving and closing your business permanently.

In 2020, we have learned the significance of a business disaster continuity plan. Don't be caught without one, should things take a turn for the worse.

Dr. Roshan Perera, Director, Senkadagala Finance

Senkadagala Finance has appointed Dr. Roshan Perera as an independent non-executive director.

Dr. Perera is a former Central Banker with over 20 years of experience in formulating and implementing monetary and fiscal policy.

She graduated from the University of Colombo with a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Economics. Dr. Perera obtained her PhD in Economics from the University of Melbourne, and received a Master's degree in Public Administration

from Harvard University recently. During her term at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, she held multiple senior management positions including: Deputy Director – Economic Research Department, Additional Director – Bank Supervision Department and Director – Risk Management Department. Earlier Dr. Perera was a consultant to various institutions such as the Institute of Policy Studies, World Bank and UNDP. She was also the Director, Banking Cluster of the Ministry of Public Enterprise Development.

Singer awarded 'Retail Brand of the Year – Sri Lanka'

Global Banking and Finance Review

Singer (Sri Lanka) PLC has been honoured with first ever Sri Lanka's Retail Brand of the Year tribute by the British based Global Banking and Finance Awards.

The awards, announced annually by the Global Banking and Finance Review, a financial platform read by senior decision makers in Fortune 500 firms, investors, traders, and bankers, is a keenly awaited honour by many corporates across the world. Launched in 2011, the 10th Global Banking and Finance Awards 2020 saw intense competition among applicants across the world who vied for a slot in one of the categories of this prestigious awards.

Singer (Sri Lanka) PLC is the Awards' sole and first 'Retail Brand of the Year Sri Lanka' winner, a company spokesman said.

Chief Executive Officer, Singer (Sri Lanka), Mahesh Wijewardene said, "We are extremely delighted and proud to be honoured by Global Banking and Finance Review Awards 2020 which highlights our passion to serve the Sri Lankan customers. It has been a challenging period for all the businesses, but Singer (Sri Lanka) has been able to



demonstrate a turnaround within a short time span. Today, we cherish the results of a collective effort and we will continue to prioritise customer centricity, consumer needs and provide a best in class customer service, which is synonymous with our vision."

Hotel stay for Lotus Tyres promotion winners



The winners

Samson Rubber Industries (Pvt) Ltd. the manufacturer and distributor of Lotus tyres organised a domestic vacation for its trade partners and their family members.

The winners of the marketing promotion competition organised for dealers who met sales targets in the past year, were given this opportunity. The event was held with the participation of the Board of Directors of Samson Rubber Industries, and the sales and marketing team of Lotus tyres.

The trade partners and their

family members spent two days at the RIU Hotel, Ahungalle. At a time when most organisations have suspended marketing promotional activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this program by Lotus tyres was commended by dealers.

"Lotus Tyres has a close relationship with its trade partners, who are constant support in our journey towards success.

This program is held with the aim of strengthening those bonds beyond meeting sales targets," said Director, Samson Rubber Industries, Kavinda Rajapaksa. Lotus

Tyres has won over customers islandwide for several decades, becoming a much talked about brand, under the tagline *Niyama Milata Niyama Durak*.

It transcends what you pay for them and is accompanied by the maximum justice, safety and quality.

Lotus Tyres are renowned for their value for money, with a quality product range that includes bicycle tyres and tubes, motorcycle tyres and tubes and three-wheeler tyres and tubes, a company spokesman said.

Mount Clifford Residencies, Homagama

ICC introduces friendly payment plan

International Construction Consortium (ICC) has introduced a friendly payment plan to their ongoing residential project, Mount Clifford Residencies, Homagama.

Investors are presented with a convenient payment scheme to purchase an 870 sq ft apartment that comes with several facilities and amenities. Apartments at Mount Clifford Residencies, Homagama consists of two bedrooms, two washrooms, of which one is ensuite, a living room, kitchen and a balcony that makes way for natural ventilation.

Spread over two towers rising up to six floors each on a two acres land, Mount Clifford residencies entails facilities such as a well-equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, herbal garden, jogging track, relaxing area, community room and 24-hour security amongst others.

Investors are now able to acquire the high Return on Investment (ROI) property through strategically structured and secured payment plan.

Reserving a unit with Rs.



500,000, investors are given the flexibility to settle the balance payment in instalments.

While the initial 30% of the payment can be made in three tranches, the balance 70% payment can be made in monthly instalments that would end within the construction period. ICC will arrange bank loans

for all potential customers on request. If homeowners opt to settle the 70 percent payment via a bank loan, they are able to arrange needful by opting for financial assistance where the balance payment can be made over, five years, seven years, ten years, or fifteen with an exclusive interest rate.

vivo V20 to be introduced to the market

With V20, vivo is expected to introduce a new dimension of camera and design innovations to impress the selfie lovers and photography enthusiasts across the country. The vivo V20 is due to arrive in the market with innovative camera capabilities and debut a new Eye Autofocus feature.

The intelligent Eye Autofocus feature can track users' eyes no matter where they go, or what emotion they carry. It will enable users to capture highly crisp photos or videos, from an even greater distance, with the richness of color and depth.

Usually, regular smartphones have a fixed focus feature. But, vivo's intelligent Eye Autofocus feature unlocks a whole new world of possibilities in photography. From what we can tell, it is time to bid adieu to blurry selfies, photos and videos.

The vivo V20 will have a splendid AG Glass Technology with ultra-slim design and fashionable appearance adding up to the overall aesthetics of the phone.

The iconic AG Glass technology



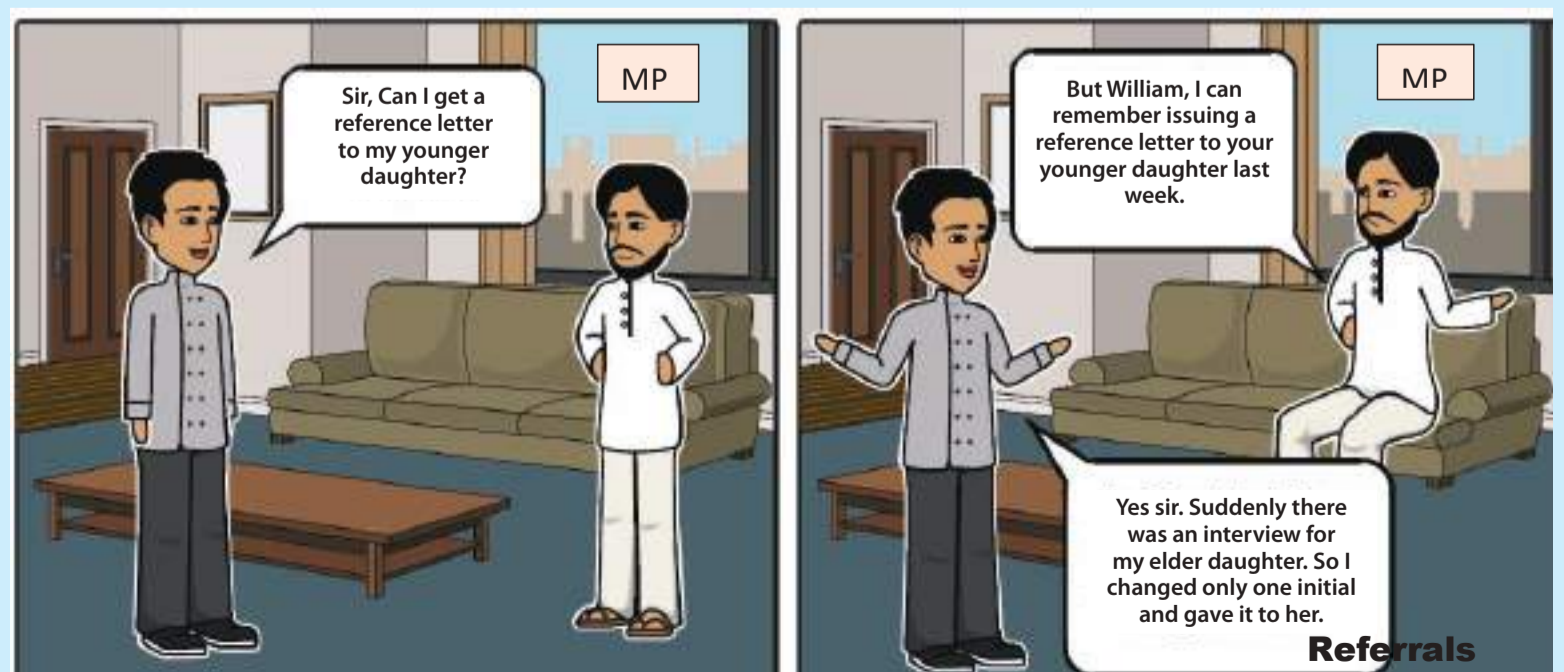
polishes the surface with its scratch resistance capabilities and adds a more refined touch to this robust smartphone.

The V20 also houses a Dual Tone Step camera design that adds a unique layer to the overall appearance of the smartphone complementing its sleek design and impressive looks.

The AG Glass is speculated to add a subtle luxury with a delicate touch and comfortable hold, vivo surely knows best the importance of a sleek smartphone for the zesty youngsters.

Everyone knows HR

Reference checking should be done through a reliable source.



By Janaka Kumarasinghe

Tranquility amid turbulence: Clarity over chaotic Covid-19



STRATEGIC STRIDES
by
Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

The global turbulence created by Covid-19 is far from over. Lingering lockdowns, surprising spikes and powerful rulers testing positive with the death toll surpassing one million are worrying signs of a continuing pandemic.

Being cautious and adhering to health guidelines is of utmost importance. Today's column refers to a reflection of responses.

Overview

When the outer world is increasingly turbulent, how can we maintain inner tranquility? This might be the answer currently being sought by millions of people affected by Covid-19 worldwide. The implications of it might include individuals and institutions alike with invitation to a better and a more serene outlook of life. While experiencing economic challenges due to employment uncertainties, moving ahead with sound decisions and solid actions is much required.

Tranquility is simply the state of being calm. It involves stillness. Stillness is your essential nature, said Eckhart Toll, the Canadian author of spirituality fame.

He says: "You are that awareness, disguised as a person. When you lose touch with inner stillness, you lose touch with yourself."

When you lose touch with yourself, you lose yourself in the world. Your innermost sense of self, of who you are, is inseparable from stillness. This is the I Am that is deeper than name

and form." The equivalent of external noise is the inner noise of thinking. The equivalent of external silence is inner stillness. Whenever there is some silence around you — listen to it. That means just notice it. Pay attention to it. Listening to silence awakens the dimension of stillness within yourself, because it is only through stillness that you can be aware of silence.

See that in the moment of noticing the silence around you, you are not thinking. You are aware, but not thinking. Eckhart Toll invites us to experience silence in a deeper sense.

When you become aware of silence, immediately there is that state of inner still alertness. You are present. You have stepped out of thousands of years of collective human conditioning. I thought the above sharing would shape our thoughts on tranquility. That means the need of it and the deed of attaining it. In fact, what needs to be done can be recognised as a recipe of seven Rs, relaxing, reflecting, revamping, reconnecting, recognising, revitalising and reinforcing. Let's explore these further.

Relaxing

Stillness offers us relaxation in abundance. When our inner world becomes silent, it is an invitation to relax. It simply allows us to be aware of what's going on. The key aspect is awareness. One needs to be aware of the importance of present moment living. Focus is a force for managers to achieve results.

Slowly but surely, modern managers are realising that the complex situations they face cannot be approached in a routine stressful manner. Indeed, the quest towards higher awareness through a deep relaxation is evident.

"If a man always insisted on being serious, and never allowed himself a bit of fun and relaxation, he would go mad or become unstable without knowing it," said Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian. This is relevant even today, especially for managers.

Reflecting

In a mind of stillness, the past can be viewed as a series of mental pictures. It invites us to recall the past and to reflect on positive and pleasant moments. This is all about challenging the assumptions. One needs to avoid the "quick fix" trap. Most organisations will acknowledge their need to



be more creative, and many will be tempted to pursue the "quick fix" option. Some will, no doubt, claim that they're satisfied with the degree of success found in the status quo, while failing to realise the long-term benefits of developing a strategy that will ensure an ongoing focus on creativity and innovation to sustain their competitive edge and their very existence. Will your organisation fall into such a trap?

The simple argument here is that conventional thinking will take you only to one point. If you truly want your organisation to make a difference in this world and in the marketplace, then be vigilant in scanning the horizon for new and creative models for doing business.

Invite your employees to create new initiatives that provide positive turning points in the lives of consumers and the organisation.

When more attention is given to the untested and untried and less attention is spent on the routine and status quo, this climate can happen. When such creativity is embraced, the key questions become "What's new? What's next? What's better?"

Refreshing

Tranquility shares with us a golden opportunity to generate refreshing thoughts. In an era where creativity is the cutting edge factor, we need to refresh our ideas a lot in becoming

innovative. Freshness of ideas is the key thing that gets a competitive organisation going. It applies to managers and leaders alike.

Consider a pond with a quiet surface. When you look down, you can easily see the bottom with clarity. When you throw a stone and disturb the surface, your vision gets blurred. That's when the freshness is gone.

Reconnecting

Tranquility invites us to reconnect with nature. Haiku poetry from Japan is a treasure that brings in this reality. In essence, it is sharing of one's experience for the betterment of humanity. Here's one such Haiku poem:

Falling night
Cool breeze
Speaking trees
Few moments
Always a treasure
The words are simple and the meaning is profound. It is same with the following as well:
Stillness in existence
or a chaotic order
Should I not
Delve deep
or escape this phenomenon
In his bestselling book, "Stillness speaks", Eckhart Toll says, "Look at a tree, a flower, a plant. Let your awareness rest upon it. How still they are, how deeply rooted in being. Allow nature to teach you stillness."

It is simply reconnecting with our roots. Managers need such a refreshing departure to balance the work stress with natural bliss.

Recognising

"It is not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters," said Epictetus (55-135), a Greek Philosopher. Inner stillness is essential to look at things in a focused, unbiased manner.

Tranquility provides us an opportunity to recognise our feelings and thoughts. Emotions are feelings and their associated thoughts.

Thus, tranquility is a state where we can recognise our emotions clearly. This is one of the fundamentals of emotional intelligence. Self-awareness leads to self-regulation, as Daniel Goleman advocates.

Eastern spiritual masters have shown that to us through their own experience a long time ago.

Managers can use the experience of tranquility to recognise their constructive and destructive emotions. Constructive emotions such as happiness, cheerfulness, enthusiasm help us to progress.

Destructive emotions such as anger, frustration, jealousy, on the other hand, retard our growth. Recognising the presence of both types of emotions is useful to ensure self-regulation.

Revitalising

Tranquility offers a great deal of freshness. You become renewed and revitalised. It is like adding vitality to life. "There is a vitality, a life force, an energy, a quickening, that is translated through you into action, and because there is only one of you in all time, this expression is unique", so said Martha Graham, an iconic American dancer. The more you experience tranquility, the more vibrancy you would have in your actions. This is vital for managers who have to maintain their energy in facing multiple challenges.

Reinforcing

Tranquility invites you to strengthen your values. It reinforces deeply held convictions that enable you to form your character. "A person that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both," said Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Values are associated with behaviour. The Oxford dictionary defines them as standards of behaviour. Stephen Robins, a scholar in organisational behaviour, describes them as "the basic convictions that a specific mode of conduct or end-state of existence is personally or socially preferable to an opposite or converse mode of conduct or end-state of existence." In brief, it is a preferred way of thinking, feeling and doing. Experiencing a deep inner silence will reinforce your values. This is crucial when the trend is to move away from values in search of quick financial "value".

Way forward

"If a man speaks or acts with an evil thought, pain follows him. If a man speaks or acts with a pure thought, happiness follows him, like a shadow that never leaves him." This is what Buddha preached. In making it happen, one needs the inner stillness.

Leaders, managers and administrators alike need to acknowledge the fact that they need to be still in order to be sharp and focused. Focus brings results, as global and local success stories reveal. It should not be an accident but a concentrated effort in committing time to be with oneself. Inward bound journey begins there. May the turbulent-stuck world truly experience the tranquility of stillness, in making inspired individuals, interactive teams and innovative institutions.

Second BIA terminal before 2023

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has instructed officials to complete the construction work of the second terminal at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) before the end of 2023.

The President was speaking at a discussion on the future activities of the State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development at the Presidential Secretariat recently.

Construction work on the second terminal, which began in 2014, was due to be completed in 2017. Experts in the field point out that many features of the design have become obsolete due to the delay in construction work. Head of the Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival, Basil Rajapaksa said it should be developed as a Smart Terminal with all technological facilities. The course of action that should be taken in the face of adverse impact on the airports and airlines caused by the disruption in the airline industry due to the Covid-19 outbreak was discussed in detail.

Arrivals and departures will operate as separate terminals with the construction of the second terminal.

It has been planned to install an e-Gate facility to ensure a smooth and efficient service for passengers.

A parking space for passengers will be constructed adjacent to the airport. It was also decided to provide hotel accommodation with maximum facilities for flight crew in the vicinity of Mattala airport.

Plans have been made to expand the Ratmalana airport by installing the latest technological facilities. Flights to Sandhathanna, Seethaliya and Digana will be promoted.

President Rajapaksa instructed officials to set up a flight school in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority and SriLankan Airlines to train novice pilots including foreign students. The current status of the investment zones across the island and their future strategies were reviewed. "We should identify new investment opportunities while attracting the foreign investors," the President said.

Minister Prasanna Ranatunga, State Minister D.V. Chanaka, Secretary to the President, P.B. Jayasundera, Cabinet and State Ministry Secre-

ComBank receives USD 50 m equity from IFC

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon has completed all formalities relating to the private placement of shares with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the receipt of US\$ 50 million (Rs. 9.215 billion) for 115,197,186 ordinary voting shares in the Bank.

This is the first post-pandemic equity placement by the IFC and is one of the largest foreign investments into Sri Lanka since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, a Bank official said. The investment collectively makes the IFC, the IFC Financial

Institutions Growth Fund LP (FIG Fund) and the IFC Emerging Asia Fund LP (EA Fund) the largest shareholder of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon and strengthens the Bank's shareholder composition by increasing its foreign shareholding up to 30%.

The completed share allotment filing by Commercial Bank to the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) yesterday indicates the IFC received 34,559,156 shares and the IFC FIG Fund and the IFC EA Fund received 40,319,015 each.

The Bank's Managing Director S. Renganathan said, "This investment represents many benefits to the Bank as well as to the country, especially at a time like the present, when economies and markets are reeling from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are delighted to have the IFC, the IFC FIG Fund and the IFC EA Fund as key institutional investors in the Bank, as it will further strengthen investor confidence while raising funds to support the Bank's future growth."

The IFC equity placement was

done at a premium price of Rs. 80 per share, 20% more than the Weighted Average Price of Rs 66.78 for the 30 days preceding June 29, 2020, the date of the Board resolution on the private placement.

The shares allotted to the IFC, IFC FIG Fund and the IFC EA Fund via this private placement rank pari-passu in all respects with the existing ordinary voting shares of Commercial Bank and enjoy the same voting rights, rights to dividends and an equal share in the distribution of surplus assets on liquidation.

SLIM holds knowledge sharing forum

The Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) conducted a knowledge sharing forum themed "Your Future with a Professional Qualification" at the BMICH recently.

Chairman, Board of Study, SLIM, Prof. Sampath Amarantunga was the chief guest. Consultant, Education, SLIM, Dr. Madhuka Udunuwara, Advisor, Business Development at SLIM, Dr. Pradeep Edward, and Chief Corporate and Digital Officer, Sri Lanka Telecom Prabhath Ambegoda were the speakers.

The forum was moderated by Ahamed Aroos. The knowledge sharing forum was named "The Voice of SLIM" to highlight the recent revamp of the Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management program at SLIM.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management program has been designed for aspiring marketers who wish to embark on a thriving career in marketing and brand building arenas. SLIM has upgraded the course structure, adding novel topics and subject areas such as Digital Marketing, AI, Reputation Management, CRM, Entrepreneurial Marketing and Market Data Analysis.

The revamped Postgraduate



The forum in progress

Diploma in Marketing Management program, provides a comprehensive knowledge about the key marketing management theories while educating the students on their practical application.

The 18-month program consists of four levels; Diploma in Marketing Management, Higher Diploma in Marketing Management, Graduate Diploma in Marketing Management and Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management. While the duration of each of the first three stages

will be four months, the final stage will last six months.

The course ensures a continuous learning and development process. The graduate-level of the course focuses on wide concepts such as Sustainability and Strategic Marketing Planning, and every student has to carry out an individual research study to complete the final level.

The revamping of the program was initiated and executed by the Education Reforms Committee of SLIM headed by Prof. Arosha S. Adikaram. The structural change of the

course was implemented on the approval of the Institute's Board of Study lead by Prof. Sampath Amarantunga. He highlighted the importance of obtaining a professional qualification on top of an academic qualification as well. Prof. Amarantunga believes that such individuals have an advantage in the competitive job market.

Vice President, Education, SLIM, Nuwan Gamage said, "We have revamped this course to add more value to the students and help them stay abreast with the latest trends and practices in marketing. Most of the top corporates in the country have placed their trust in the quality of education provided by SLIM and give priority to the PGHDIP holders in recruiting marketing professionals. The SLIM Toastmasters Club is an ideal place to improve soft skills such as public speaking."

Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, SLIM, Sanath Senanayake said, "We aim to produce top-notch marketers to work in tandem with the veteran marketers through this program. Marketing is one of the most lucrative and rewarding professions in the world, and marketers across the globe are at

D.P.K. Gunasekera - GM, BOC

D. P. K. Gunasekera assumed duties as the General Manager of Bank of Ceylon (BOC) last week.

Gunasekera had previously held key positions at BOC including Senior Deputy General Manager, International, Treasury and Investment, Deputy General Manager, Corporate and Offshore Banking, Assistant General Manager, Overseas Branches, plus the role of Assistant General Manager, Corporate Relations beginning October, 2010.

Having graduated from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, with a Bachelor of Science

Special Degree in Business Administration, he also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Business and Finance Administration from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and an MBA from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia. He is also an Associate Member of the Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka.



Business

PBSS Group adds another feather to its cap

“Investing in information systems, key for survival”

By
**Lalin
Fernandopulle**



The PBSS Group withstood the storms of the Covid-19 due to the information system that was in place which enabled the company to operate without any hindrance, said PBSS Group Chairman Madura Gamanayake responding to the question which corporates would survive in the new normal.

He said only entities be it business or service oriented with a sound system and infrastructure would withstand crises of this nature and or even worse ones in the future.

“Investing in an information system is vital for any business to survive. PBSS Group was recognised as the partner of the year at the SAP conference in India due to its commitment to innovation, technology and on time delivery of services,” Gamanayake said.

The PBSS Group was recently recognised and awarded as the SAP Business One Partner of the Year 2019 for the India South Sub Continent competing with India, Bangladesh and Sri



Lanka at the SAP Partner Award Ceremony. The company bagged the accolade for making the highest number of new sales during the 2019 financial year. PBSS is a leading SAP Business One Gold partner in Sri Lanka and this award is another endorsement of their excellence.

“We had over 50 percent growth in new inquiries during the height of the crisis,” Gamanayake said.

However, the company's overseas operations were affected by the pandemic that brought travel to a standstill.

The awards recognise top partners for excellence in overall sales, innova-

tion, technology and services, as well as in solution-specific areas. “This is another feather in our cap on our journey towards achieving greater heights as an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solutions provider here and abroad,” Gamanayake said. Winners of the regional awards for partner excellence were selected from SAP's wide-ranging partner base, and nominations were based on SAP's internal sales data.

A steering committee composed of regional and global SAP representatives determined the winning partners in each category per region according to numerous criteria, such as sales

achievement and performance. “The hard work and commitment of our team to lift the bar of service standards enabled us to clinch the award,” Gamanayake said, adding that achieving such a feat competing with India and Bangladesh was not a cake walk.

PBSS Group is the one of the leading software providers and the Gold Partner for SAP Business One in Sri Lanka with over 700 customers. They have completed over 100 SAP Business One implementations of ERP systems in Sri Lanka and throughout the region.

PBSS is also a partner for SAP Business ByDesign cloud ERP in Sri Lanka. SAP Business ByDesign is designed for mid-market, fast-growing businesses planning to expand their ERP abilities.

It helps users to connect a wide range of business processes across their organisation through a single platform with world-renowned best practices. PBSS is an ISO-certified business organisation having their own product portfolio catering to many industries. PBSS is today even stronger with the integration of Sage and SAP Business One solutions including continuous research and development in creating locally-made, world-class products.

Exchange rates

(Week ended October 9, 2020)

In the forex market, the appreciating trend on the Rupee continued as the USD/Re on spot contacts was seen closing the week at Rs.184.15/30 against its previous week's closing level of Rs. 184.50/60, subsequent to trading within the range of Rs. 184.15 to Rs. 184.95.

The daily USD/Re average traded volume for the first four days of the week stood at US \$ 117.71 million.

Government Securities Market

The secondary bond market witnessed renewed buying interest during the week ending October 9 as yields decreased throughout the week to reflect a downward shift of the overall yield curve.

The mostly demanded maturities were the 15.09.24, 01.05.25, 01.02.26, two 2027s (i.e. 15.08.27 and 15.10.27) and 01.07.28 as its yields dipped to weekly lows 6.20%, 6.45%, 6.67%, 6.95%, 7.00% and 7.15% against its previous weeks closing level of 6.25/35, 6.50/60, 6.85/90, 7.07/14, 7.10/20 and 7.15/35. Maturities of 2022s (i.e. 15.11.22 and 15.12.22), 2023s (i.e. 15.01.23 and 15.10.23) and 15.05.30 were seen hitting lows of 5.70%, 5.72% each, 5.85% and 7.39%. The total subscription

volume at the weekly Treasury Bill auction increased but still fell short of its total offered amount for a fourth consecutive week.

The daily secondary market Treasury Bond/Bill transacted volumes for the first four trading days of the week averaged Rs. 8.09 billion.

In the money market, the average net overnight surplus liquidity was recorded at Rs. 159.62 billion for the week against its previous week of Rs. 171.58 billion as the DOD (Domestic operations Department) of Central Bank injected liquidity during the week by way of seven days and 14 days reverse repo auctions at weighted average yields ranging from of 4.53% to 4.54% and 4.55%. It further injected an amount of Rs. 5.00 billion for Standalone Primary Dealers by way of a 14-day reverse repo auction at a weighted average rate of 4.88%.

The weighted average rates on overnight call money and repo stood at 4.53% and 4.61% for the week while CBSL's holdings of Govt. Security's increased to a face value Rs. 464.13 billion. (References: Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Bloomberg E-Bond trading platform, Money broking companies).

Courtesy: Wealth Trust Securities Ltd

ComBank Bangladesh marks a decade at the top

Awarded highest credit rating by Credit Rating Information and Services

The Bangladesh operations of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC achieved another milestone this year with the assignment of an 'AAA' (Triple A) long term credit rating for the 10th consecutive year by Credit Rating Information and Services Ltd. (CRISL).

Commercial Bank of Ceylon Bangladesh also received a short term rating of 'ST-1 - Outlook Stable' from CRISL, the premier rating agency in Bangladesh.

AAA and ST-1 are the highest credit ratings given to a financial institution in Bangladesh by CRISL for long and short term credit. The latest ratings are valid till June next year.

“Receiving the highest available credit rating for 10 successive years is a new paradigm in consistency, especially when the volatility of local and global economies is considered,” Commercial Bank Managing Director and



Representatives of the senior management of Commercial Bank's Bangladesh operation with the AAA rating certificate. (From left) Financial Controller Binoy Gopal Roy, Senior General Manager Dilip Das Gupta, CEO Varuna Kolumunna and Chief Operating Officer Kapila Liyanage.

CEO S. Renganathan said. “As the first Country Manager of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon Bangladesh operation, I am delighted with this achievement and congratulate our Bangladesh team for keeping the ComBank flag flying high in that country,” he said. The CRISL rating is the outcome of an in-

depth analysis of the operational and financial performance of the Bank along with quantitative and qualitative factors. The basis of the evaluation was the financial results of the Bank up to December 31, 2019 and subsequent factors that prevailed up to the date of the rating.

Awareness sessions on waste management for SMEs



Insee Ecocycle signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lions Clubs International Multiple District 306 recently to facilitate a series of environmental and waste management-related awareness sessions for small and medium enterprises. Past International President of Lions Organisation, Lion Mahendra Amarasiyaya and Director, Insee Ecocycle Lanka (Pvt) Limited, Sanjeeva Chulakumara signed the agreement. Minister of Environment Mahinda Amaraweera and senior officials of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment were also present.

CSC to add... Continued from page 25

... Lakvijaya power plant per season.

“We are confident of getting the two vessels by the next season which will also help us increase charter operations which is also a major revenue source to State coffers,” Weeraman said. At present, CSC supplies around 25 percent of the coal needs of Lakvijaya.

“By increasing the fleet we will pay off the loan obtained to acquire Ceylon Breeze and Ceylon Princes in 2016 and save the drain of foreign exchange from the country to hire vessels for import and export,” Weeraman said. The

two vessels were obtained with a 100 percent USD loan facility from a State bank at a very high interest rate.

“We were able to pay back USD 30 million within a short period, as at September 2020,” the CSC chief said, adding that CSC is ready to face any scenario as it withstood storms of the pandemic.

CSC plans to recommence feeder operations between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh with a different modality to which was operated by CSC in the 1980s.

“There is a proposal from Ban-

ladesh Shipping Corporation to operate a joint container feeder operation by either acquiring two cargo vessels on long term charter basis or sign an MoU with existing operators to operate with the Sri Lankan flag. CSC set up in 1971 as a fully government owned commercial enterprise was the South Asian carrier to start container services from South Asia to Europe in 1980.

The carrier has helped many non traditional export producers to enter global markets and set up footholds when freight was prohibited and sailing was minimal.

Much scope in exporting... Continued from page 25

...destination for sourcing agricultural products 15 years ago is today a leading supplier of agricultural products due to the backing of a strong strategy that has helped the country position itself well in the global market,” Mense said, adding that participation in global trade fairs is vital to raise awareness and promote the country for quality agri-produce.

According to trade experts, there is huge potential for Sri Lankan agriculture products in the EU market but strategic promotion and awareness campaigns are needed to move forward. “Trade statistics show that the demand for fresh fruits and vegeta-

bles in Germany is growing while demand for plums, coconut, chilli pepper, papaya, banana and pineapple in EU markets are on the rise. Germany topped the list for imports of fresh fruits in 2017 followed by the Netherlands, UK and France.

“Sri Lanka's trade partners for edible vegetables have been India, the Maldives and the UAE and USA, Saudi Arabia and India for fruits and nuts.

“Bananas, citrus fruits, grapes, avocados, mangoes and pineapples are popular fruits to the EU market from developing countries,” she said. Chief Delegate of the Delegation

of the German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka, Andreas Hergenrother stressed the importance of raising awareness of products ‘Made in Sri Lanka’ in international markets and increasing business opportunities Sri Lankan fresh fruit and vegetable exports. Fruit Logistica attracts over 3,300 exhibitors from over 90 countries and over 72,000 visitors from over 135 countries each year.

The EU comprises 27 States with a population of around 447 million. It is the second largest economy in the world responsible for around 45 percent of global trade in fresh fruits and vegetables.

Public investment... Continued from page 25

...rates globally also signal that the time is right to invest. Savings are plenty, the private sector is in waiting mode, and many people are unemployed and take up jobs created through public investment.

Private investment is depressed, owing to acute uncertainty on the future of the pandemic and economic outlook. In many countries, the time is now right to undertake quality public investment in priority projects. It can be done by borrowing at low cost.

Public investment can play a central role in the recovery, with the potential to generate, directly, between two and eight jobs for every million dollars spent on traditional infrastructure, and between five and 14 jobs for every million spent on research and development, green electricity, and efficient buildings.

But investment projects can take time to implement. To ensure that investment creates jobs right now — when they are needed the most — countries should ramp up infrastructure maintenance, where safe. Now is also the time to start reviewing and relaunching promising projects that were delayed because of the crisis,

speeding up projects in the pipeline to bring them to fruition within the next two years and planning for new projects aligned with post-crisis priorities.

For some countries, however, borrowing to invest will be difficult because financing conditions are tight.

Even so, a gradual scaling-up of public investment financed by borrowing could pay off, as long as rollover risks (risks associated with the refinancing of debt) and interest rates do not increase too much and governments choose investment projects wisely. Countries may also need to reallocate spending or raise additional revenue for priority investments.

Poor countries — especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 — will need grant support from the international community. Investing in adaptation to climate change is critical, especially in countries susceptible to floods and drought.

Official aid has been available, but the \$10 billion allocated in 2018 falls short of the \$25 billion of investment required annually in low-

income economies, according to IMF staff estimates.

Maintaining the quality of investment projects is essential. We find, for example, that the cost of an individual project can increase by as much as 10 to 15 percent because it is undertaken in a period when investment is particularly high. Cost increases are higher and project delays are longer if projects are approved and undertaken when public investment is significantly scaled up, our analysis shows.

Fast increases in public investment also carry the risk of facilitating corruption. Likewise, improving the governance of project selection and management is crucial, because there is scope to improve the efficiency of infrastructure by one third on average (as shown in a book recently published by the IMF: Well Spent: How Strong Infrastructure Governance Can End Waste in Public Investment).

We also discuss how, in this crisis, public investment could boost growth enough to trigger additional private sector job creation.

We analyse whether the effect of additional public spending on GDP

(the “fiscal multiplier”) could be muted because some jobs cannot be performed safely during the pandemic and because firms will exit the crisis with less financial capacity to invest.

However, during this time of high uncertainty, public investment can boost private investors' confidence in the recovery and induce them to invest too, in part because it signals the government's commitment to sustainable growth. Public investment projects can also stimulate private investment more directly.

For example, investments in digital communications, electrification, or transportation infrastructure allows new businesses to emerge. Likewise, our results show that investments in healthcare and other social services are associated with sizable increases in private investment at the one-year horizon. In sum, public investment is a powerful element of the stimulus packages to limit the economic fallout from the pandemic. Even as countries continue to save lives and livelihoods, they can lay the foundation for a more resilient economy by investing in job-rich, highly productive and greener activities.

W-shaped recovery... Continued from page 25

“Sri Lanka and the rest of the world is going through the most difficult period in economic history. With no effective vaccine in sight the world has to learn to work under constrained conditions,” Dr. Wijewardena said, adding that the current crisis will prevent people from working at their best irrespective of whether they live in a rich country or in an emerging economy.

He said the sum total is that they will have to postpone the realisation of their avowed goals for property.

“The entire country should be ready to accept and make the most painful sacrifice to return to long term growth objectives. Blaming each other will simply hinder the recovery process,” the former Deputy Governor said.

“We will need to adjust ourselves to the new normal that is emerging,” Dr. Wijewardena said.

However, State Minister of Finance, Capital Markets and State Enterprise Reforms, Ajith Nivard Cabral told Parliament recently that the government is confident of a rapid or V-shaped economic recovery

from the global pandemic adding that steps have been taken to accelerate economic recovery with new instruments to attract money into the Treasury Bond and Treasury Bill markets.

He said the government will create the environment to bring in the much needed foreign exchange to the country to spur economic growth.

“We plan to enable a V-shaped economic revival which is becoming a reality. The Government stabilised the economy before 2015 despite the battle against terrorism in the country. We will succeed in achieving that feat again,” Cabral said.

Growth during the first quarter this year was 1.6 percent the lowest in recent years and predictions are that economic growth in the second quarter would be minus owing to the impact of the pandemic.

However, Central Bank officials were optimistic the economy would bounce back to a satisfactory level in the fourth quarter this year due to the recovery in exports and foreign remittances since June.

Customer Acquisition Cost gives insight into profitability

by
Hemantha Kulatunga



The Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC) is the average individual cost related to gaining a new customer to a business. This is a lead generation metric that refers to the resources and expenditure incurred to obtain a customer.

Every business must concentrate on the acquisition cost and focus on reducing this cost to enhance the profits of an organisation. Successful marketing companies keep a close tab on the CAC and engage various methods and strategies to cut down this cost to the optimum levels.

Measuring the cost to obtain a new customer is specifically important to small and medium business owners because the information provides an insight into the overall existence. The CAC helps business owners to understand the level of profitability by comparing the amount of money spent on each new customer.

This vital information can be immensely useful to plan sales strategies. Winning companies make strategies to spend their resources efficiently to minimise the CAC. For example, if the company's digital marketing campaigns are successful and bring adequate leads, the cost of hiring additional sales development cadre and their cold calling expenses, that is comparatively very high, can be reduced.

Proper management of CAC helps to make more informed and accurate decisions, particularly pertaining to marketing costs. It is essentially vital to understand that the exercise should be done cautiously. The organisation must not spend more than the value of the customer is expected to provide over its life cycle. To control CAC, com-

panies set goals and impose limitations on expenditure.

Typically, the CAC is calculated by measuring the expenditure during a specific period and comparing that figure against subsequent periods. For example, if the company spends Rs. 100,000 as marketing and sales expenditure in three months and acquired fifty customers, the average CAC per customer is Rs. 2,000.

Customer acquisition cost can be simply calculated by taking total sales and marketing costs and dividing it by the number of new customers acquired during a specific month, a quarter, or a year. This figure indicates the average cost per customer of the company. When calculating, marketing expenses such as promotions, advertising, publishing content creation, etc. are considered. Usually, expenditure on salaries, technical costs, transport costs, and any other related expenditure is also taken into consideration.

It is imperative to understand the breakdown of expenditure in this exercise. Therefore, the categories to identify the related costs should be done carefully.

Marketing costs

The marketing costs usually refer to the amount spent on marketing campaigns, print and electronic media advertising, digital media advertising, below the line advertising, and promotions. The salaries, incentives, traveling and accommodation expenses should be added to the calculation.

The cost incurred for outsourced third-party services such as freelance graphic designers, content creators, or video production creators should also be added to the cost. Apart from the direct costs mentioned, it is good to include overhead expenditure such as consumables and any other cost that the company may spend.

Every business entity should focus on minimising CAC to augment profits



as much as possible. Optimising web presence is one of the key strategies a company can use to reduce acquisition costs. In this internet era, paying for print, electronic, and social media is not sufficient. Therefore, an effective and engaging website is an essential requirement in today's context.

Most often, when a potential customer comes across a message from any of the available media, they invariably try to go through the website of the advertiser to obtain more details. An easy to navigate website with clear content and responsive design can produce amazing results. Maintaining an efficient website is successful and cost-effective to secure new customers. The company must make sure that they are reaching the right and relevant audience if they want to get the best out of the funds spent.

The team must understand the customer persona to target sales and marketing efforts.

For example, the target audience is

The mother of all strategies is to provide an excellent customer experience to every customer as in any sales effort. Happy and contented customers are the best method to lower customer acquisition costs

teens, the organisation needs to focus primarily on YouTube where it is known that such groups spend time on that channel. Similarly, if the target is predominantly young females, Facebook ads are most effective.

For any audience and any product in Sri Lanka, Facebook can be a hugely successful channel as a staggering number of 6.4 million accounts is operational currently.

Customer experience

However, by integrating advertising in Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram with the website, the advertiser can obtain warm traffic rather than cold leads.

Acquisition strategies must be applied in varied angles and methods

to gain more new customers. Using different channels and changing advertising frequencies should be done to avoid failures that may occur in a single channel method. Experimenting with varied efforts will ensure a continuous and healthy result. Using canvassing teams, email campaigns, social media efforts, and customer retention strategies by different teams in the company can be incorporated into one common endeavour.

However, the mother of all strategies is to provide an excellent customer experience to every customer as in any sales effort.

Happy and contented customers are the best method to lower customer acquisition costs. Research and experience confirm that customers trust

their family, friends, and acquaintances' opinion about a product than advice from a business or a salesman. It is also revealed that many customers do not fully trust the contents of sponsored social media advertisements.

Concentrating on providing an exceptional customer experience not only lower the CAC but also increase the customer lifetime value. Therefore, the special attention of business owners is essential to meet individual customer's needs.

Dedicated executives should be available to look into the needs and manage any possible issues related to the product or the service.

Customers will act as natural promoters of the business if the service delivery of the company is of a high standard.

Another important factor companies should be aware of is the Customer Life Time Value (CLTV). While the two metrics are interrelated, they are different as well.

CAC is the initial cost of acquiring a customer and CLTV is the amount of money a customer spends during the time he or she remains with the company and purchasing goods.

Therefore, maintaining the retention of customers and creating a healthy lifetime value is incredibly useful to reduce CAC and increase revenue for the organisation. The bottom line is that satisfied customers will bring in new customers.

Being on the guard on the customer acquisition cost of a business is a critically important factor. It not only gives the management a clear indication of the profitability but also provides strong results on the profits. Reducing acquisition cost in turn minimises all other costs of the organisation in the long run.

Merely by reducing CAC, the company can spend more funds on other key areas such as product development, re-investment, expansion, and diversification.

CIO 100 Award for LOLC

LOLC Holdings PLC has been listed among 100 honourees for 2020 among a list of global organisations at the annual CIO 100 Awards. It is the first time ever that a Sri Lankan company has been bestowed with the CIO 100 Award.

LOLC's former Group Chief Information Officer and current Director and CEO of LOLC Finance and Director LOLC Holdings Conrad Dias, was selected as one of the 11 CIO Hall of Fame inductees for 2020 of a pool of global CIOs, becoming the first Sri Lankan CIO to be recognised to the Global CIO Hall of Fame.

The CIO 100 Awards celebrates 100 organisations and the teams within them that use technology in novel ways to deliver innovative and ground-breaking solutions to customers.

The award is a global hallmark of



Conrad Dias

what it means to deliver business value through the innovative use of technology.

This elite group is creating competitive advantage in their organisations, improving business processes, enabling growth and improving relationships with customers."

AMW - Capital Leasing, well positioned to navigate turbulence - CEO

Finance organisations in the country are currently facing a period of unprecedented turmoil, disruption, and uncertainty.

AMW - Capital Leasing has taken steps to ensure their customers can overcome the situation, avoid financial downfall and continue to achieve their financial goals.

CEO Chamath Munasinghe said, "Robust, well-regulated, well-capitalised, transparent and proactive financial organisations have a tremendous role to play if we are to successfully recover from the countless shocks the industry and economy have faced in recent times.

Capital Leasing remains positive that the situation can be fixed

and we have taken several specially tailored measures to mitigate, manage, and overcome these novel challenges and ensure a faster recovery."

AMW - Capital Leasing as a part of the AMW Group and global business conglomerate Al-Futtaim has a strong foundation and solid backing.

"We have always conducted our operations in an ethical and responsible manner, keeping the customer interest at heart and adhering to the core values of the Al-Futtaim Group, Respect, Integrity, Collaboration and Excellence.

This has helped us earn the immense trust of our customers and stakeholders placed in us.

We would like to assure our customers of the same integrity, commitment, and dedication as we sail through these challenging times," he said.

Capital Leasing has already demonstrated immense resilience and has surpassed the core capital requirement of Rs. 2.5 billion, a target set by the Central Bank, which has to be achieved by 2021. The organisation currently holds Rs. 2.7 billion in core capital.



Chamath Munasinghe

Central Bank introduces low-cost digital payment solution

The National LankaQR Initiative *Rata Puraama LankaQR* was launched at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) by Minister of Trade Dr. Bandula Gunawardena last week.

The LankaQR code was introduced by the CBSL with licensed financial institutions and LankaClear (Pvt) Ltd to move towards a less-cash society while increasing financial inclusion in Sri Lanka. LankaQR enables customers to make payments, directly from their bank accounts to accounts of merchants or service providers, using payment apps of LankaQR certified financial institutions. LankaQR is a low-cost digital payment solution, which targets small and medium enterprises especially. Customers will not be charged for using LankaQR based payments.

Merchants are provided with the LankaQR printed sticker free by the member institutions of LankaQR to be displayed at their places of business. The maximum Merchant Discount Rate (MDR - fees paid by merchants to the bank that issues the LankaQR code will be 0.5% for this year.

All payments for government services through LankaQR have been mandated to be free this year. Given the numerous benefits to the economy and the public, CBSL and financial institutions aim to increase the availability of LankaQR in Sri Lanka to one million merchants by the end of this year.

LankaQR compliant QR codes are currently issued by Bank of Ceylon, Cargills Bank, Commercial Bank of



Minister of Trade Bandula Gunawardena makes a purchase at the Lanka Sathosa stall using a LankaQR enabled app. Pic: Wasitha Patabendige

Ceylon, DFCC Bank, Hatton National Bank, National Development Bank, National Savings Bank, Nations Trust Bank, People's Bank, Sampath Bank, SANASA Development Bank, LB Finance, LOLC Finance, People's Leasing and Finance, Dialog Axiata and Mobitel.

The LankaQR enabled apps are BOC SmartPay, DirectPay, OnePay, OrelPay, ComBank Q+, Flash, DFCC Pay, FriMi, NDB NEOS, SOLO, WePay, UPay, CIM, iPay, Dialog eZ Cash and Mobitel mCash.

Deputy Governor of the CBSL, K. M. M. Siriwardena said that this initiative would increase financial inclusion in the country, strengthen trade and lead the economy in the path of prosperity. Dharmasri Kumaratunge, highlighted the benefits of LankaQR and noted that it was the result of teamwork of Sri Lankans without any

foreign assistance, saving the country millions of rupees.

CBSL Governor Prof. W. D. Lakshman said that this is a historic moment where all financial institutions came together to promote a payment system that has immense benefits to the public.

State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal emphasised the importance of adopting new technologies for trade and economic development. He said the CBSL has been modernising Sri Lanka's payments and settlements systems since the early 2000s and praised the continued adoption of new technologies that provided Sri Lankans with more opportunities for trade and commerce.

Minister of Trade Dr. Bandula Gunawardena called on all businesses and government services to adopt LankaQR so that the public can enjoy the benefits of digital payments at a

very low cost. The Minister also called on financial institutions to waive off charges for LankaQR transactions below Rs.100 and requested State media and other media organisations, and all businesses to extend their fullest support to this national initiative.

To mark the launch of the LankaQR initiative, the Minister made a donation to the 'Itukama' Covid fund using a LankaQR based mobile app.

The national campaign of *Rata Puraama LankaQR* was due to be held yesterday where all LankaQR certified banks, finance companies and e-money service providers were to keep open branches islandwide to welcome new merchants.

The public and merchants are invited to participate in the islandwide campaign and begin using LankaQR to make payments.

State Minister of Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms, Ajith Nivard Cabraal, State Minister of Co-operative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection, Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self-Employment, Business Development and Underutilised State Resources Development, Shehan Semasinghe, CBSL Governor Prof. W. D. Lakshman, Members of the Monetary Board including Secretary to the Treasury, S.R. Attygalle. Heads of several government departments, financial institutions and representatives of Chambers of Commerce were also present.

People's Leasing among 'Ten Best CSR projects'

People's Leasing and Finance PLC was recognised as one of the Ten Best CSR and Sustainability projects, at the Ian Dias Abeyasinghe Memorial JASTECA CSR and Sustainability Awards 2020 recently.

The annual awards were presented for the 24th time by the Japan Sri Lanka Technical and Cultural Association aka JASTECA at the Galadari, Colombo.

People's Leasing received the award for its commitment towards improve early childhood education in Sri Lanka. The company invested in this initiative as investment in early years leads to better education, health,

social and economic outcomes later on, increasing revenues for the nation and reducing the need for costly social spending.

People's Leasing spearheaded this initiative guided by the apex institutions specialised in early childhood education and care. Deputy General Manager, Marketing, Laksanda Gunawardena said, "Human capital is a critical part of our nation's sustainable progress and the quality of human capital can be improved through investment in early childhood education. Our financial assistance was ably supported by staff members from the islandwide branch network."



Deputy General Manager, Marketing of People's Leasing, Laksanda Gunawardena receives the award for One of the Best Ten CSR and Sustainability Projects from Trustee of JASTECA, Athula Edirisinghe. JASTECA President, Nimal Perera and Committee Member Nishan Fernando look on.

Business

Air pollution, a silent killer

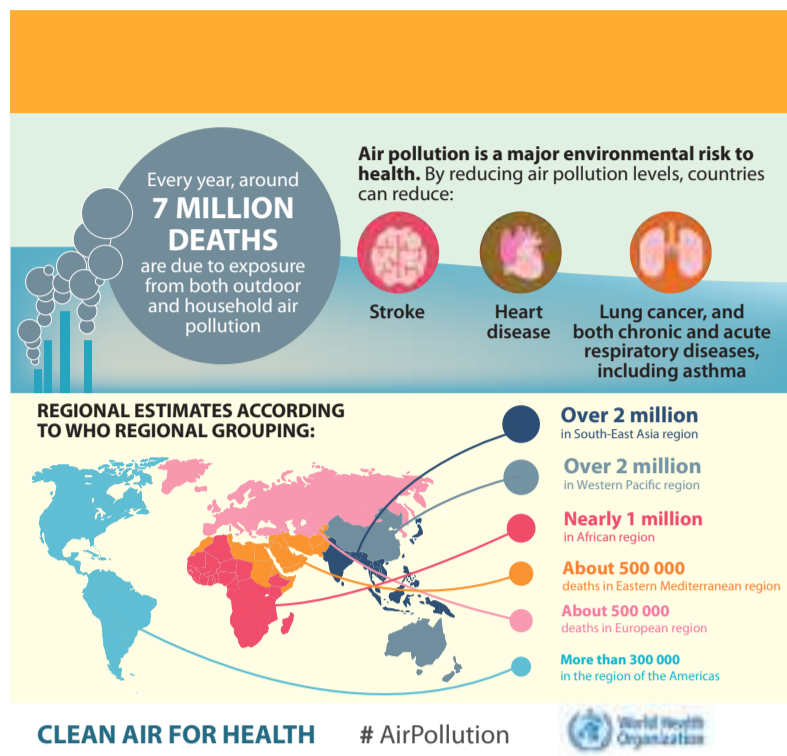
Emission testing helps stem the tide

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) reports, it is estimated that approximately seven million people die annually due to stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, pulmonary diseases and respiratory infections, including pneumonia, mainly caused by exposure to polluted air. South-East Asia, which includes Sri Lanka accounts for two million deaths.

Unlike other illnesses where remedial action can be taken immediately, air pollution is not visible, and is silent, with very few taking the problem seriously and only doing so when the situation is dire, putting their life, health and well-being at risk.

In Sri Lanka too, it is cause for serious concern. Health authorities estimate over 45% of children admitted to hospitals was due to air pollution related illnesses. WHO's 'Ambient air pollution: A global assessment of exposure and burden of disease' also estimates that 7,792 deaths occur annually in Sri Lanka due to air pollution-related disease.

In Sri Lanka, the main source of ambient air pollution is vehicular emissions. Ambient air pollution is mainly caused by pollutants such as Nitrogen Oxides, Sulfur Oxides, Hydro Carbon and Carbon Monoxide, air toxics, and fine particulate



matter. While it is important to ensure ambient air is at safe levels, according to the 2019 IQAir AirVisual World Air Quality Report, Sri Lanka's PM2.5 concentration, weighted by population, is a moderate average of

25.20. Notably, this is a marked improvement from last year's average of 32.00.

Sri Lanka also fares positively in air quality compared to other South Asian countries with Bangladesh

Sri Lanka also fares positively in air quality compared to other South Asian countries with Bangladesh highlighted as the most polluted country with an alarming 83.3 PM2.5.

highlighted as the most polluted country with an alarming 83.3 PM2.5.

Among the main factors contributing towards this positive outlook is the ongoing Vehicle Emission Testing (VET) program, which is mandatory for a majority of the vehicles. Despite the number of vehicles in the country having increased exponentially and ensuring traffic congestions, the ambient air quality continues to remain at satisfactory levels.

It is the responsibility of all vehicle owners to understand the importance of the emission test which not only helps to ensure their vehicles are well maintained and benefitting from savings on fuel costs but also the vital role the program plays in improving air quality in urban areas.

Despite air pollution having been identified as a silent killer destroying lives, constructive action such as vehicle emission testing can positively contribute to reducing the amount of pollution thus improving the quality of life.

Airtel '21For21' to empower youth



The winners of the 21For21 'Skills at Work' photo competition received their prizes at the Airtel Lanka Head Office, at the World Trade Centre. From left: The three winners Nishanth Rajasegaram, Tharindu Dileepa, Kanchana Herath with Chief Marketing Officer, Airtel Lanka, Chandrashekar Singh Chauhan, Mission Director, USAID Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Reed Aeschliman, Partnerships Director, YouLead, Ms. Vindya Silva and Head, Contact Experience, Airtel, Fawaz Nizamdeen.

Airtel Lanka partnered with the USAID-funded youth skills development and entrepreneurship project, YouLead to mark World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) and International Youth Day (IYD) 2020 on the theme of '21FOR21'.

The objective of the campaign was to introduce 21 critical skills for youth employment and entrepreneurship in the 21st century.

This year's WYSD and IYD took place in a challenging context. The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown measures have led to worldwide slowing down and in most cases closure of educational institutions. Airtel collaborated with YouLead to give youth an opportunity for uninterrupted skills development online during the pandemic.

Advocating certain skills important to Airtel such as critical thinking, leadership, innovation, technological literacy and diversity, the campaign featured a resource site, youlead.lk/skills, which hosted content including a series of videos highlighting the role of these skills in successful careers followed by multiple webinars to further hone in on the practical content and the importance of these skills at the workplace.

Airtel's CEO and Managing Direc-

tor, Ashish Chandra said: "The digital age has been characterised by a rapid shift from traditional industry to an economy primarily based upon information technology.

Funded by the American people, YouLead works to improve technical and vocational education and training, create a more skilled workforce, and increase employment by undertaking activities that support and strengthen students, teachers, institutions, and entrepreneurs. It is supported by the U.S. Government's development arm, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

As a global initiative spearheaded by Sri Lanka and adopted by the UN general assembly in December 2014, WYSD also serves as a reminder to young people and educators alike to cultivate demand-driven, industry-focused, quality technical and vocational skills to generate youth employability.

According to the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey, only 30% of youth aged 15-24 entered the labour force and among these 21.4% were unemployed which was 53.4% of the total unemployment rate in Sri Lanka (Department of Census and Statistics, 2018).

Ceylon Chamber forms Council for Startups

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) recently established the CCC Council for Startups under the guidance of its National Agenda Committee on Entrepreneurship Ecosystem. The inaugural meeting was held on September 28.

The newly set up Council strongly believes that entrepreneurs can accelerate the process of economic development through the efficient use of unused natural resources, human resources and capital.

The creation of a sound Startup ecosystem that addresses current impediments and challenges is the need of today. It is with this intention that the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce has envisaged the formation of the CCC Council for Startups.

The eight-member committee of the Council encompasses entrepreneurs, accelerators and incubators, financiers, investors and other ecosystem players.

Managing Partner, BoV Capital, Prajeeth Balasubramaniam, repre-



From left: Shalin Balasuriya, Prajeeth Balasubramaniam, Ms. Achala Samaradivakara, Ms. Randhula de Silva, Imal Kalutotage and Chandula Abeywickrama.

sending investors, was appointed Chairman of the Council. CEO, SLIN-TEC, Heminda Jayaweera, CEO, nCinga, Imal Kalutotage, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Good Market, Ms. Achala Samaradivakara and Co-

founder, Spa Ceylon, Shalin Balasuriya represent entrepreneurs, CEO, Hatch and Director, Goodlife Accelerator, Ms. Randhula de Silva represents accelerators and incubators and Founder Chairman, Lanka Impact-

Investment Network, Chandula Abeywickrama represents other ecosystem players in the inaugural committee of the Council. A nominee of the Sri Lanka Banks Association will represent the financiers.

Nokia 2.4 launched

HMD Global launched the Nokia 2.4 recently. The next generation Nokia 2 brings advanced AI imaging features including Night mode and Portrait mode. Nokia 2.4 comes with a large 6.5" HD+ screen and a two-day battery life, users are free to enjoy their apps and games for longer without battery anxiety.

Bringing modern essentials such as fingerprint and face unlock, users can get benefit from effortless access and added security.

Chief Product Officer and Vice President of North America, HMD Global Juho Sarvikas said, "The two-

series is a fan favourite because it brings many great features such as a two-day battery life, an AI powered camera and pure, secure and up-to-date Android, all in an affordable and elegant package.

"We've included high-end features like the AI camera with Night mode and Portrait mode. The large screen makes for a more immersive visual experience, and for added security, a biometric fingerprint sensor is included, which is a first for the series.

All of this wrapped up in a timeless Finnish design that's reflected in the Nokia 2.4 colour palette - introducing Dusk to the range - a light, dusty shade of purple that is inspired by Nordic nature," he said.



The Nokia 2.4

Gustavo Navarro, new Insee Cement CEO

Insee Cement, appointed Gustavo Navarro as Chief Executive Officer of its Sri Lankan operation on September 1. The appointment follows the relinquishment of CEO duties by Nandana Ekanayake who navigated the company for over three years.

Ekanayake will remain as the Chairman of the Board of Directors that he took on in May 2019.

Having previously held CEO positions for Holcim in Serbia and Russia, and for CRH's Romanian subsidiary Navarro draws experience from a long-established career in the construction and building materials industry.

With two decades of C-level leadership experience in contrasting construction landscapes and countries, Argentine-born with an Italian heritage, Navarro brings deep



insight to Sri Lanka's growing cement business in a demanding era. Today, through investment in research and innovation and promoting collaboration within the industry, Insee Cement Sri Lanka is responsibly steering the local construction sector towards sustainable construction products.

Healthcare worker safety, priority for patient

World Patient Safety Day fell on Sept 17

In commemoration of World Patient Safety Day, the Association of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes (APHNH) has recognised that healthcare worker protection is integral to ensuring patient safety during the pandemic.

The theme for World Patient Safety Day was 'Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety'. Healthcare institutions internationally focused on the interlinkage between healthcare worker safety and patient safety and discussed initiatives used to protect frontline workers the world over.

"I would like to see greater investment in the well-being of medical staff. The role they play in this economy and to society has been largely overlooked, said President, APHNH, Dr. Lakith Peiris.

During the ongoing pandemic, health workers face the most significant threat through increased exposure. Globally, it is reported that 55 per cent of Covid-19 related healthcare worker deaths were of doctors and physicians, particularly primary care physicians (American Board of Family Medicine, 2020). In recognising that front-line health workers faced the greatest risk, Dr. Peiris affirmed that the association and its members made it a priority to follow Covid-19 precautions and operational guidelines.

The Ministry of Health directives laid out stringent regulations that APHNH member hospitals and nursing homes abided by. Hospitals also made it a priority to triage and isolate patients and visitors. APHNH member hospitals and nursing

homes proactively added precautionary measures as necessary. Notably, in most hospitals, daily internal sanitation audits are conducted, and batch rotation introduced to minimise the risk of exposure.

APHNH hospitals recognised that a concerted effort to keep health workers safe would also have to include medical process reengineering. To keep doctors and physicians safe, non-emergency surgeries were only performed if the patient had tested negative for Covid-19. Clinical practices such as emergency intubations were carried out in isolated areas, and advanced ultraviolet air sterilisation was introduced to ensure that nurses and doctors would not be in immediate danger. APHNH recog-

nises that these additional precautionary measures practices helped minimise the exposure of their health workers to the Coronavirus.

"Our strict and thorough precautions were a testament to our commitment to protecting employees and patients, which, so far, we have done successfully. The pandemic, if nothing else, drove innovation in the health sector," said Dr. Peiris.

"The best defence against any outbreak is a healthy medical workforce. We need to keep investing in health worker safety, and the lessons we learned will be useful if there is ever another crisis of this nature.

Keeping our healthcare workers safe is the least we can do after the enormous sacrifices they have made for our country," he said.

TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO.39 OCTOBER 6-7, 2020

The Western and Nuwara Eliya regions mainly reported dull weather with occasional showers throughout the week while Uva and Uda Pussellawa areas have enjoyed clear weather. Low Grown plantations have recorded bright mornings with sporadic evening showers. The Department of Meteorology forecasts some more wet weather in the coming week across all planting districts. Meanwhile crop intake has remained similar to the previous week.



This week's auction (Sale No. 39) was conducted on October 6 - 7 (Tue/Wed) and the quantity 5.4 m/kgs was spread over 10,112 lots and sold via Electronic Platform. The Low Grown Leafy/ Semi Leafy/ Tippy and Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totalled 2.5 m/kgs, while Main Sale High and Medium category amounted to 0.6 m/kgs. The Ex-Estate catalogue had 0.7 m/kgs.

Ex-Estate teas again met with good demand. Best western BOP/BOPF's were irregular while below best teas gained up to Rs.20 and more. There was only a very limited availability of Nuwara Eliya and Uda Pussellawa BOP's/BOPF's which were much dearer following special interest. Uva BOP's advanced Rs.10 to 20 per kg, while their BOPF counterparts with neater leaf appreciated Rs.30 to 50 per kg. CTC PF1's saw better demand than in recent weeks which resulted in prices moving up for PF1 grades in particular. There was more widespread demand from China and the 'Tea Bag' sector operating for Russia. Hong Kong and some Far Eastern markets too were active. Japan and Europe displayed good interest on the better liquoring teas.

Low grown leafy teas continued to meet with fair demand. Best OP1's were firm while below best teas were irregular and lower. Better made OP/OPA's maintained last levels but below best and secondary descriptions were Rs.10 to 20 dearer. Well twisted BOP1's in the 'Semi Leafy' catalogue met with good demand and were fully firm to selectively dearer. Better made Pek/Pek 1's were barely firm on last levels but all others were firm to dearer. In the Tippy Catalogue, FBOP's in the 'best' category were firm but select FBOP1's ruled irregular. There was good interest from Germany for stylish BOP1's and selected OP1's along with Saudi Arabia for leafy teas. Other Middle Eastern buyers from Syria, Jordan and the UAE together with Russia, the CIS and Turkey were active. Iran was more selective.

This week's auction comprised 10,112 lots totalling of 5,475,574 kgs.

The catalogue-wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	2,002	852,247
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,534	734,022
Low Grown Tippy	1,667	878,662
High and Medium	1,336	648,737
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,209	1,202,706
Dust	438	404,496
Premium Flowery	335	59,880
Ex-Estate	588	694,824
Total	10,112	5,475,574

Crop and weather from Sept 28- Oct 4, 2020

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions: The Western and Nuwara Eliya regions reported dull weather with occasional showers throughout the week, while a few sub-districts in the Western Region experienced bright mornings. The Department of Meteorology forecasts showers in the week ahead in both regions. Uva/Udapussellawa Regions: Clear weather was reported in the Uva/Udapussellawa regions throughout the week. Low Grown: The Low Grown Region reported bright mornings with occasional evening showers throughout the week. Showers are expected in the week ahead according to the Department of Meteorology.

Crop Intake: All regions maintained the crop intake.

Source: Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd

Business

Tea industry: Mechanisation the way forward

- Past Chairman, Planters' Association

As a result of the efforts of the government and the stakeholders, the plantation sector was the only industry which contributed to the foreign exchange earnings of the country during the initial phase of the pandemic, said Planters' Association of Ceylon past Chairman Sunil Poholiyadde at the Annual General Meeting of the Association at the BMICH recently.

He said during this time there were several measures which they were compelled to take to ensure continuity. One of the most remarkable was the conversion of tea auctions from the outcry system carried out for over a century into an e-auction which has since become part of the new normal.

Rubber auctions were also hampered by the pandemic, but they too quickly resumed the traditional auction with a break of only six weeks. We need to thank the Colombo Rubber Traders' Association for the initiative taken by them.

The Chairman made a brief summary on the performance of individual crops.

Tea

Where the tea industry is concerned, we continued to see a dip in prices which commenced with the glyphosate issue in 2015. With other countries becoming increasingly stringent on certain MRL (Minimum Residual Level) issues, we have - to a great extent - lost ground in strong and valuable markets, especially in Japan, which in turn has had a negative impact at the auctions.

However, during the latter part of the financial year, there was an improvement in tea auction prices, mainly connected to the disruptions caused by Covid-19, where the production of many countries was restricted.

Demand for tea has also increased - particularly during the initial phases of the pandemic, partially as a result of the fact that tea is a beverage which has been found to contain properties that science has found to be beneficial to boosting the immune system, which may help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Where production is concerned, the tea industry in Sri Lanka went through a difficult period with the continuation of the drought conditions. This past year, our industry recorded one of the worst such droughts in the past two decades. This too had the effect of boosting the price - given the resulting supply-demand dynamics.

However, the market has since declined by almost Rs. 100, as compared to prices prevailing in and around April-May. This drop was most acutely felt in the high-grown tea segment, where RPCs account for the majority of production, while the low grown leafy teas have appreciated in price. Even today, there is a difference of almost Rs. 100 in the price between



There was an improvement in tea auction prices during the latter part of the financial year.

the high-grown western teas against the low-grown leafy teas.

Although there is a lot of misconceptions and misinformation circulating on the topic of replanting, with regard to the RPCs, we are proud to say that since privatisation, it has been RPCs which have replanted 60% of VP tea standing, at more than twice the rate of replanting undertaken during the same period by tea smallholders. It is also vital to note that this has been accomplished by RPCs without any of the assistance in terms of grants, and lower costs which are available to smallholders.

RPCs have also been responsible for the replanting of an entire generation of rubber, 20 hectares of fuel wood, oil palm and other export generating economic crops.

Another critical issue where tea is concerned relates to the severe shortage of workers. Today our workforce has reduced by almost 50% in the high-grown tea sector since many of the younger generation do not want to be workers on a plantation. Therefore, the only way forward would be for the pursuit of greater mechanisation which would also help to increase productivity.

Rubber

The national production of rubber keeps declining, mainly due to the poor prices which have continued for over the past eight years. You may recall that the prices of natural rubber in and around 2012 increased to almost Rs. 600. Unfortunately, these high prices only prevailed for about two years, and thereafter, declined to almost Rs. 200, which had the effect of making the industry uneconomical.

These dynamics forced many smallholders to stay out of production. However, since the RPCs have a

permanent labour cadre, they were policy decisions that are first and fore-

Most of the rubber growing areas are inundated with historic levels of high rainfall. Given these particular circumstances, and the fact that oil palm needs approximately 3,000 ml of rainfall per annum to reach optimal productivity, it is clear that many rubber growing areas are now much better suited for oil palm cultivation due to climate change

forced to offer work and harvest latex in order to keep the workers employed even though the cost of production is much higher than the sales average at auction.

There were three wage negotiations. At each instance, the wages increased despite prices remaining essentially static over this period.

Oil palm

The oil palm industry commenced in this country over 50 years ago. Given the success of these projects, the plantation companies working in close consultation with the Government had chosen oil palm as a third mainstream plantation crop to pursue for diversification.

These strategies were consolidated with acceptance by the Government of the need to increase sustainable oil palm cultivation up to 20,000 hectares.

Unfortunately, after having completed almost 11,000 hectares of this expansion, there is now a ban on any further planting or replanting of oil palm. This is again due to numerous misconceptions regarding environmental hazards.

On numerous occasions, our association has called on those who oppose oil palm cultivation on such grounds to produce the evidence on which they have made such claims so that we might be able to objectively consider the merits of such claims and take

most grounded in science. To this day such evidence has not been forthcoming. We can only conclude in this instance that absence of evidence does in fact constitute evidence of absence.

In fact, the companies have invested heavily in this crop and currently, there are currently there are plants worth almost Rs. 300 million in company nurseries for which seed materials were imported only after having sought out all relevant approvals from authorities.

Although the plants are now totally overgrown, it would be prudent if - at least at this juncture - a decision could be taken to allow the companies to at least plant what is already in the nurseries so as to recover even a fraction of the investments made into this crop.

It is also worthwhile considering the fact that due to climate change, most of the rubber growing areas are inundated with historic levels of high rainfall, which results in a drastic reduction in the number of tapping days possible for rubber.

Given these particular circumstances, and the fact that oil palm requires approximately 3,000 ml of rainfall per annum to reach optimal productivity, it is clear that many rubber growing areas are now much better suited for oil palm cultivation.

These are trends that will only continue to escalate. There is a huge scarcity of labour in the low country.



Sunil Poholiyadde

Given that oil palm requires 50% less workers than a rubber plantation, this is clearly an ideal diversification.

From an economic perspective, cultivation of sustainable oil palm has already proved invaluable in conserving foreign exchange and minimizing outflows, given that Sri Lanka imported an estimated 150,732 metric tonnes of edible oil, at a value of Rs. 16.2 billion in 2019 alone.

In fact, plans to expand oil palm cultivation by 20,000 hectares was first arrived at based on consideration of the per capita consumption of edible oil in Sri Lanka and the need to promote import substitution in this area.

Way forward

Since privatisation in 1992, the plantation worker wages renegotiated in a collective bargaining process to reach a Collective Agreement every two years. This has resulted in a gradual escalation in the wages.

Although the companies saw the necessity and advocated in favour of the establishment of a link between productivity and wages, such a solution had been considered unacceptable to the Trade Unions.

Despite this, we introduced a productivity-linked wage structure four years ago. Unfortunately in the last negotiations which took place in 2019 January, and following agitation from the Unions, the productivity link was removed while a 40% increase in the basic wages was granted. This wage applies for two years irrespective of productivity or price.

This wage model applies to all crops in the plantations despite the drastic differences in the revenue generating capacity of all of the other crops. As a result, where tea is concerned, the price of a kilo of tea which was double the wage in 1992 has increased to be 50% of the wage as at present. Where rubber is concerned, wages were fixed at a time when rubber was selling at Rs. 600, and they have remained at these levels even though the price of rubber has since collapsed down to Rs. 300.

Although the price has declined from Rs. 600 down to Rs. 300. This is

quite evidently an unsustainable position.

Therefore, we firmly believe that this wage structure is totally outdated and must urgently be migrated into a productivity based model which is also linked to price.

This would enable productive workers to earn the maximum possible when there is an appreciation in the price while ensuring that they are duly rewarded for their productivity.

Today the smallholder sector accounts for 75% of the tea and almost 65% of rubber production. We believe the improvement in this sector is mainly due to this structure of payment where the smallholder is paid based on the selling average of the factory - which is to say: price - and the poundage they bring in which is productivity.

This has been a very successful model and so we believe that the way forward for the industry should be a wage structure that is firmly linked to productivity and price.

We also believe that there should be proper policy laid down by the Government based on the covenants of the privatisation agreements which includes permission for diversification and the institution of a land policy which specifically prevents lands which RPCs have invested substantially in from being acquired, as has unfortunately been the case over the recent past. Such measures would undoubtedly help to attract more investors and larger, long-term investments into the plantation sector as a whole.

Highlights

We were also compelled to deal with the sudden ban of glyphosate in 2015 which resulted in tea producers facing immense difficulty in managing their properties, and which also affected auction prices.

Following numerous deliberations, the PA has succeeded in getting a temporary lift of the ban until a proper alternative is made available and we are grateful for the cooperation extended to us by all stakeholders. Finally, it was the totally unexpected Covid-19 pandemic which I consider the ultimate test for deciding the survival of the fittest and I'm glad that the Planters' Association has succeeded in proving themselves as being the fittest industry in the island - given the remarkable mobilisation by all stakeholders to ensure that we continued operating without any prolonged interruptions.

The lesson that we can all learn from this is that the unprecedented level of cooperation we achieved must serve as the benchmark for how we come together to resolve all other pressing challenges facing our industry today.

We must work together to achieve a sustainable future for our industry and all of who are connected to it.

Lankan Embassy in Vienna marks World Children's Day



Children enjoying themselves.

The Sri Lanka Embassy in Vienna, Austria and the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) celebrated World Children's Day with a kite festival with the participation of a large number of children in Steinhofgrunde, Vienna on October 1.

The celebrations paved the way for children to participate in painting kites in a colourful and artistic manner, illustrating and depicting the scenic beauty of Sri Lanka.

This enabled them to bring out their creativity and artistic skills as well, and create their impression of Sri Lanka. The Steinhofgrunde park in Vienna is a famous venue for outdoor children's activities and this event attracted a large number of Austrian nationals at the venue.

There were kites, play items of all different shapes, sizes and colours, which created an attractive atmosphere. The event was enjoyed by young and adults alike, having the opportunity to involve themselves by helping the young participants.

The visitors also got an opportunity to taste Sri Lankan refreshments, which included a sumptuous range that tantalised the visitors' taste buds.

The event had a variety of activities to keep the young participants interested.

The young and the old enjoyed flying kites and playing with the pinwheels and balloons decorated with the "So Sri Lanka" brand promoting Sri Lanka as a potential tourist destination among the Austrian public.

The celebrations created a Sri Lankan ambience and showcased social cohesion and high level integrity of Austro-Sri Lankan children with the Austrian community. The program provided an opportunity to the visitors to keep aside their Covid worries and live up at least for a short while. So Sri Lanka brochures, leaflets and souvenirs were also circulated among the visitors.

Sri Lanka is continuing with its destination promotional activities to keep up with the effort to encourage tourist arrivals again to the paradise island, at a time when the global tourism industry is facing a challenge in bringing back the tourism sector to its normal status again, an Embassy official said.

Starch Industries and Via Agri Group to develop organic farming

Starch Industries and the Via Agri Group have entered into an agreement to set up a joint venture to grow organic cassava.

They plan to set up plantations and a farmer network with a land area of up to 30,000 acres to grow organic cassava to supply the starch processing factory being set up by Starch Industries and to cultivate organic fruits to be dehydrated for export in a factory jointly owned by the Starch Industries Group and the Via Agri Group.

Starch Industries (Pvt) Ltd is a Sri Lankan agri pharma company based in Colombo, Kurunegala and Welikanda with Scandinavian and Sri Lankan management.

It is the operational company of Starch Industries Global Ltd., a British

registered company. Via Agri Group's mission is "to be Sri Lanka's fastest growing group of companies, providing quality and value addition support and services to Sri Lankan and global markets, while continually improving its products and services to the global industry," a company spokesman said.

Through their diversification into agriculture and fruit processing, they plan to expand their business even further.

Tapioca starch is the second most used starch source in the world after corn (maize).

It is also extensively used in the food industry as an additive and a staple food.

The value of the dried fruit market was estimated to be over US\$ 43.54 bn

in 2018, which is projected to increase at a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 5.7% during the forecast period (2018-2026). The global market size of organic fruits and vegetables is close to \$98 bn and is expected to reach \$160 billion by 2023.

The mutual effort aims at creating thousands of jobs for farmers and farm labour, modernising agriculture with a focus on organic farming and increasing export agricultural products. The proposition brought forward by the joint venture includes a long term agreement with a buy-back guarantee for farmers.

Starch Industries and Via Agri look forward to a long term successful journey to improve the agriculture sector in Sri Lanka.

Lanka-Oman boat builders to collaborate

A B2B webinar between Sri Lanka and Omani boat building companies was held last week to promote collaboration between the boat building industries of the two countries.

The Sri Lanka Embassy in the Sultanate of Oman and the Export Development Board (EDB) of Sri Lanka organised the webinar.

The B2B meetings were held between executives of the Omani boat manufacturing company of the Al Fairuz and the representatives of Sri Lankan companies, Neil Fernando & Co., Danusha Group of Companies and Northwest Marine.

Opening the B2B meetings, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultan-



The B2B webinar in progress.

ate of Oman, Ameer Ajwad said that as the two nations sharing the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka and Oman are well placed to collaborate each other in this sector. He pointed out that both countries have synergies in the areas such as fisheries and nautical tour-

ism and that the boat building industry of both countries has a huge potential for collaboration.

The representatives of the boat building companies of both countries exchanged a range of ideas for cooperation.

Advertorial

World Standards Day 2020

Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI), the National Standards body in Sri Lanka, annually commemorates the World Standards Day which falls on October 14 to pay tribute to the collaborative efforts of several experts all over the world who develop International Standards.

The Sri Lanka Standards Institution, has declared the week encompassing the World Standards Day, as the "National Quality Week" since standards and quality are highly consistent. This year, the National Quality Week falls from October 12-18, 2020. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electro-technical Commission (IEC) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) declared "Protecting the planet with standards" as the World Standards Day 2020 theme.

Therefore, as we all understand, life on earth including human beings along with all fauna and



flora depends on energy coming from the sun for their existence. On the other hand, as an outcome of human activities over the last century, steered by extensive industrialisation, have contributed

to depletion of natural greenhouse gases surrounding the earth.

The three fundamental prerequisites to mitigate the impact of human activities on our planet are; political will, concrete actions and adopting appropriate tools. Sri Lanka at present has the political will and the strength to take tangible and definitive actions in this regard.

International standards prepared by IEC, ISO and ITU are one of the appropriate tools required to be adopted to protect the planet from negative impacts generated by human activities as they provide true solutions to technical challenges. Those organisations assist in sharing knowledge and experience broadly in developed as well as developing countries covering aspects such as energy savings, water and air quality. They lay down standardised protocols and methods of measurement.

While providing a number of other services such as Product

certification, Systems certification, Training, Calibration, Information Services and Laboratory Services to the nation. The Sri Lanka Standards Institution take pride in formulating the national standards which are in accordance with the International standards with due consideration to national needs and limitations.

Adoption of those standards would leave little or zero footprint on our planet in our industrial and development processes which would contribute to protect our planet from irreversible damage such as through carbon emissions and greenhouse gases. Since, compliance with standards improves quality of our lives, it is expected that all relevant parties would give due consideration for adopting and complying with appropriate standards.

Visit slsi.lk for more details or Contact Director (Marketing and Promotion) on 011-2694981, E-mail: dmp@slsi.lk, 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 8.

DLB introduces digital lottery



DLB marked a significant turning point in its history by launching the first digital lottery *Sasiri* under the patronage of S.R. Attygala, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance.

Customers can now purchase this digital lottery *Sasiri* through the DLB Sweep App introduced by the Development Lotteries Board and further *Lagna Wasana*, Super Ball and *Shanida* lotteries also can be purchased online through same App.

Sasiri is the first digital lottery of South Asia and it can be purchased as online lottery and as a printed lottery ticket.

The main objective of the introduction of this *Sasiri* lottery ticket is to make financial contributions to the Covid Fund established during the recent past to face the pandemic. Therefore, the profit earned from the sale of the lottery is remitted to the President's Fund and it is expected to remit this money to Covid Fund from the President's Fund. The first draw of the lottery is due to be held on

October 14. Thereafter, draws will be held every Wednesday and Saturday and customers have the opportunity to win many prizes including cash prizes of one hundred thousand by matching three numbers.

Arrangements have been made to credit the cash prizes directly to the bank accounts of the winners, who are fortunate to be the winners of this *Sasiri* digital lottery. Further the prizes of printed lottery tickets can be collected either from the distributor or the Head Office of the DLB.

DLB said it will make arrangements to conduct this lottery going beyond the traditional systems and applying digital technology.

DLB cordially invites you to be a lucky winner by purchasing this new digital lottery downloading DLB Sweep App to your smartphone or tab using the link dlb.lk/apps.

DLB believes that you will not hesitate to enjoy this new experience, which is a revolutionary change in the field of the lottery industry in Sri Lanka.

ACL Cables teams up with Abans

Plans to strengthen ceiling fan distribution network

ACL Cables PLC has partnered with Abans PLC to supply and distribute ACL Ceiling fans at Abans showrooms islandwide.

The agreement was signed recently between Executive Director, ACL, Daya Wahalantantri and Chief Marketing Officer, Abans, Buddhika Dharmawardena in the presence of senior management from both organisations.

The initial phase of this partnership will ensure ACL Cables Ceiling fans are supplied to Abans A Grade dealer point showrooms islandwide.

This will be followed by phases two and three which will provide ACL Ceiling fans to all other showrooms across the country.

Executive Director, ACL Cables PLC Daya Wahalantantri said, "We are extremely pleased to partner with the nation's leading electronic appliance company. We are confident that this collaboration would further boost the goodwill of our ceiling fan range as well as reach and serve a wider customer base. While this partnership enhances and strengthens our existing distribution network, it also demonstrates the quality of ACL Ceiling fans against many other brands in the market.



Together with Abans we are able to increase supplies and secure a stronger market penetration for our ceiling fans."

ACL Cables commenced the manufacture of ceiling fans in 2016 and to-date has sold over 60,000 fans.

ACL Cables Ceiling fans consist of two models; aluminum blade and

metal blade with a 56" sweep. Based on the agreement, ACL Cables will supply its premium model aluminum blade ceiling fan for all Abans showrooms. An added advantage of ACL Cables Ceiling fans is that they have been awarded the energy efficiency rating by the Sri Lanka Standards Institute early this year.

Chief Marketing Officer, Abans,

Buddhika Dharmawardena said, "We have always been looking to extend our range with quality products in the market. This is one such initiative. We are very confident that this partnership will pave fruitful paths for both companies. We also extend our fullest support towards ACL in making this achievement a tremendous success."

Stay Home, Stay Safe with PickMe and NTB American Express

Nations Trust Bank (NTB) American Express has partnered with PickMe to make it convenient and rewarding to have your favourite cuisine and groceries delivered to your doorstep. This partnership with its rewarding offers, will add convenience to our Card Members "new normal" routine.

Niluka Gunatilake, Head of Cards at Nations Trust Bank said,

"We are pleased to partner with PickMe, Sri Lanka's leading mobility solutions provider. With this partnership we are rewarding our Card Members for their loyalty by giving them a saving when they order their desired cuisines using PickMe Food." To enjoy savings on PickMe Food orders, Card Members simply need to place an order for Rs. 1,200 or more and use the promo

code "AMEXFD" on the PickMe app. Each Card Member is eligible to enjoy this saving on two orders until the 31st of October 2020.

You can also stay up to date on all Nations Trust Bank Card offers via the Nations Mobile Banking app, which is available for both iOS and Android.

Nations Trust Bank PLC is among the top 15 business establishments

in Sri Lanka as ranked by Business Today. Stemming from its vision of "helping people and businesses by providing financial services and information to achieve their goals and aspirations in a sustainable way", the Bank serves a diverse range of customers across both individual and corporate, with an enviable portfolio of banking and financial products and services.

Seylan celebrates World Children's Month

Seylan Tikiri, a children's savings account, is ready to encourage and celebrate young savers during October as they unfold the Seylan Tikiri World Children's month for the 8th successful year. Seylan believes in inculcating the habit of saving within children in order to build a strong financial foundation while they're young.

Children love to receive gifts be it in the simplest form, acts of appreciation bring happiness to their little worlds. Understanding the desires of their youngest customers this year, team Seylan is set to unfold a range of exclusive gifts for all young savers. Apart from gifts such as Bicycles, Tabs, Scooters and LED TVs young depositors can receive Hungry Frog Games and Sensor Driven Helicopters. For the very first-time deposits over Rs. 1 million during the month of October will receive exclusive Play Stations (PS4) and Home Theatre Systems revamping

the Seylan Tikiri gift range to suit the dreams of the modern-day child.

Head of Marketing and Sales, Gamika de Silva said, "Seylan Tikiri, one of the most beloved children's Savings products in the country continues to place great emphasis on providing children with the right platform to secure the financial strength which allows them to pursue their life's hopes and dreams.

"Over the years, Seylan Tikiri has encouraged children to start saving from an early age by motivating and rewarding them through a variety of gift schemes and offers.

Children's Day is celebrated on October 1 throughout the world, Seylan is the only bank in Sri Lanka to extend the celebrations throughout an entire month with exclusive gift schemes and benefits to encourage young savers," he said.



SLT bill payments made more convenient through LOLC's iPay

Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) recently signed a partnership with LOLC Finance PLC to enable SLT bill payments through the mobile app, iPay. This venture will make the process of bill payments more convenient to all SLT customers.

The MoU was signed by Kiththi Perera, CEO of SLT and Conrad Dias, Director and CEO of LOLC Finance PLC.

iPay, a trilingual mobile app caters to the demands of digitalisation and mobility in the modern day. It further reduces inconveniences resulting in cash and card transactions, and allows users to make financial transactions any time, from any location. A majority of the leading local banks are partnered with iPay, adding to the ease of the process.

As such, SLT customers can pay their bills to their Sri Lanka Telecom account at the click of a button and enjoy the uninterrupted service. The system provides bill notifications where customers can view the due amount and due date, and receive smart payment reminders from the app. The real time transaction ensures that default and late payments are reduced, giving SLT an opportunity to curtail temporary disconnections and provide enhanced services to its clientele. Director and CEO of LOLC



From left: SLT-DGM Legal, Ms. Harshani Wijeratne, SLT, GM Revenue Collection, Ms. Anoma Perera, SLT, Chief officer Corporate and Digital, Prabhat Ambegoda, SLT, GCFO, Sanjeeva Samaranyake, SLT, COO, Priyantha Fernandez, SLT, CEO, Kiththi Perera, LOLC Finance Director and CEO, Conrad Dias, LOLC Finance, Head of Consumer and Digital Business, Hasala Thilakerathne, LOLC Finance Head of iPay, Charitha Jayasingha, LOLC Finance Executive, Ms. Shenali Perera, SLT, GM Business Development, Janaka Harambearachchi, SLT, GM Digital Projects, Ms. Ishari Siriwardane.

Finance, Conrad Dias said, "We are pleased to tie up with SLT, the National telecommunication service provider that has set benchmarks in the industry. This tie up aims to encourage SLT customers to convert to digital payments through iPay whilst providing them an option that is safe, seamless, quick and convenient. iPay powered by LOLC simplifies the payments and collection involved in day to day economic activities and SLT customers can perform their financial tasks from the convenience offered at

their fingertips, meeting the modern day demands of mobility and digitalization as a lifestyle digital partner". "With this latest partnership, SLT is able to make the bill payment facility cash-less and hassle-free for our customers. As the national telecommunication service provider, SLT is tasked with inculcating behavior that suits the digital age we live in, in our society. Cash-less transactions moved to card payments, and further evolved to app payments such as this. We at SLT consider it our

responsibility to lead initiatives that open wider horizons to the public of Sri Lanka," said CEO of SLT, Kiththi Perera.

"We are delighted to partner with the LOLC Group, one of the largest financial conglomerates in Sri Lanka, for such a venture, as we can ensure secure and trustworthy transactions to our customers," he said.

SLT customers will join the over 20,000 iPay customer base who enjoy the facilities and convenience of app payments through iPay.

SPECTRUM

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OCTOBER 11, 2020

Musical instruments - Tamil heritage

Makara Yaal

BY DR. SUBASHINI PATHMANATHAN

In the Tamil cultural history, the instruments were divided into four main categories *Thatha*, *Shasesra*, *Avanthatha* and *Gana*.

Thatha was string instruments, *Shasesra* was wind instruments, *Avanthatha* was leather instruments and *Gana* was metal based instruments, such as the hand cymbals. Many ancient Tamil musical instruments are now not in use. With the passage of time, many new musical instruments take the place of old ones. Earlier the musicians were called *Paawalar* and the dancers *Koothier*.

In ancient times, male musicians were known as *Paanar* and female musicians *Paanathiyar*. Those who danced to their music were called *Koothar*. Female dancers were called *Koothiyar* or *Vraliyar*.

During those days, even the lands were divided into five categories, according to the landscape, climatic conditions and the nature of the land.

The five categories were *Kurinchi*, (mountain and mountainous area), *Mullai* (forest and forest area), *Marutham* (paddy field and paddy field area), *Paalai* (desert and desert area), *Neithal* (sea and seaside area). The categories of lands had each distinct (Pun Isai) music, as well as different musical instruments, including leather drums, string instrument and wind instruments.

According to the ancient Tamil cultural history, the *Yaal* instrument implies the historical link of *Yaal* with the flat land. How-

IN ANCIENT TIMES, MALE MUSICIANS WERE KNOWN AS PAANAR AND FEMALE MUSICIANS PAANATHIYAR. THOSE WHO DANCED TO THEIR MUSIC WERE CALLED KOOHTAR. FEMALE DANCERS WERE CALLED KOOHTIYAR OR VRALIYAR

ever, the string instrument is no longer in use today. One reason for its disappearance is that it was a heavy instrument. Later, the *Veena* and *Violin* replaced the *Yaal*.

Ancient instruments

Earlier, there were many varieties of the *Yaal* in use. They were *Sakoda Yaal*, *Senkodi Yaal*, *Makara Yaal*, *Peeri Yaal*, *Athi Yaal* and *Ariya Yaal*. Each *Yaal* instrument had a number of strings.

The total number of strings for *Sakoda Yaal* was about 14. *Senkodi Yaal* had 17 strings. *Peeri Yaal* had three varieties of strings. It was stated that *Peeri Yaal* had 21 strings. The *Chenkottai Yaal* had seven strings. Besides it was stated that two more *Yaal* varieties

were in use, one was *Mayil Yaal* resembling the a peacock shaped *Yaal* and other was *Vil Yaal*, representing bow, or in other words, this particular variety of *Yaal* was shaped as bow.

Makara Yaal was often referred to in the literature as *Makara Veena*. It had its origin in Greece and was later introduced to the East. The shape of the *Makara Yaal* is that of a fish. Numerous ancient temple pillars of South Indian temples depict the *Yaal* instrument.

The Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar in his great work *Thirukkural* highlighted the Tamil classical string instrument *Yaal*. The second-century Silappathikaram of Illango Adikal is the oldest Tamil epic which contained numerous references to dance, drama, and other literary works. He also highlighted the four varieties of *Yaals*.

The commentator of *Sillapathikaram* Adiyarkunallar of the 13th century also wrote about the *Ariya Yaal*.

According to historical evidence of famed Maduri Meenakshi, Amman Temple had highlighted the female musicians (*Paanathiyar*) who played *Yaal* in temple performances.

Famed Sri Lankan scholar Vipulanada Adikal did major research about the instrument. According to him, the *Ariya Yaal* had 1,000 strings. The size of the *Yaal* was over six feet.

His research on the *Yaal* was published in *Yaal Noo*. *Kailayamalai* reveals many facts about *Yaal* in relation to *Yarlanam*.

String instruments

The strings were divided according to their thickness. Each string had only one particular pitch. But today's string instruments can produce many pitches on one string. But today, many modern electronic instrument produce numerous pitches.

The ancient *Yaal* instrument is the main cause to name *Jaffna* as *Yaalpanam* in Tamil and *Yapanaya* in Sinhala.

In ancient Tamil literature, the musician was called *Pannan*. According to ancient Tamil history, a blind *Pannan* Veera Raghavan came from Chola to the North of Sri Lanka during the reign of King Jeyathunga Veera Singhan. As there was a tradition that the ruling king did not meet

blind people, *Pannan* Veera Raghavan was not allowed to perform before the king.

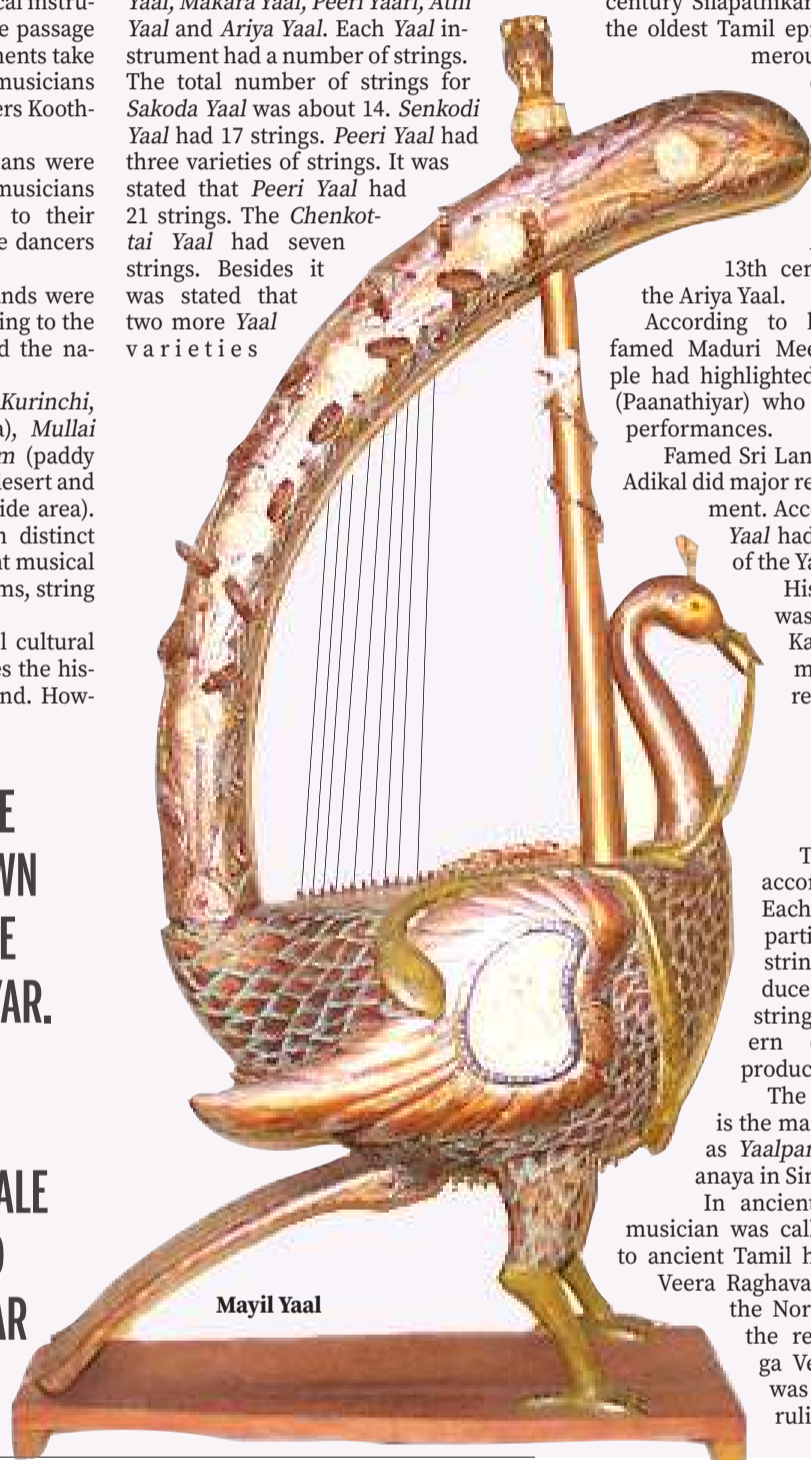
However, a curtain was drawn between the king and the blind musician. The king gave him a plot of land known as *Manatri*.

Thereafter, *Pannan* Veera Raghavan came to be known as *Yaalpadi* (*Yaal* instrument musician). The land gifted to him was known as *Yaalpanam*. During the Portuguese period, the land was renamed as *Jaffna*. Even today, *Jaffna* is often referred to in Tamil as *Yaalpanam* or *Yaal*.

A few years before the battle against terrorism, the symbol of *Yaal* was depicted on top of the Town Hall building. At night, the *Yaal* instrument was beautifully decorated with colourful lights.

Yaalpana Vaipava Malai, the history of *Jaffna*, was written by *Mayilvagana Pulavar*, a Tamil poet. The Tamil encyclopedia *Kalalkalajeyam* has confirmed this fact.

However, *Yaalpana Vaipava Malai* contained some crucial historical facts of the ancient Tamil city of *Jaffna*. It was translated from Tamil into English by C. Brito and published in 1879.



Mayil Yaal



Another Yaal

One variety of Yaal

BY SHANON JAYAWARDENA

Girl children across the world hold a powerful role in society, having the capability to multi-task in the household, society and economy of the world. It is of vital importance to respect and celebrate all girls despite their class, race, religion or background status because it is they who inspire, break boundaries and take charge of their own future.

According to the statistics of UN Women, each year, 12 million girls under 18 are married; 130 million girls worldwide are still out of school; and about 15 million adolescent girls aged 15-19 have experienced forced sex. Adolescence is a critical period that can determine the trajectory of girls' lives.

It is a stage at which key investments and support can set girls on a path towards empowerment, or when discrimination, recurrent constraints, harmful practices, and violence can send them down a negative spiral with lifelong consequences, not just for themselves, but for societies and future gender discrimination.

Gender discrimination

In today's context, the deeply entrenched gender discrimination and social norms put adolescent girls at risk of violence. This has led to the compromising of their safety and health during the transition from childhood to adulthood. Violence can begin early in girls' lives, but the gender dimensions of violence and abuse - physical, sexual and psychological - are more pronounced in adolescence.

Empowering young girls through education, technical and vocational education and training as well as life-skills, social support, knowledge and participation can help end the cycle of violence before it persists, or even before it begins.

Having recognised these factors, the congregation of the Good Shepherd sisters, instituted under the patron saint, St. Mary Euphrasia has taken it upon themselves to ensure the inclusion of girl-children into society and

that they are brought up to be strong young women.

Since their commencement, the Good Shepherd Sisters in Sri Lanka have been taking care of widows and orphans from the island nation's battle against terrorism for 26 years.

Having come from Ireland, during a course of 150 years, the Sisters' charism has always been to tend to young children and women. Set across the country, the congregation provides girl-children with education, skills training and leadership formation before settling them in life with a job or marriage, taking into consider-

ation the goals and ambitions that they would like to achieve someday.

Author, George Kaitholil states: "Let us pray earnestly for the girl child. Let us ask Mary, the greatest girl-child ever born, to help all to understand the value and beauty of every girl, and to guide us in nurturing and educating every girl child in the spirit of equality, justice and love."

It must be acknowledged that since the very inception, the Catholic church has taken into consideration how valuable young girls are and hence, they have been given due recognition. As observed in the remarks made by

Kaitholil, Mary, the mother of Christ is the most exemplary role model for young girls across the world, she herself being called to the service of God at a very young age. Mary, being a girl child at the time, shows how pure and strong young girls. It is thereby, salient to note that there is so much more to them than society holds them to be.

Looking at the Catholic community, there are many prominent and significant girl children who have set a great example for the future generations. Revered as the Apostle of Divine

International Day of the Girl Child 2020:

To inspire the world through love, faith and hope



Mercy, St. Faustina first felt a religious calling at the age of seven when she attended the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Help for the poor

In 1924, she experienced her first vision of Jesus while at a dance with her sister Natalia, in which Jesus instructed her to leave for Warsaw immediately and join a convent. St. Katharine together with her stepmother opened up their homes to the poor and distributed food, clothing and rented assistance to those in need. They would also seek out and visit women who were too afraid to be visited in order to give help for the poor.

Wishing to remain a virgin in service to God, Patricia had to flee to Italy when her royal family insisted, she marry. Saint Patricia reminds us that young women's holy desires should be given voice and honoured. St. Margaret of Louvain was a waitress and maid at an inn where she offered housing even to those who could not pay. She was murdered by thieves when she refused to cover up an evil crime she witnessed. Today, she serves as a model of concern for the poor and justice.

Similar to these virtuous young girls, there are many others who not only made their mark in the Catholic church but showed how remarkable young girls were and could be. The congregation of the Good Shepherd sisters have continued to fight their way to make the voices of young girls be heard across the world. In doing so, they have succeeded in building a family of girl children based on love, faith and hope.

DERANA 'MOST RESPECTED' MEDIA NETWORK



LMD carries out an exclusive annual survey in association with Nielsen's, which judges a corporate entity's standing on multiple parameters that include financial performance, quality consciousness, management profile, honesty, innovation, dynamism, corporate culture, governance, CSR, vision, and nation mindedness.

In the 2020 survey, Derana Media Network takes pride in being at the forefront of the Media sector.

This is a notable recognition as Derana celebrates 15 years in the industry, staking claim to groundbreaking initiatives while innovating the sector in keeping with global standards. Today, Derana is the uncontested leader in terms of reach, revenue and uniqueness. Catering to viewers, listeners and subscribers not only in Sri Lanka but also those scattered around the world, Derana has today won the heart share of Sri Lankan people for its exclusive, best-in-class offering. Being a brand with a purpose, it is noteworthy that Derana has transformed to become both loved and trusted. Manusath Derana which has initiated numerous social welfare programmes over the

years, has become a catalyst in delivering much needed support services to the most deserving people and causes across the nation.

The LMD ranking and sector/category leadership endorses Derana's commitment to deliver the best infotainment to the masses as well as exclusive niche audiences via select programming. As the only brand that is available across all connectivity platforms, Derana stands stronger than ever to remain the media brand of choice in the new age.



A walk through the rainforest

The fragile beauty of the Dombagaskanda forest reserve

—Text & Pix by—
Mahil Wijesinghe

The Dombagaskanda rainforest is a place of exceptional beauty, the Ceylon grey horn-bills nestling in the hole of a giant tree and little edible-nest swiftlets darting in and out of deep rock caves. From the east of Ingiriya to the extreme west of Horana on the bank of the Kalu Ganga is the Dombagaskanda hill, and exploring this remote forest reserve can be exhilarating as it is humbling.

I love nature because I grew up with the jungle hamlet of Botalegama close to Dombagaskanda. Dombagaskanda is not a strange place to me as I often visit the monastic bhikkhus of the forest hermitage and the pristine rainforest that they frequent. I carry my constant companion, the Nikon camera with me to capture the ever changing eco system of the forest whenever I visit.

Dombagaskanda has been a protected forest reserve since 1955 belonging to the Forest Department. The reserve consists of some 262 hectares of tropical rainforest in the forested-hill on the bank of the Kalu Ganga in the outskirts of Ingiriya in the Kalutara district.

To reach the Dombagaskanda forest, one has to travel on the Panadura-Ratnapura (A-8) highway, turn left at the Aduragala junction if you are travelling from Ingiriya and proceed a further two kilometres along the minor road, leading to the Kalu Ganga. Before reaching the river, the road branches off to the left. Continue for another 1.5 kilometres and arrive at the foot of Dombagaskanda. Although the road up to the hill is motorable, it is best to get off the vehicle and walk through the forest.

Forest hermitage

It also directs you to the Dombagaskanda forest hermitage. The forest hermitage of Dombagaskanda was founded by Ven. Olaboduwe Sri Revatha Dammakirithi Thera in 1955. Today, the hermitage has several constructions including Kutis, meditative walkways and

medical halls linked together and developed as a reputed forest hermitage in the country with 15 resident monastic bhikkhus. The bhikkhus at the hermitage do not like to be disturbed and eco-tourists should not continue beyond the flight of steps which lead to the *kutis* (abode) to the hermitage without prior permission.

As I began my walk on the gravel road, although it was a sunny day, I heard the sound of rain. Walking further up, I realised that it was not the sound of rain but the sound of a stream flowing down the mountain where endangered fish are spotted. In the distance I caught a glimpse of the brownish water of the Kalu Ganga which flows by the side of the Dombagaskanda hill.

Inhabited by over 100 species of birds, half of which are rare and endemic to Sri Lanka, Dombagaskanda has been making slow but big strides on the birthing map of the country. The tropical low country rainforest attracts bird-watchers, scores of photographers and researchers. Disturbing the fauna and flora is prohibited in the forest reserve.

As I walked under the towering trees and the dimly lit foliage, I spotted a variety of birds

and a large number of endemic Toque macaques and Purple faced Leafy monkeys prospecting for food and seemed to be increasingly confident in approaching people who usually give food at the hermitage. In my previous visits, I spotted several jungle fowls in the forest, but this time, I didn't see any.

Silence of tranquil

I saw and heard the alarming sound of Giant Squirrels that gives out a boisterous noise breaking the silence of the tranquil forest. Small creatures are plenty in the forest. I spotted a few Kangaroo Lizards displaying dull colours. The forest is also home to rare butterflies and dragonflies.

It is imperative that the ecological balance of the forest reserve is maintained. Otherwise, scores of species native to Dombagaskanda will soon be endangered and be lost. It is perfectly protected because of the forest hermitage and the monastic bhikkhus' aim is protect its fauna and flora while living in the forest as the Buddha had preached through his sermons. The images here are a small sampling of the

richness of the pristine forest. However, the streams of the forest are believed to be polluted due to the throwing away of non-biodegradable polythene wrappers by visitors. I left the Dombagaskanda forest reserve with joy in my heart, having witnessed its serenity and tranquility. The happiness I enjoyed, a few minutes under the canopy of lush green, away from the sights and sounds of the outside world, was more than words can express.



A Grey Hornbill, an endemic species of the Dombagaskanda forest reserve



A dragonfly in the forest reserve



A close up of a spider with a web in the forest of Dombagaskanda



A cluster of mushrooms in the forest



A Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard in the forest reserve



A Grey Langue on a tree

World Animal Day in Sri Lanka Felicitates animal welfare activists

Sri Lanka's animal welfare activists commemorated World Animal Day by recognising and felicitating the many animal welfare activists who over the years have worked tirelessly in sickness and health, without considering personal safety or cost, for the betterment and upliftment of Community, Farm and Wild animals.

The felicitation ceremony which was held at the Park Street Mews Restaurant, was jointly hosted by a group of animal welfare activists and Harpo Guneratne and his team.

Two legends

Animal lovers from all walks of life, from all parts of the country gathered to pay tribute and reaffirm their commitment to our four legged friends who have no voice and depend solely on our efforts to ease their pain and reduce the atrocities that we humans have brought about on them and their environment. A highlight of the proceedings was the tribute paid to, two legends of animal welfare, Sagarika Rajakarunanayake

and Deepal Wijeweera, who over the years have contributed immeasurably towards the uplift of animal welfare in Sri Lanka.

The 'No Kill Policy' of dogs was clinched by Sagarika after talking to the President at the time, Mahinda Rajapaksa. Though many lobbied and worked on this issue, the deed was done after she persuaded her husband Lucien to get an appointment with the

President, who had not known that dogs were killed when brought in from the streets. The WHO protocol of controlling rabies through catch, neuter, vaccinate and release was explained to the President who then ordered the 'No Kill Policy' to come into effect. The President initially was very curious and then got very angry to know that dogs were killed in

this way.

Sagarika started her own organisation, *Sathwa Mithra* in 1993. Much work was done in collaboration with Lorraine Bibile.

Once again Dr Nandana Atapattu and Vasanthi Nanayakkara were strong supporters. There are hundreds of interventions made by her on behalf of animals, too numerous to

mention. Sagarika's achievements and absolute dedication to the cause of animal welfare are immeasurable and she is indeed a Legend of Animal Welfare. Deepal Wijeweera is a familiar sight to most people in Colombo. Over the years, Deepal has achieved notoriety and fame as he battles the cause of our community dogs.

A familiar sight on the streets of Colombo, despite ill health and personal difficulties, Deepal continues his work and care for man's best friend and is an example to all; if you have the will and the dedication to achieve your goals, you can and will succeed no matter what the odds are!

Commitment

Animal welfare activists were recognised for their efforts with the presentation of certificates, mugs and gift vouchers and tributes were paid to them as most of them jeopardise their jobs in the cause of animal welfare. "We have dedicated our lives every day of the year to improve the lot of our four

legged friends, this year we thought it was only fitting that people island wide who despite straightened circumstances and other impediments, continue to do their best for animals and all creatures great and small", said a senior animal welfare activist.

Brand Ambassador Sri Lanka for World Animal Day, Otara Goonewardene, Founder of Embark also spoke on the occasion, as did Harpo Guneratne, who reaffirmed the commitment of his team towards animal welfare.

In Sir David Attenborough's words: "If we [humans] disappeared overnight, the world would probably be better off" "Ever since we arrived on this planet as a species, we've cut them down, dug them up, burnt them and poisoned them. Today, we're doing so on a greater scale than ever."

"It's surely our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us but for all life on earth" - let us all work towards this goal, not just here in Sri Lanka but world over; not just on World Animal Day, but Every Day!



Animal welfare activists, together with Sagarika Rajakarunanayake at the World Animal Day celebration



Animal welfare activist Ranjini Tillekeratne receiving a sheaf of flowers from Manoja Weerakkody

ELINA

A charming, modest and simple First Lady

BY RAVINDRA WIJewardhane

Elina Jayewardene, a Sinhala biography of the wife of late President J.R. Jayewardene by Sagarika Disسانayake, a veteran journalist was launched recently. It is the first biographical work about a First Lady in Sri Lanka and it is Sagarika's seventh book. The *Sunday Observer* met Sagarika Disسانayake to talk about her new book and the unique qualities she found in the late first lady.



Excerpts: The book was presented to the Prime Minister at the book launch.

Q: Why did you decide to write a biography on 'Elina Jayewardene', wife of late President J.R. Jayewardene?

A: I like the character of Elina Jayewardene who was a charm, modest and simple woman. In comparison to the wives of our other Presidents and other women in politics, she was a real role model for all women. I also heard about the things she had done behind the scenes when President J.R. Jayewardene was in office. This is why I thought of writing her biography.

Q: How did you find the necessary facts for this book, because it was a decade ago that Elina Jayewardene passed away?

A: When I was Features Editor at the *Silumina* at Lake House, I tried to write a series of biographical articles on Elina Jayewardene. At that time Elina was alive. But I couldn't get an opportunity to do that, because she was not interested in talking about herself or publicity. However, as you said when I finally ventured to write this book, most of the people who knew about her had passed away.

And there weren't many other sources. The only written documents available to me were appreciations written about her by various persons. But Sriya Ratnakara, the late veteran journalist had interviewed Elina Jayewardene. President J.R. Jayewardene was with her when that interview took place. Actually, Elina needed Dicky (as she called him) to be with her during that interview.

Though the sources about her were very few, I could meet the three grandsons of Elina Jayewardene and also Charmaine Jayewardene, her former daughter-in-law. (the first wife of late Ravi Jayewardene, Elina's only son).

And also I was able to meet many servants of the J.R. Jayewardene family. I also met the wife of Premathilake Mapitigama, Private Secretary to J.R. Jayewardene and a few others.

Q: Pradeep Jayewardene, eldest grandson of Elina is a great source for you. Isn't it?

A: Definitely. He himself wrote a memoir about his grandfather, J.R. Jayewardene recently, and many facts about Elina are included in that book. Here, I should mention that one of my journalist friends, K.C.J. Rathnayake, former News Editor at the *Dinamina* helped me a lot on this book project. He is the person who introduced me to Pradeep Jayewardene.

But I had to wait another six months to receive permission from Pradeep to write this book. Actually, one of his brothers totally opposed the writing of this book. But Pradeep Jayewardene, was very helpful about this project.

The facts from Pradeep and his other brothers were crucial because they were brought up by Elina after their parents divorced. Pradeep took me to various people who were associated with Elina, but unfortunately, most of them were too old to recall their memories of Elina while some were suffering from ill health.

But one person from whom I received valuable details about her was Dulanjan Rupasinghe, who is a son of Elina's sister. Actually, Dulanjan has made a family tree about his family along with a CD from which I found the exact origin of Elina's name.

Her original name is Elina Bandara Rupasinghe. The family name is Surya Bandara, a prestigious award by a King Rajasinghe two or three hundred years back. As Surya Bandara is a male name, her parents removed



Pix: Ruwan de Silva and Sulochana Gamage

Surya from Elina's name.

Q: You mentioned an interesting story behind the name of Elina in this book?

A: Elina's parents were very rich and had high social standing and Elina was their only child. Because of their class and wealth they even didn't send her to school. Elina was born in 1912 so home education was not unusual. But they had given her all the education she needed by getting British teachers to come home. She studied music, art, and even typing and shorthand with them. Actually, she had very sophisticated tastes in music.

When Elina's parents were married, they went on a world tour. When in France, they visited a city called Elin. The good news that Elina's mother was pregnant came when they were at Elin. At that time, they had decided that if they had a baby boy they would name him Elin and that if they had a baby girl they would name her Elina.

Q: In your research on Jayewardene, you found some of rare facts about Elina?

A: yes, I found some very rare facts

about her. One is that her role in giving the presidential candidacy to R. Premadasa. Initially J.R. had no idea whatsoever about giving the presidential candidacy to R. Premadasa.

Elina had changed his mind and made him give the candidacy to Premadasa. Elina had said him "Dicky, your party is called *Unge Neyinge Pakshaya* (your relatives' party). So, you give Premadasa the candidacy, because Premadasa is one from the people, he is popular among people. And he is the best candidate for the next presidency."

Q: You mentioned that there was a close relationship between Elina and S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike too?

A: There was an interest about Elina in S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike too when they were young. However, J.R.'s family needed to marry J.R. to Elina, partly because of Elina's family's wealth. J.R.'s family was very upper class. His mother is Helena Wijewardene, the elder sister of D.R. Wijewardene. So, they were naturally rich, but they sent a marriage proposal through a *magul kapuwa* to Elina's parents.

Q: According to your research Elina's family is very rich?

A: Yes, They had thousands of acres from Panadura where her ancestral home was, to Colombo Fort, and many shops along Galle Road. A land of fifty acres from Manelwatta, Kelaniya was offered to Kelaniya Temple by her parents. They were Buddhists. Actually, their family was from Kandy, they were Kandyan Walauwe families. The point I want to highlight is that J.R. came into politics because of the financial and other support given by her. She let him utilise all the property and other financial means for his political needs as she was the only heir to her family property.

She went from house to house and asked people in Kelaniya to vote for J.R., when J.R. was contesting the election from Kelaniya. When J.R. was defeated in the 1970 General election, he drove his car from the Parliament straight to his house called Braemar. It is said that when he saw the smiling face of Elina at the time, he relaxed instantly.

Q: Elina was a very compassionate person?

A: Yes, she was a very compassionate and empathetic person especially towards women and animals. When the servants and other people that I talked

with, recalled their memories of her goodness, saying "*Nona, rattaran nona kenek.*" Actually, she never checked who used her lands and shops. She had many shops at Chatham Street. Once one family told her "Madam, we have no place to go. If you can, give that land to us?" At that time she signed the deed of the land she owned immediately. One servant told me that she gave her the saree that was given to her by Queen Elizabeth 11 when the Queen came to open the Victoria dam in 1978. I got to know that she invited a hundred poor women to her house and treated them with good food monthly. And she constantly went to see her friends and helped them much when J.R. held the presidency and after the presidency.

She was the one who started the daycare system in government offices. She initiated this system through J.R. after she heard about the difficulties faced by the women who had children and no place to keep them when they were working in government offices. And it was she who started the Women's Bureau. Even the Ministry of Women's Affairs was also started by her concepts given to J.R. In this way, she has rendered a great service for women not as a politician, but as a woman.

Elina had a Secretary when J.R. was in power, but she advised her not to seek any publicity whatsoever for any projects or events initiated by her. The duty of the Secretary was to open the letters and respond to them. This was also a big task, because people had the habit of writing letters to her as they had the impression that if you write to her, things would be solved instantly.

Q: Did you meet that Secretary when you were writing this book?

A: Unfortunately not, because she was abroad. I saw her letter of appreciation which she wrote when Elina died. She worked as a Secretary to J.R. too. When J.R. retired, he asked her to continue to work for him. But J.R. had told her that he would not pay her from government money, but his own private money. However, she accepted his proposition and worked for J.R. and Elina free of charge.

Q: You are also a woman. What type of things did you learn as you researched her character?

A: I learned much from her character as a woman. She showed us how to live as a woman, wife and as a First Lady. In my view, she was the only woman in Sri Lanka who depicted the real qualities of a First Lady.

Q: Do you think this is a complete biography of Elina Jayewardene?

A: Not at all. This is the compilation of the facts that found when researching about her. But after I wrote this book, I received many more facts about her. Some people volunteered to offer information. Therefore, I have an idea to include the other facts to this book and publish a more comprehensive edition.

Orhan Pamuk's new novel, a youthful obsession yields a haunted life

A sense of place animates many novelists, but few more than Orhan Pamuk, for whom personal geography is artistic destiny. Istanbul, his home and his muse, is the ever-present character in his novels; his city's often-uneasy equipoise between East and West, secular and sacred, traditional and modern adding tension to whatever story is in the novel's foreground.

The *Red-Haired Woman* once again explores this duality. Larded throughout the novel are references to two ancient and opposite tragedies of fathers and sons: Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* and the classic Persian tale of Rostam and Sohrab from Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*, or *Book of Kings*. In the former, Oedipus unwittingly murders his father; in the latter, the father, Rostam, unknowingly kills his son, Sohrab.

These two classic tales become both the obsession of the novel's protagonist, Cem Celik, and the determinants — or overdeterminants — of the novel's action. The Sophocles tale not only comes out of the Western canon but its notion of the headstrong individualist who probes and questions and tempts fate is convenient shorthand for the would-be tradition-killers of Western modernity.

In Ferdowsi, meanwhile, the father who kills his son can stand in for an

old-against-young, backward-looking extremism, wielding an airless adherence to tradition against any would-be modernising trends.

Abandonment

Divided into three parts, Pamuk's novel appears at first to be narrated by Cem, whose Marxist father is more absent than presence in the boy's life. Even before his father was jailed as a political activist, Cem sensed that his parents didn't love each other, that his father "was attracted to other women." So it's not entirely surprising when, upon his release, he deserts his family. This abandonment leaves the teenage boy and his mother in reduced circumstances and puts Cem's dream of becoming a writer at risk.

Needing money for cram school to assure his entry into a good college, Cem takes a summer job as a well-digger's apprentice, leaving his middle-class city life to camp with his master on a desolate rural site outside a garrison town.

It's supposed to be a short job — two weeks at most — but for all the skill of the digger and the backbreaking labour of his apprentice, the site refuses to yield water. The work drags on in the blazing heat amid rising tensions and fraying tempers.

As the relationship between man

By Geraldine Brooks
The Red-haired woman
By Orhan Pamuk
Translated by Ekin Oklap
272 pp. Alfred A. Knopf.

and youth deepens, crossing class lines and age barriers, Cem begins to feel a filial tug toward his boss. But on an evening trip to the nearby town, he encounters an enigmatic and lovely red-haired woman. On a later visit, he learns that she is one of the members of a travelling theatre troupe. His growing preoccupation with this woman adds to tensions on the work site, fueled by Cem's irrational jealousy of his master's imagined involvement with her.

Pamuk has a masterly control of mood in this section of the novel, and its sometimes stilted language seems apt for his half-formed, often arrogant, intellectually and sexually curious young narrator. Indeed, at this point the novel is so gripping and accomplished that when the married actress chooses to commit adultery with Cem, whom she has only just met, I was able to suspend my disbelief.



"The heart wants what it wants," I shrugged, channeling Woody Allen. But many years later, when the woman discloses the relationship that underlies her interest in this callow youth, I found myself thinking of another humorist, Mark Twain, who observed that although fiction must be plausible, truth needn't be. Alas, it's not the only time Pamuk reaches into the grab-bag

of improbable coincidences and pulls out an unlikely likelihood that strains reasonable bounds.

When Cem's romantic distraction leads to an accident at the well site, he must make a moral choice of awesome consequence — one that he realises will shape the rest of his life. As he reaches his decision, the story begins to crumble.

The second and third sections of the novel become nothing more than clunky melodrama laced with ever-greater implausibility and snarled in repetitive references to the two classic stories of patricide and filicide until the foreshadowing becomes positively penumbral.

Influenced by his well-digging father figure, Cem discards his writing dreams to study engineering and geology. In adulthood, he is able to enrich himself on the back of Istanbul's expansion and building boom. Here Pamuk flits like a barn swallow over fascinating issues of contemporary Turkish life, but never alights long enough to offer interesting insights or even substantially enrich the story.

Worse, as Cem matures his narrative voice doesn't grow up with him. I began to wonder if what I had been admiring as purposefully inelegant expression in the service of an authentic

adolescent voice wasn't something different: careless prose or an awkward translation.

There's a tiredness to the language: Curiosity is piqued, suspicions are sneaking, people stare dumbstruck, clouds are low and leaden.

A change of voice, when the red-haired woman assumes the narration in the last section of the novel, might have offered a chance to regain the moody tension of the opening chapters. But instead the melodrama amplifies to an appallingly hackneyed crescendo. And an unoriginal one: Like the murderous miniaturist in Pamuk's earlier novel, *My Name Is Red*, a killer in *The Red-Haired Woman* also disposes of a body in — where else? — the bottom of a well.

Reviewing that capacious and ambitious earlier novel for *The New Yorker* in 2001, John Updike rather delicately observed that Pamuk's desire to write in the 19th-century tradition, to access "a more generous, less nibbled attention span," to breathe "with bigger lungs" and write "long, deep and wide" might not be entirely suited to his "relatively short-winded" style.

Maybe. But for this reader, even the relative sprint of Pamuk's slim book seemed unsustainable. **Courtesy: The New York Times**

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Udugampola sub-kingdom:

A historical and archaeological legacy

BY DINITHI WIJESURIYA

Gampaha is a district with important heritage sights. The Maligagodella Uttararama Purana Vihara of Udugampola holds a special place among these, since many archaeological remains and features of the Udugampola Sub-kingdom of the Kotte kingdom are still to be found in and around this site.

The area of the vihara in the Minuwangoda Division was called *Dasiya Paththu of Uthuru Aluthkuru Korala* in the past. Ancient texts of Rajavaliya and Alakeshwara Yuddhaya cite that there was a sub-kingdom reigned by King Sakalalawallabha, son of King Veera Parakramabahu in the area.

The location where the Vihara stands was the location of the Royal Palace of the sub-kingdom. The remains of the royal pond and protective moat can be found around the vihara. Names depicting various tasks and services attached to the royal palace are found from surrounding areas. Maligagodella was where the Royal Palace stood. Kehelbaddara was the place where Kehelbandirala (royal flag bearer) used to live.

Udugampola was where prince Utthiya stopped, having travelled upstream of (Udugam Bala) the river. Veediyawatta was the promenade where the annual royal parade of Sakalalawallabha took place. A place where a small stream fed into the royal water garden is Dolaagatha. (Dola - small stream) and a place where the king rested twice a day is Devalapola. The place where the highest granaries of the king's treasury stood is called *Maabodala* (Maha Budalaya - Great Treasury).

Two places close to Maaligagodella are Maabodala and Aswana. A rivulet off of the Maabodala tank was crossed with a Dam (*Wana*) at Kalawana and the exit Dam was named Aswana (Exit Dam - *As wana*) Maabodala, Maligagodella. Aswanas are said to have had royal palaces and the royal pond is said to have been fed by the Aswana Dam. Remains of this Dam can be found to date. The consort of King Sakalalawallabha is said to have committed suicide by jumping into the Aswana Dam. The place where the queen's jewels (mini ruwan) were found is Minuwangoda and her head was found at Galoluva (Oluva - head) while remains of her innards were found at Bokkamulla (*Bokka* - Intestines/innards). The royal goldsmiths

and jewel makers were said to have lived in Hendimahara. A place where many fish of the variety called *pethiya* in Sinhalese were said to have been found - as a result of a flood in Kuda Oya - is named Pethiyagoda. Relatives of the royals are said to have lived at the city entrance in Doranagoda and reptiles for the royal family were bred at Naiwala. The King's flower garden is said to have been at *Pitakotuwa* and farmers who cultivated paddy for the king are said to have lived at Govigama.

Style of reign

Udugampola and surrounding areas hold great historical value and at test to a well established sub kingdom. The style of reign in the Kotte era was to divide the kingdom into parts, allowing the royal princes to reign over a particular area. During the 16th century, the Kingdom of Kotte was divided into five areas. The area including Kotte and Colombo was ruled by the King Veera Parakramabahu VIII. Specified tasks and professions were divided among various clans. The King's Parasol carriers were called Muthkudawijesuriya. Warriors were called Ranatunga. Accountants were called Hetti Pathirana and advisors were called Bamunuarachchi.

These were assigned by the King. Pottery, Jewelmaking, Astrology, Drumming were all assigned to various clans, displaying clear stratification. Due to the symbiosis of these tasks and relevant clans, the sub-kingdom used to be a self-sufficient entity. However, these traditional enterprises are on the decline, due to challenges brought about by many changes in the economic and social structures. The area originally belonging to the royal palace has receded into two acres from a square mile, giving way to new development projects, housing and various political needs.

The geographical boundaries were as follows

- Ma Oya by North
- Kalani River by South
- Indian ocean by West

Historical background

The first written evidence on Udugampola and its sub kingdom therein is found in a text called *Alakeshwara Yuddhaya* a sub text of *Rajavaliya* (Suraweera; 1965). It has evidence of Udugampola Sub Kingdom. "Thereafter, the eldest son of the great king was coronated as the king Dharma



Parakramabahu. Another reigned in Katupitimadampe as Thaniyaan Walla. Another reigned as Sakalalawallabha in Udugampola. Udugampola can be identified as a sub kingdom surrounding the central Kingdom of Kotte (Suraweera; 1965, Suraweera; 1977).

Rajavaliya also provides evidence for King Sukalalawallabha of the Udugampola sub-kingdom and his younger brother. According to the text, the brothers had defeated a foreign threat in the form of Dravidian pearl diver named *Adhiraasarayan Mudaliyar* who had operated illegally in Halawatha and claimed elephants by the power of his illegally amassed wealth.

"Name of Mudaliyar who was pearl diving illegally, claimed many elephants to his name, having sailed with many to Halawatha. King Sakalalawallabha, having heard of this, departed from Udugampola, having won the war, alighted upon Jayawardhanapura Kotte in attendance to the king Dharma Parakramabahu, was given many accolades and arrived upon his own city."

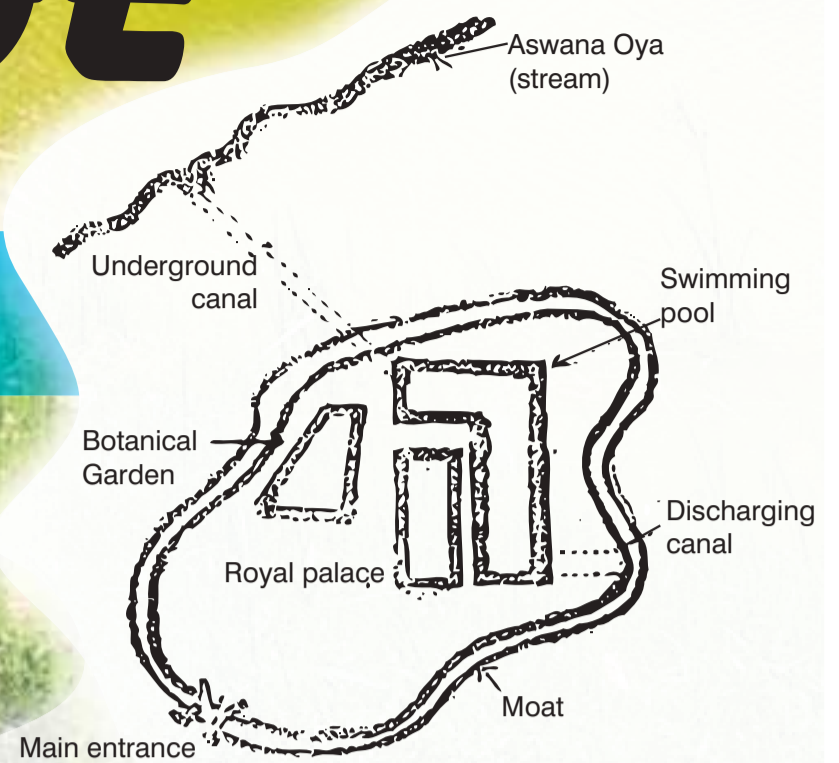
The author of the Alakeshwara Yuddhaya states that it is King Sakalalawallabha who was sent to defeat the coup which arose from *Satharakoralaya* against the king. "Upon hearing that the king of Udarata has given rise to many complications throughout *Satharakoralaya*, King



Aswana Dam

The resting stone for bathing

Pathaha (swimming pool or bathing pond)



The ground plan of Udugampola sub-kingdom (Hewapathirathna, 2000)

in many instances (Suraweera; 1965, Suraweera; 1977). Hence the special name *Chakrayudha* (protective weapon). This can be confirmed through records of the historian Valentine as well. A tablet discovered near Negombo, in Kadirana also attests to the handing of benefits by the new royal palace in Udugampola in which reigned a Sri Vijayabhahu whose predecessor was a Lord Chakrayudha eight years following Sri Sanghabo Chakravarthi in Aluthkuru Korala Udugampola. Evidence especially of written text can be stated to prove the sub division system of the kingdom and the existence of a Sub Kingdom in Udugampola (Suraweera; 1965, Suraweera; 1977).

Coronation of Vijayabhahu

However, the end of the King Sakalalawallabha seems unclear as recorded evidence on this cannot be found. As evidenced in the Alakeshwara Yuddhaya, Dharmaparakramabahu calls upon Sakalalawallabha to rule the kingdom of Kotte, which he does not accept (Maduluwawe 2004). It states that the King Sakalalawallabha passed the throne to his younger brother and departed to Udu-

gampola once more. "Having considered a few factors, he called upon his younger brother to reign and upon his coronation as Vijayabhahu and handing over the armies and the kingdom to him, alighted upon Udugampola City." It is proven that the Udugampola mentioned here is the same place.

Reasons for the king not to accept the throne can be perceived as follows;

1. As stated in the Rajavaliya, the king being born of a sister of the consort who was brought in from Keerwella.
2. The king not having married from a royal lineage.
3. The king being of old age at the time. (Maduluwawe, 2004).

Though further evidence of King Sakalalawallabhais not to be found, the existing evidence indicates a well structure reign. As historic texts attest, King Sakalalawallabha was instrumental in safeguarding the Kingdom of Kotte. The remains of the protective moat and royal bath pond indicate the king safeguarded his own sub-kingdom as well. The king's bath is the largest of the kind to be used by a king. The dam set up to feed the pond is still to be found near the Aswana temple though not in working condition due to blockage in underground waterways.

Two sons of the king attempted to kill him by setting up pointed wooden stick under the bathing pond. But king saved his life. Today, it is a barren land.

The royals of ancient times considered it a priority to safeguard and provide for the kingdom before engaging in their own warfare. King Sakalalawallabha too was responsible in developing several tanks, such as the *Korase Wewa, Nagaha Wewa, Goda Wewa* according to legend. Though historical evidence to the end of King Sakalalawallabha's reign is not found, it can be assumed that the calamity towards the end of the Kotte Era affected the Udugampola sub kingdom as well.

With development and modernisation, the heritage of the Sub Kingdom of Udugampola which is believed to have been founded in the 1400's has come to be challenged in many ways.

Weaknesses in heritage management have led to further deterioration of this national heritage that should be secured for the benefit of future generations.

The writer is a Senior Lecturer, University of Kelaniya

Mona Lisa's enigmatic smile

BY R.S. KARUNARATNE

For centuries, Leonardo da Vinci's portrait of Mona Lisa has beguiled art lovers who are unable to resist speculating on its origin and meaning. A French inventor once claimed to know the answer to her enigmatic smile. He referred to her missing eyebrows and lashes. Meanwhile, Pascal Cotte, a Parisian engineer, said his ultra-detailed digital scan of the painting confirmed that it was a 16th century portrait of a Florentine merchant's wife. According to him, the original painting had eyebrows and lashes intact. His megapixel scans revealed that her eyebrows and lashes had been obliterated during a restoration effort. However, he admitted that Leonardo was a genius to have done such a painting.

Pascal Cotte was really obsessed by the portrait of Mona Lisa. He used a highly developed camera to examine the portrait. His findings were rather startling. According to him, Leonardo changed his mind about the position of two fingers on Mona Lisa's left hand. Her face was originally wider and the smile was expressive than that found on the painting. She was holding a blanket hidden from the view. The painting at the bullet-proof glass enclosure at the Louvre is saturated with heavy greens, yellows and browns as a result of age, varnish and restorations performed by later conservators. Finally, he reproduced a photograph of Mona Lisa with the light blues and bril-

liant whites. However, art critics and historians have raised doubts about his findings.

On August 21, 1911 the Mona Lisa portrait was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. The thief had apparently spent the weekend in one of the museum's closets. At the time, the security was minimal. The Mona Lisa painting was simply hanging on a wall. After the disappearance of the painting, security was strengthened. It was like closing the stable after the horse has bolted. The media coverage of the heist was at its height and the little known painting suddenly became a household name. The Paris Journal offered 50,000 Francs to anyone who returned the painting. Then the police received a tip from an art thief who pointed his finger at Pablo Picasso, a promising young artist.

Picasso

Picasso had been living in Paris for well over ten years with a gaggle of Bohemians. Among them was a poet and writer Guillaume Apollinaire whose former secretary was Honore - Joseph GeryPieret, a Belgian man of questionable morals. Pieret went to the Paris Journal's office and claimed the reward. By that time, Pieret himself had stolen two Iberian sculptures made in the 3rd or 4th centuries BCE and sold them to Picasso who used them to inspire his artistic talents. Pieret had also stolen a similar painting from the Louvre in 1911.

The police believed that the Mona Lisa painting would also be with Pieret or his gang. They also came to know who his friends were. Realising the great danger Picasso and his gang of friends faced, they packed the stolen sculptures and paintings into a big suitcase and ran towards the River Seine to dump it. After reaching the river bank, however, they changed their plan. On the following day, Guillaume Apollinaire visited the Paris Journal and handed over the stolen statues and paintings on condition of anonymity. The newspaper agreed to do so but the police stepped in.

The police detained Apollinaire and ordered Picasso to appear before a Magistrate. When the Magistrate asked Picasso whether he knew Apollinaire, he said, "I have never seen this man." On hearing these words, Apollinaire's facial expressions changed. The blood ebbed from his face. And Picasso felt ashamed. During the proceedings, Picasso wept like a child. However, the Magistrate discharged both men as there was no evidence to involve them with the disappearance of the Mona Lisa painting. Two years later, the police recovered the Mona Lisa painting from Vincenzo Peruggia, an Italian artist, who had been working at the Louvre.

Beads

Computer experts have discovered among the many mysteries of the renowned portrait of Mona Lisa that



Leonardo da Vinci originally painted her with beads around her neck and a distant mountain range to the left of her right eye. John Asmus of the University of California at San Diego confirmed that Leonardo himself painted over the necklace, but a later art restorer had removed the mountain range to make foregrounds more prominent. The highly advanced computer allowed Asmus to look through the layers of discoloured brown varnish and extensive ageing cracks to simulate the painting's original appearance. Asmus says, "After more than 450 years of deterioration, the image of the lady is barely a soiled caricature of the original."

Much has been written on Mona Lisa's enigmatic smile. Researchers from the University of Cincinnati claim that Mona Lisa's smile is "non-genuine" - and it is all down the smirk's asymmetry. The researchers led by Dr Luca Marsili in an article published in the "Cortex" said, "Our results indicate that happiness is expressed only on the left side."

In recent years, even psychologists have taken an interest in Mona Lisa's smile. According to some influential theories of emotion neuropsychology, Mona Lisa's asymmetric smile is a non-genuine smile which occurs when the subject lies.

In an extensive study, the researchers asked 42 people to judge which of the six basic emotions were expressed by two altered images of Mona Lisa's smile - one mirror image of the left side and one of the right side.

Happiness

According to the results, 92 percent of participants indicated that the left half of the smile displayed happiness, while none indicated that this was shown on the right side. Instead, 83 percent of the participants said the right side showed a neutral expression, 12 percent said it was disgust, and 5 percent said it was sadness.

Researchers said, a genuine smile, also known as a "Duchenne Smile" causes the eyes to contract. They said, "It is unlikely that a person who sits motionless for hours to be painted is

able to constantly smile in genuine happiness. The simplest explanation is that the Mona Lisa's asymmetric smile is the manifestation of an "untrue enjoyment" in spite of all the efforts that Leonardo's jesters used to make to keep his models merry.

What is strange is that Leonardo had known the meaning of asymmetric smile more than three centuries before Duchenne's reports. It is not clear whether he deliberately illustrated a smile expressing a "non-felt" emotion. According to some experts, Leonardo may have been hiding cryptic messages in his paintings. Whatever that may be, the Mona Lisa smile continues to attract our attention although the message it conveys remains elusive. In a way, it is another unsolved mystery.

Mona Lisa is a consummate example of two techniques - sfumato and chiaroscuro - of which Leonardo was one of the great masters. Sfumato is characterized by subtle almost infinitesimal transitions between colour areas, creating a delicately atmospheric haze or smoky effect; it is especially evident in the delicate gauzy robes worn by the sitter and in her enigmatic smile.

Chiaroscuro is the technique of modelling and defining forms through contrasts of the light and shadow, the sensitive hands of the sitter are portrayed with a luminous modulation of light and shade, while colour contrast is used only sparingly.

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Features

A CONSCIENCE BEYOND THE COURT

A review of 'Paangshu'

By Dilshan Boange



On the evening of September 25 this year I was invited to a screening of 'Paangshu' at the New Empire Cinema at the Independence Square Arcade complex. It was a well attended screening where the director, writer and producer of the film Dr. Visakesa Chandrasekera cordially welcomed all before the screening commenced, expressing his optimism that despite the prevailing circumstances in the country due to the pandemic, cinema halls will hopefully see more patronage from cinemagoers in the coming months.

Paangshu unfolds a cinematic narrative of a by and large conventional style with a good storyline. Featuring a talented cast of talented actors this movie will surely work for mainstream Sinhala cinema audiences. Not pretentiously high strung with arty flairs, it shows a relatable context in terms of issues. Although I am tempted to write a detailed account of the narrative and storyline, I shall resist that urge as the movie is being screened on the theatre

circuit and thus such an account would be a 'spoiler' for those who have not yet watched it.

The premise is that of a single mother, Samarappuli Henayage Babanona, living in a rural area in Sri Lanka, seeking an answer as to what became of her only child, her son who was an undergraduate, after he was abducted at night from home, by a group of military personnel. The reason for the abduction being that the young man was suspected of involvement in the insurgency perpetrated in the late 1980s, by the hard line leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) party. The narrative shifts between the periods of the Presidencies of former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the late President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The abducted young man, although is portrayed outwardly as an innocent victim of the State's extra judicial killing scheme to quell the insurgency, becomes known to his mother's personal knowledge as having been an active insurgent involved in the assassination of a popular female politician in their village who was contesting elections from the Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya, the party formed and led by the late Vijaya Kumaratunga.

The slain female politician and her family incidentally are known to Babanona as she has been providing her services to the family as their washer-



woman. The narrative takes the viewer through the different 'spaces'; institutional, personal, occupational and so on, that Babanona inhabits, to provide a glimpse of how she lives her 'life' while being on a relentless journey for justice and closure. But the question that the film raises in the eyes of the viewer through the conscience of Babanona, as she wades through the social fabric and the legal justice system to bring to book the only abductor whose face she had seen on the night of her son's 'disappearance', is whether in fact 'justice' has already been performed by the powers that grip our mortal lives.

Chandrasekera in his construction of the plot has deftly woven the twists and turns of how Babanona's conscience and humanity gradually take shape on being revealed details that cause her to rethink how her search for 'justice' may be nothing more than a manmade concept to 'even the score' in the construction of what is called a civilised society governed by law and order, and not necessarily the means for the closure that

she needs. Is forgiveness nobler than institutional justice? Is the courtroom truly the final arbiter of what matters to the conscience of the aggrieved? Can those who seek justice for the slain speak only of the wrong done to their own, while being silent on the wrong done by their kinsman to others? These are a few sharp questions Chandrasekera offers the viewer as food for thought through Paangshu, his cinematic triumph.

A work that subtly looks at the foundations of what holds Sri Lanka's Sinhala Buddhist traditionalism as a self preserving ethos. An identifiably Sri Lankan right-wing film.

It is also interesting to note how the factor of caste in traditional Sinhala society has been woven in the story, which reflects an important socio-political facet in Sri Lanka which needs to be adduced as an additional facet to the 'economic class' oppression basis that gives central impetus for leftist movements to gain traction. Babanona is from one of the lowest rungs in the traditional caste strata, the 'rada' or 'dhoobi' caste, whose traditional occu-



PAANGSHU UNFOLDS A CINEMATIC NARRATIVE OF A BY AND LARGE CONVENTIONAL STYLE WITH A GOOD STORYLINE. FEATURING A TALENTED CAST OF TALENTED ACTORS THIS MOVIE WILL SURELY WORK FOR MAINSTREAM SINHALA CINEMA AUDIENCES. NOT PRETENTIOUSLY HIGH STRUNG WITH ARTY FLAIRS, IT SHOWS A RELATABLE CONTEXT IN TERMS OF ISSUES.

pation is as launderers.

What Paangshu infers as the social injustice perceived by the likes of the abducted son of Babanona, is not necessarily only to do with the 'rationale for revolution' cried out by a member of the 'starving masses' as per Marxist dogma.

It was not necessarily an unbearable poverty of starvation that drove most economically underprivileged rural youth in Sri Lanka to rage against the system, brandishing 'socialism' as their token weapon.

Chandrasekera must be congratulated on his casting as the film shows appreciable performances from the overall cast. Veteran actress Nita Fernando delivers a memorable praiseworthy performance. Talents of the new generation are seen too, and must be applauded, such as the performances of Jagath Manuwarana who com-

mendably portrays the State Counsel prosecuting the soldier accused of abducting Babanona's son, as well as Mayura Perera who plays the role of the abductor on trial.

Now into the second decade of the 21st century, Sri Lanka cradles a new generation of children growing up in a post-conflict nation still dealing with memories of mass scale violence rooted in the JVP's insurrection and the battle against terrorism.

In this context Sri Lanka has a generation that is still grappling with closure and trying to find means for inner peace.

'Paangshu' arrives as a story of how closure is about finding one's peace of mind for a more peaceful tomorrow by letting go of vendettas. Paangshu is a film Sri Lanka should see. Paangshu is a film the world should see of Sri Lanka.



AFI FEST 2020 boasts majority Female-Directed Films

BY ASHEN PERERA

The American Film Institute (AFI) has this week announced the full lineup of this year's AFI FEST, including the World Cinema, New Auteurs, and Documentary sections.

These titles, including buzzy festival features like "I Carry You with Me," "Shadow in the Cloud," "Jumbo," "Farewell Amor," "Wander Darkly," "Tragic Jungle," "Sound of Metal," "Wolfwalkers," "New Order," and "Hopper/Welles," join previously announced films, including Julia Hart's "I'm Your Woman," which will open the festival, and Errol Morris' "My Psychedelic Love Story," which will close it.

This year's complete AFI FEST program includes 124 titles (54 features, 3 episodic, 33 shorts, 19 Meet the Press Film Festival at AFI FEST shorts, and 15 AFI Conservatory Showcase shorts) of which 53 percent are directed by women, 39 percent are directed by BIPOC, and 17 percent are directed by LBGTQ+.

Sarah Harris, Director of Programming, AFI Festivals said in an official statement to the international media, "AFI FEST is committed to supporting diverse perspectives and new voices in cinema and this year is no different."

While we wish we were able to be together in Hollywood, this year's festival is an opportunity to celebrate the many great films yet to be discovered by audiences across the nation."

Previously announced titles include Kelly Oxford's debut "Pink Skies Ahead," Matt Tyrnauer's new documentary "The Reagans," Florian Zeller's Anthony Hopkins-starring "The Father," Mira Nair's new series "A Suitable Boy," and Werner Herzog

and Clive Oppenheimer's doc "Fireball."

According to international media, Sofia Coppola, Kirby Dick, Rita Moreno, and Mira Nair will be honored with Tributes at the festival. The AFI Summit lineup includes a conversation with Academy Award nominee, producer, director and writer Ava DuVernay in a conversation about elevating and supporting BIPOC filmmakers through her company Array, plus a Doc Roundtable moderated by producer and film festival curator Caroline Libresco and a panel led by Dr. Stacy L. Smith on the portrayal of characters with mental health conditions in film and television. AFI FEST 2020 will take place online, kicking off on October 15 and running through October 22. Check out the new additions to the lineup below, with all synopses and information provided by the festival.



Retro Reviews: Cinema of Yesteryear

The Student Prince

BY DILSHAN BOANGE

An American musical film from 1954, directed by Richard Thorpe, The Student Prince is a delightful movie from the golden classic age of Hollywood. Starring Ann Blyth and Edmund Purdom in the lead roles as Kathie and Karl, it is a love story that will enchant the viewer with attractive mise en scene, lively choreography, good plot construction, singing that is driven with various facets of emotions, and of course good acting.

Young and handsome Crown Prince Karl of the Kingdom of Karlsburg, which is a German-speaking small fictional kingdom in Europe, has been brought up with excellent military training and courtly manners to fulfil his role as heir apparent to the throne of his grandfather, King Ferdinand of Karlsburg, played impressively by Louis Calhern. However the Prince is said to lack sociability and charm as found by Princess Johanna, played by Betta St. John, when the two of them, whose marriage had been arranged years ago, share each other's company at a grand royal ball to announce the impending royal betrothal. The Kingdom of Karlsburg whose royal coffers are empty needs the marriage to take place as a matter of State requirement. Upon the advice of his personal tutor, Prof. Juttner, played by Edmund Gwenn, Prince Karl is enrolled as a student in the University of Heidelberg so that he may have the opportunity to socialise with youth of his own age group and develop a more sociable character.

What follows thereafter is a captivating flow of light comedy, sweeping romance and musical gaiety that sees the uptight Prince being introduced to university life. He soon becomes enamoured with the freedom he enjoys especially as he finds himself falling deeply in love with Kathie, the niece of the owner of the Inn where the Prince and his staff take lodging for the duration of the Prince's stay at

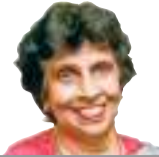


Heidelberg. Kathie as a barmaid first dutifully attends to the Prince with the utmost respect and courtesy but as 'royal advances' become intolerable for the beautiful blonde to bear, she resigns her position at the Inn and seeks employment at a restaurant that is across the river. Karl becomes sincerely regretful about his behaviour and seeks Kathie's forgiveness. He realises that he has fallen in love with her and confesses to her how much he needs her.

Endearing musical wooing with operatic depth to love serenading, romantic antics, sociable frolics, light hilarity as well as poignant partings drive this musical which finally sees Prince Karl suddenly recalled to his Kingdom on a matter of utmost urgency, crumbling the joys of a young lover who had only begun to live life and had dared to love his own choice. To Karl and Kathie reality dawns in a manner that makes their short lived romance almost like a beautiful dream. The ending shows His Majesty King Karl of Karlsburg keeping his word to his first true love, Kathie, by returning to see her once again, while en route to his marriage to Princess Johanna, and realising that Kathie bears no resentment towards him but only sincere good will in the form of a true friend. It is a moment that leaves a deep and memorable impression. It is a love story that is worth watching and applauding. And I have no doubt that all cinema lovers who are romantics at heart will be won over by The Student Prince.



—By—
Carol Aloysius



To mark World Elders' Day, the Sri Lanka Association of Geriatric Medicine (SLAGM) made a strong plea for holistic care and treatment of elderly persons in keeping with the Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) concept of the WHO. The *Sunday Observer* spoke to founder President of the Sri Lanka Geriatric Association and Consultant Physician, Geriatric Unit, Colombo South Teaching Hospital Dr Dilhar Samaraweera to get a better understanding of Geriatric Medicine, a relatively new approach to elderly care in Sri Lanka.

Excerpts

Q: What is Geriatric Medicine and what does holistic approach to elderly care mean?

A: Geriatric Medicine is a specialty in medicine dealing with prevention and treatment of diseases in persons older than 60 years of age. The practice of Geriatric medicine shifts away from a 'disease centered' to a 'person centered' approach.

The management of the elderly person involves a holistic approach which is a multimodal approach consisting of comprehensive assessment of physical, psychological and social aspects. The management is done by a multidisciplinary team enabling achievement of the elderly patient's goals and a better quality of life.

Q: Integrated Care of Older Persons (ICOPE)- how exactly does it help improve the life of elders?

A: Integrated Care of Older Persons (ICOPE) is a novel approach initiated by the World Health Organization focusing on optimising intrinsic capacity and functional ability of older persons in the community by strengthening primary care.

Health and social care workers in the community at the primary care level can identify older persons with loss of capacity and provide appropriate care to reverse or slow these losses by following the guidance of ICOPE. This approach is simple and low cost which suits our country. Conditions associated with loss of intrinsic capacity and functional decline are interrelated and need an integrated and person centered approach for assessment and management.

Q: What age group falls into the category of an elderly person?

A: The age cut off is 60 years. However, what is more important is the biological age (age determining the functional ability) rather than the chronological age which is the age calculated from the date of birth.

Q: What is the current estimated percentage of hospital admissions of elderly persons per day/year?

A: About 70 percent of admissions are over 60 years of age in hospitals.

Q: There seems to be a severe dearth of Geriatric units to meet the current demand of elderly patients. How do you deal with this problem? Where are they looked after when space in the few Geriatric wards runs out?

A: Acute care is provided for all adults regardless of age in the general medical wards. I think it is acceptable as age discrimination should not occur during acute care, the problem occurs when providing post-acute care when prolonged stay cannot be offered for the elderly due to the pressure for beds in wards with a high turnover of patients with a need for clearance of patients.

It is in these situations that we need intermediate care wards or centres fortified with multi-disciplinary teams to re-enable these patients to go back to their homes or placement in elders' homes when homeless.

Q: Health problems facing the elderly are different from those of others

Holistic approach for elderly care Aging healthily, no longer a dream for elders

**NUTRITIOUS
HIGH PROTEIN
DIETS, EXERCISE,
SOCIALISING- KEY TO
LIFE LONG HEALTH
IN ELDERS**



who are younger. What are these problems and what organs in their bodies are affected by such problems?

A: The young are often affected by a single disease whereas older persons have multiple diseases affecting multiple organs and domains, physical, social and psychological. Older persons have specific syndromes which result in impairment of their activities of daily living.

The specific geriatric syndromes are, decreased mobility, instability, falls, frailty, incontinence, dementia, depression and polypharmacy.

They also suffer from degenerative diseases like osteoarthritis, back and neck problems due to lumbar and cervical spondylitis. The diseases of the elderly are not unique to one organ but are due to reduction in capacity of multiple organs as a result of the ageing process.

Q: What do non communicable diseases (NCDs) contribute to their declining health?

A: There has been a paradigm shift from increased prevalence of non communicable diseases to communicable diseases. The development of infrastructure facilities and equity in health care resulted in a decrease in the communicable diseases. A few decades ago many people died of infections, such as malaria, dysentery and other infections.

The change in lifestyle and diet has contributed to increased incidence of non communicable diseases. More people live into old age due to advanced treatment of myocardial infarction, stroke and other diseases. Accumulation of non communicable diseases, such as Hypertension, heart disease, diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung diseases and cancers result in the rapid decline of health leading to physical and mental frailty in the elderly.

Q: What about poor nutritional status in the majority of elders?

A: As we age, nutritional status declines due to multiple factors. The taste, smell and vision decrease, muscles become weak resulting in poor mastication and swallowing of food, loss of teeth results in poor bite, the amount we eat decreases with reduced appetite, the reduced mobility results in reduced exposure to sunlight and difficulty in shopping for food, the decline in mood and cognitive capacity and poor financial status all contribute to poor nutritional status in old age.

The restrictions posed by non-communicable diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes mellitus directing towards low salt and low sugar and the spiritual impact leading to a diet low in animal protein further compromises the diet of the older persons.



Dr Dilhar Samaraweera

We need to have less restriction on the amount of salt in the diet of older persons who have problems with low salt resulting in falls and confusion; we need to increase the protein content of the diet in older persons which in fact should be more compared to younger people.

Animal protein is easier to take due to more protein per weight and easily absorbed. Eating eggs with the yolk is healthy and should be encouraged. Vegans should drink milk to maintain adequate protein and vitamin B12 intake.

Food with calcium, such as milk and dairy products, and small fish and exposure to sunlight to enable adequate calcium vitamin D levels is important for muscle and bone health. Where intake is inadequate, food supplements should be given with minimal disturbance to the main meals, placed a few hours away from main meal times.

Food should be made energy dense and thick, sugar and other additives could be added to enhance the flavour. Physical exercise should be coupled with good nutrition to achieve maximum benefits.

Q: Sri Lanka is now in the midst of a Corona19 pandemic. How vulnerable are elders to this new virus?

A: Covid-19 infection can lead to severe lung infection due to low immunity and result in confusion due to preexisting cognitive impairment, can result in falls, fracture of hip leading to complications of immobility and death.

Therefore, the elderly will die due to various factors precipitated by Covid-19 rather than from the respiratory illness.

Q: According to the new concept of ICOPE, elders have 'intrinsic' capacities. Can you explain what they are, how they are assessed and how they give elders a better quality of life?

A: A simple way is to assess the intrinsic capacity of an older person with a tool introduced by the WHO. Intrinsic capacity is defined as a combination of physical and mental capacities.

The functional ability of an older person is the combination and interaction of the intrinsic capacity with the environment a person inhabits. The following six key domains are assessed

- Mobility
- Vitality/Nutrition
- Vision
- Hearing
- Psychological - Depression
- Cognitive capacity- Dementia

The assessment of the six key domains of an individual with this tool at primary care level will lead to a more comprehensive assessment at tertiary care level.

The management of these older persons will result in improvement in the intrinsic capacity resulting in a functional ability at community level with appropriate modifications of the environment they inhabit.

Q: I understand that various interventions including an elderly friendly environment have already been made by the Health Ministry in conjunction with your Association to provide elders a better quality of life. What more needs to be done?

A: The new buildings need to fulfil certain criteria for approval. The buildings need to be disable-friendly and enable older persons to use the facilities.

The hospitals should have elderly friendly infrastructure. There is a need to build a society for all, not only for the young.

The authorities must give priority to create an elderly friendly environment. All these would prevent injuries to elderly and reduce dependency, leading to gains in the economy of the country in the long run.

Q: Do you agree that family doctors, mid wives, public health inspectors play a vital role in identifying the health needs of elders as they are the first point of contact for most elders?

A: Yes. To enable efficient geriatric care in the community, we need to strengthen primary care. The first contact health personnel need to have knowledge and skills in handling specific problems of the elderly. Most elders live in the community and not in hospitals, and frail elders in the community have difficulty in access to health care.

Strengthening of services by the first contact persons will help deliver health care to the doorsteps of the frail elderly.

Q: The theme of this year's motto is, 'Think wise and age well.' What are your plans for the future in this respect?

A: The Postgraduate Institute of Medicine is conducting training programs in Geriatric Medicine. Board certified Geriatricians will be available soon to take this specialty ahead. Training of other multiple disciplines is under way.

We should build more hospitals dedicated for elderly care. We need to strengthen primary care to deliver community care including home visits.

Informal care givers need to be complemented and encouraged to look after the elderly in their own homes preventing isolation of elders in places devoid of loved ones.

Q: Your message to elders?

A: All elders should maintain a healthy lifestyle, engage in exercise and have a healthy diet. It is important to have adequate amount of protein in the diet to reduce muscle wasting in old age leading to falls and fractures.

Maintaining good physical and mental activity with participation in social activities is very important to achieve active healthy ageing and prevent dementia.

Digestive changes with aging

The digestive system is a complex series of structures that use food to fuel and strengthen the body. It is one continuous tube from mouth to the anus, and reaches about nine metres (30 feet) in length. The goal of the digestive tract is to thoroughly break down the food we eat to extract the nutrients that keep us healthy.

The digestive system starts with the mouth, where food is chewed. The four different shapes of teeth help to grind, shred and tear food into small pieces in preparation for swallowing. Saliva mixes with food to moisten it and an enzyme in the saliva starts to break down starches. The tongue creates small masses of chewed food and moves them to the back of the throat in preparation for swallowing.

The esophagus moves food from the throat to the stomach. There are small seals at each end of the esophagus called sphincters, that open and close in response to movement of food through the system.

In the stomach, food particles break down due to the hydrochloric acid and enzymes produced in the stomach lining. The stomach also mechanically churns to help this process along. The acid is especially effective on proteins that need to be completely dismantled into amino acids before they can be absorbed into the blood stream. It takes about six hours for food to move through the stomach, although the timing can be affected by the amount of fat as well as the amount of fibre in the food. The resulting mixture moving out of the stomach is a wet, partially dissolved mass, ready for the next step in the small intestine.

Although this is a marvellous process, there are many possible "glitches" in the system, and problems develop more frequently with aging. The following is a list of just some of the disorders and conditions of the upper digestive tract:

Periodontal disease - Poor oral health, lack of brushing, flossing and regular dental check ups can cause gum disease, leaving teeth loose and damaged. Gingivitis is inflammation of the gums, caused by bacteria building up in plaque, and the more serious periodontal disease causes the inner layer of the gum and bone to be slowly destroyed. This can lead to extreme pain and poor food intake, ultimately requiring tooth removal and the need for dentures. Teeth in poor condition may be sensitive to very hot or very cold foods. There is evidence that bacteria in the mouth, resulting from poor oral health, has been associated with heart disease and dementia, and can make diabetes worse.

Saliva flow - We produce up to a litre of saliva per day, but saliva may be reduced with aging, making it more difficult to moisten food while chewing and swallowing. Less saliva also makes it more difficult to taste food, possibly affecting the person's overall food and nutrient intake. Medications can cause side effects, such as dry mouth, leading to tooth damage. Dry mouth is medically termed xerostomia.

Denture use - Dentures must fit correctly over the gums, to avoid rubbing and irritation that can lead to open sores. Dentures must also be cleaned regularly and frequently, to avoid food particles being trapped in the dentures or between the dentures and the gums. Food particles that are swallowed hours after eating can lead to symptoms of food poisoning.

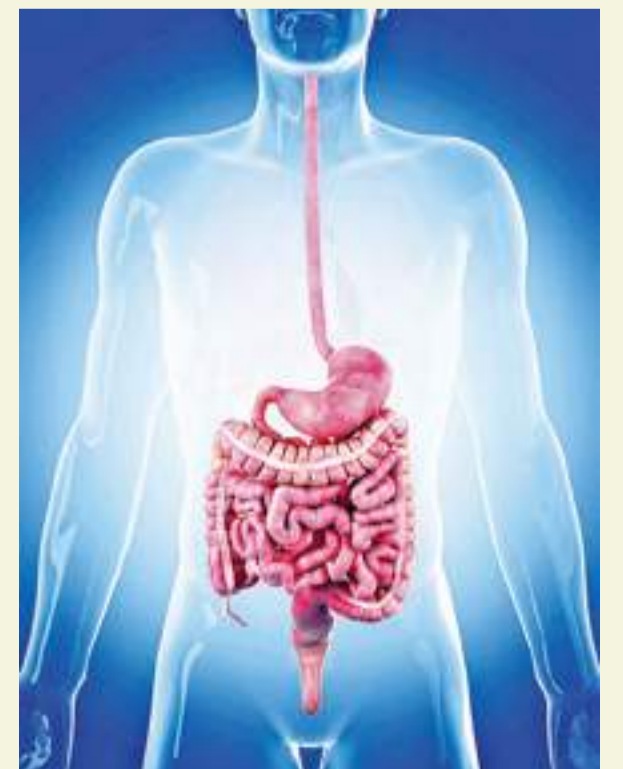
Dysphagia - Swallowing disorders can cause food to land in the trachea - the tube leading to the lungs, instead of going into the esophagus. Even though swallowing can take just a second or two, more than 50 muscles are involved. Dysphagia is often a result of dementia, stroke, Parkinson's disease and other medical conditions, such as cancer of the throat. Food may need to be pureed to a smooth homogeneous texture, to make it as safe as possible to swallow.

Reflux - Also known as heartburn, this is a problem with the lower sphincter of the esophagus. The highly acidic environment of the stomach can splash up into the esophagus if the sphincter is not tightly closed, causing pain or a burning sensation. This can be an occasional occurrence, but if it is an ongoing problem, it is better known as GERD - gastroesophageal reflux disease. Advice for reflux includes: eating smaller meals, avoiding caffeine and spicy foods, and sitting up for 30 to 60 minutes after eating. There are many antacids and other medications that help to relieve this problem.

Like all systems in the body, the digestive system gradually ages in its functioning, causing changes that can affect eating and nutrient intake. Due to dental problems, many residents in long-term care can no longer chew hard foods or thick, solid pieces of meat. For some frail seniors, even the act of chewing and swallowing can be tiring, so a softer texture increases the opportunity for intake of more nutrients in a meal. Food that is easier to digest still needs to have substantial protein and other nutrients.

Some seniors feel a loss of appetite, possibly due to reduction in the taste or smell of foods. This can be made worse with some medications. It is important to assess residents to ensure that they are able to get everything they need nutritionally from their meals before turning to liquid oral nutritional supplements. In long-term care, this is becoming known as the "food first" philosophy. Poor food and fluid intake can lead to a whole host of problems such as: frailty, unwanted weight loss, skin breakdown, greater risk of falls, and more. Assessing residents for chewing, swallowing, digestive problems, and any other reason for poor intake at meals and snacks, is the first step in setting up individualised interventions.

Seniors in long-term care greatly benefit from consistent daily oral care and visits with a dentist and denturist as required. Residents also need a quick resolution to gastrointestinal problems and complaints, with interdisciplinary team involvement - doctor, nurse, dietitian and front line staff all doing their parts to ensure that residents are eating and drinking, and for best quality of life. Internet



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY AT THE PRIMARY CARE LEVEL CAN IDENTIFY OLDER PERSONS WITH LOSS OF CAPACITY AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE CARE TO REVERSE OR SLOW THESE LOSSES BY FOLLOWING THE GUIDANCE OF ICOPE. THIS APPROACH IS SIMPLE AND LOW COST WHICH SUITS OUR COUNTRY

Cartoons / Puzzles

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**
- 1. (K) Common sandwich meat
 - 4. (K) "That lunch lady ..."
 - 7. (K) Bench for worshippers
 - 10. Painful cry of regret
 - 12. Low-diet filler?
 - 14. Checkup sound
 - 15. (K) Seed's bed
 - 16. (K) Fiona, for one
 - 17. Opposite of "post-"
 - 18. Next-to-last syllable
 - 20. (K) Correct, as a written mistake
 - 22. (K) Be a witness to
 - 23. Words between "step" and "the plate"
 - 25. A sweaty pin can be made on it
 - 27. (K) Simple double negative
 - 29. You, a thousand years ago
 - 33. (K) Good thing to travel on? (3 words)
 - 36. A type of terrier
 - 37. (K) It shares a border with Colombia
 - 38. Suited to the purpose
 - 39. (K) Searching for a GPS signal
 - 41. (K) Roof sealant
 - 43. "Goodbye, mon ami"
 - 46. Wet mouth features?
 - 49. Marshland
 - 50. Fix, as a pet
 - 53. (K) Aspirin form
 - 54. (K) Play a role
 - 55. (K) Adhesive product
 - 56. Words with "high standard"
 - 57. (K) Friend of Piglet
 - 58. (K) What the guide did
 - 59. (K) Decay to mush

- DOWN**
- 1. Briefcase fastener
 - 2. African plant used for many cosmetics
 - 3. Anchor or backbone, figuratively
 - 4. (K) Gentleman in a kilt
 - 5. (K) Broomstick rider of fables
 - 6. (K) Have to say, "Oh, I got that wrong"
 - 7. (K) Smurf with a beard
 - 8. (K) Simple listening devices
 - 9. (K) "This swing is great fun!"
 - 11. Turn on an axis
 - 13. (K) Red vegetable
 - 19. (K) Advanced, as cash
 - 21. Campus marchers, for short
 - 23. (K) Not yet hardened
 - 24. (K) Fill a glass
 - 25. (K) Post-wedding title
 - 26. "All systems go!"
 - 28. (K) Sound from a very clumsy person
 - 30. More vigorous or substantial, as a laugh
 - 31. Sixth sense some say is a gift
 - 32. (K) Powerful suffix
 - 34. Strike from print copy
 - 35. (K) Cuddly and adorable
 - 40. Banish from a position
 - 42. (K) Mountain peaks
 - 43. At a great distance
 - 44. Art ____ (building architectural style)
 - 45. "Out of the frying pan, ____"
 - 46. (K) Turned red, in a way
 - 47. Female choir member
 - 48. Thin strip of wood
 - 51. (K) Really good buddy
 - 52. (K) Huge primate

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

W	A	L	E	D	E	S	K	P	A	L
B	A	N	D	N	D	M	A	N	A	L
I	N	N	S	F	J	L	E	P	A	H
L	E	G	U	M	E	L	H	A	S	A
F	R	U	M	A	R	S	T	I	D	L
B	O	S	T	O	N	T	E	R	R	I
H	I	O	T	A	T	E	A	S	I	R
S	R	E	E	S	P	R	I	N	G	
H	U	E	S	P	A	T	P	E	E	
L	U	K	N	U	N	U	A	L	O	
N	E	T	S	P	A	N	S	E	N	D

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

18X		3-	
2÷		3+	1-
	1		
1	9+		

CHALLENGING

4	2÷		100X	3-	
3+	3-			2	
	10+	3÷	60X		
2÷		1-	3+		
	5		3÷	5-	3-
10X		3			

TODAY'S ANSWERS

1	4	1
2	3	1
3	1	4
4	1	4
1	4	1

1	9	5	2	5
1	9	5	2	5
2	1	5	4	6
2	1	5	4	6
3	5	1	6	2
3	5	1	6	2
4	6	2	1	5
4	6	2	1	5

RULES

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

WORKSPACE:

SUDOKU 226

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
		9	3	8				4
	3	8	6			5		
	4			8				
7								9
		7	2			6		
	6			3	7	8		
4								2

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Riddle:

Pronoun for a pond pen?

Last week answer:
1-A) Male

Last week's solution

9	4	6	2	8	7	3	1	5
7	5	1	6	3	9	8	2	4
3	8	2	1	5	4	9	7	6
1	9	5	4	7	8	2	6	3
4	7	3	9	6	2	1	5	8
2	6	8	3	1	5	4	9	7
6	3	4	7	9	1	5	8	2
8	1	7	5	2	3	6	4	9
5	2	9	8	4	6	7	3	1

DOONESBURY

by G.B. Trudeau

ALICE AND ELBERT ARE SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND A LADDER?

I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT, BUT IT WILL COME AT A BIG COST.

IT TOOK ME ALL MORNING TO FINALLY GET "IN THE ZONE" TO FIGURE OUT THIS BUG.

YOUR INTERRUPTION WILL SET ME BACK TO SQUARE ONE AND COST AN ENTIRE DAY OF PRODUCTIVITY.

MEANWHILE, THE REST OF THE TEAM CAN'T DO THEIR WORK BECAUSE THEY ARE WAITING FOR ME TO FIX THIS BUG FIRST.

SO YES, I CAN HELP YOU FIND A LADDER, BUT IT WILL COST THE COMPANY ABOUT \$12,000 IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY.

I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON TO NEED A LADDER.

I DO.

TEN MINUTES EARLIER

I WONDER WHAT CEILING TILES FEEL LIKE.

DILBERT

by SCOTT ADAMS

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND A LADDER?

I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT, BUT IT WILL COME AT A BIG COST.

IT TOOK ME ALL MORNING TO FINALLY GET "IN THE ZONE" TO FIGURE OUT THIS BUG.

YOUR INTERRUPTION WILL SET ME BACK TO SQUARE ONE AND COST AN ENTIRE DAY OF PRODUCTIVITY.

MEANWHILE, THE REST OF THE TEAM CAN'T DO THEIR WORK BECAUSE THEY ARE WAITING FOR ME TO FIX THIS BUG FIRST.

SO YES, I CAN HELP YOU FIND A LADDER, BUT IT WILL COST THE COMPANY ABOUT \$12,000 IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY.

I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON TO NEED A LADDER.

I DO.

TEN MINUTES EARLIER

I WONDER WHAT CEILING TILES FEEL LIKE.

Garfield

Garfield

FWAFFF

WELL, MIGHT BE ABOUT TIME TO PUT AWAY THE OL' POOL.

Calvin and Hobbes

Calvin and Hobbes

CAN I HAVE A DIFFERENT PLATE, MOM?

WHY?

SOMEONE PILED ON MINE.

JUST EAT YOUR DINNER AND KEEP CALM, OK, CALVIN?

UHM, THIS BITE MIGHT BE OK, FOR SOME REASON. I WAS ABLE TO CHOOSE IT BECAUSE, ANYWAY, MY STOMACH IS STILL CRAMPING UP, BUT THE PRINIS AREN'T AS SHARP ANY MORE. THE SECRET IS TO SUPPRESS THE GAG REFLEX AFTER I SWALLOW IT. I CAN STAND IT.

GOOD. I'M GLAD THIS IS SUCH A HIT.

OBSERVER EDUCATION

OCTOBER 11, 2020



LANKA COLLEGE OF FASHION, THE BEST...

PAGE 42



BRISTOL INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT...

PAGE 44



UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR WORLD...

PAGE 45



FATHER OF FREE EDUCATION

PAGE 46

Applied psychology reshapes your associates' lives and yours

Applied Psychology uses scientific and psychological principles and findings to study and solve practical problems of the human mind and behaviour. It is widely used in the fields of mental health, occupational psychology, business management, education, health, criminology and law.

Mastering Applied Psychology helps you self-actualise yourself first and subsequently it helps you empathise with your associates or clients. Empathising and sharing your life experiences with clients leads to the exploration of growth opportunities in their lives. Finally, it helps your clients reach the status of self-actualisation through the healing of their minds. This scientific and professional care path in Applied Psychology can be applied variedly on a one-to-one basis depending on relevant circumstances.



Dr. D.M.A. Kulasooriya

ability to imagine what someone else might be thinking or feeling. These capabilities start improving with your life experiences that take up a considerable number of years in your life. However, with the scientific knowledge and skills of Applied Psychology, you can learn and start empathising with people easily in no time.

Self-actualisation

Scientific learning in the field of Applied Psychology takes you through an experience that resonates with a therapeutic lifestyle and helps you realise your talents and potentialities. It also builds up confidence and vigor in your mind and body respectively to fulfill your needs and wants and finally to achieve the status of happiness or self-satisfaction.

Empathy

Understanding yourself helps you in understanding others. Empathy is the ability to sense other people's emotions coupled with the

thrilling and some can be terrifying at the same time. Additionally, hearing dramatic ones could also broaden our experiences and enrich our lives.

Healing minds

Sharing positive or negative life stories of others helps the client to understand the fact that life is a series of problems to be solved. Different people seek different ways to heal. Healing Minds Psychology is a psychological service that provides assessment, treatment, and counselling to individuals across all ages. It is an alternative to helping your mind stay healthy. There are many scientific principles and tools to navigate life's challenges and to manage your mental health, which is a precursor to realise your true potential in your life.

Exploring growth opportunities

In life, one must overcome obstacles in order to grow. Sometimes timing and circumstances are against it and it is inevitable that you will encounter some challenges that test your limits. However, if there is a silver lining that can be made visible with your professional skills, the client will understand the real and true potential which will lead them to break the barriers in life. Once the client gets a taste of it, he or she needs more and more and finally their growth opportunities can be fully exploited.

True happiness in life

"What does it mean to be self-actualised in the 21st century?" is the question that needs to be addressed by modern day psychologists. Continued freshness of appreciation, acceptance by the society, authenticity, purpose, perception of reality, humanitarianism, peak experiences, good moral intuition and creative spirit are some of the characteristics of self-actualisation. Self-actualisation causes true happiness inside you. True happiness is enjoying your own company and living in peace and harmony with your body, mind and soul. It is also a state of mind of constantly being in love with yourself.

Mastering Psychology helps you find true happiness in your life and helps others find their true happiness as well. It is something that you cannot create artificially yet it is a lifelong learning process and a way of experiencing the beauty of your whole life.

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Study at a top ranked university

ECU is ranked in the Top 100 for the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings and placed in the top 2.5% of universities in the world based on the 2021 Times Higher University Rankings.

Renowned for its teaching quality, ECU was recognised as the top public university in Australia for undergraduate teaching quality for the fifth year in a row (Australian Government's Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching 2020).

To learn more about what ECU Sri Lanka can offer you, visit ecu.edu.lk, or call 94 11 2555123

World ready student experience

Nestled in the heart of vibrant Kollupitiya, ECU's Colombo Campus provides modern facilities and amenities that cater to all student needs.

From a historical colonial brewery to bustling commercial hub, Kollupitiya is one of Colombo's most popular districts, with numerous shopping, dining and entertainment options, and a vibrant nightlife

On campus, our state-of-the-art computer labs offer students access to high-speed internet and industry level



software, and our extensive library and support services provide support and information to help you with your studies.

ECU has a wide range of recreation and special interest clubs on campus, many of them facilitated by the Student Council, including rugby, basketball, football and of course Cricket.

Courses on offer

ECU Sri Lanka courses are aimed at providing graduates with strong career pathways and employment opportunities. Focusing on collaborative learning and incorporating diverse perspectives, ECU students apply knowledge, problem solving and creative thinking skills to anticipate challenges and produce solutions in their chosen discipline.

- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Computer Science
- Bachelor of Design

- (Games and Interactive Design)
- Bachelor of Science (Cyber Security)
- Bachelor of Science (Nursing Studies)
- Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science)

ECU courses are developed in close consultation with industry to give students both theoretical knowledge and hands-on learning that will enable them to excel in their studies and future careers.

If English isn't your first language, we have additional support services that will help you thrive in an English-speaking environment.

Our supportive study environment and industry-relevant teaching ensure that students are fully equipped to solve real-world problems and graduate world ready.

Apply Online Today.



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Obtain an Australian Commerce Degree with ECU in Sri Lanka.

Edith Cowan University's Bachelor of Commerce program provides you with an opportunity to obtain an Australian Bachelor degree in Sri Lanka. Through the course of the degree you will refine your professional skills in the areas of leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, communication and problem solving, helping you to succeed in a variety of complex, competitive and dynamic global business environments.



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ECU.EDU.LK — ECU SRI LANKA CAMPUS



CA Sri Lanka's SL5 case study exam goes global

Amid a global shutdown following Covid-19, which limited air travel between countries, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) came to the rescue of its students working overseas by conducting the SL5 case study exam online in five countries.

The online exam was conducted in Qatar, Dubai, India, Bahrain, and Maldives where a sizeable number of CA Sri Lanka students are working and living. This was the first time a Sri Lankan professional body conducted an online case study exam overseas.

The students were able to access the exams online from either the convenience of their home or office, and they were strictly monitored by invigilators who utilised the MS Teams software. During the exam, the invigilators provided the candidates with the fullest support

by providing them instructions when required and rectifying issues in real time.

President of CA Sri Lanka, Manil Jayasinghe said that the online case study exam was a 100% successful initiative, and the Institute was looking at making the online case study exam a permanent option for the benefit of students who are working overseas.

"Due to the global recognition of the CA Sri Lanka qualification, we have a significant percent of our students working overseas. However, following Covid-19, these students faced an issue in returning to Sri Lanka as the airport is closed and so was unable to be here physically to sit for the case study exam, which is the standard practice," Jayasinghe said.

According to him, as a responsible world class professional body, CA Sri Lanka was quick to

introduce a feasible option so that the students will not be deprived from completing their course on time.

The online case study exam has been a common practice adopted by countries, such as US, Canada, UK, Japan and Ireland. "I am pleased to say that CA Sri Lanka was among the first Sri Lankan professional institutes to introduce this for the benefit of our students living and working overseas," he said.

CA Sri Lanka was also among the first professional institutes in the country to physically conduct an examination successfully following Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown. The Institute conducted the Business Level I & II examinations in August and September with over 10,000 students taking part in it, while adhering to strict health guidelines.



Advertorial

Lanka College of Fashion, the best learning solution SECOND INTAKE BEFORE OCTOBER 31

The textile and apparel industry has become one of the leading industries in the world. Fashion design is recognised as one of the main supporting services of the industry. Internationally, Fashion Designing is more popular as an aesthetic field with the demand for appealing, glamorous and exciting creations which have been bringing in to being by designers for centuries. In a country like Sri Lanka, Fashion Designing is more in to the technical side due to the production based nature of the clothing industry. Professional education is essential with experienced professionals to start up a career in the fashion field.

Lanka College of Fashion (LCF) is the best learning solution which has started operations on September 19 at 801A, Station Road, Ragama. LCF is a Fashion design learning center found by Subramaniam Anoja and Sisith Fernando joining hands with the Fashion Designers Nayana Nilanga B.Des(Hon) FD&PD Univerity of Moratuwa and Nisansala Karunarathne B.Des(Hon) FD&PD Univerity of Moratuwa. The opening ceremony was organised by the team LCF with leading individuals of Sri Lankan Textile and Apparel Industry; Darshi Keerthisena, the Creative Director of Buddi Batiks and design consultant, Gayan Yapa, the Director of Bondville (Pvt)Ltd, Sashirabha Wijesekara, the senior Fashion Designer and consultant, family members, associates and Friends of Anoja, Sisith, Nayana and Nisansala were also present at the Opening Ceremony.

Lanka College of Fashion prepares you to cater to the innovative and challenging needs of textile and apparel industry in Sri Lanka with student-centered creative programs and innovative teaching techniques while developing your career aptitudes.

Location of the institute has given an opportunity to the people who are



living off the city of Colombo; reach the best fashion design learning solution under one roof with qualified and talented academics. Fashion design is opened to everybody who has a passion of learning it in many ways. Choose the path you are interested in. Learn and polish up your innate skills, talents and experiences with LCF.

LCF I, the ultimate fashion design learning solution for School Leavers, university students, industry Professional, entrepreneurs and all of you,



who are interested in the field of Fashion Design.

Certificate programs

- Pattern making and garment construction - Men's wear
- Pattern making and garment construction - Women's wear
- Pattern making and garment construction - Children's wear
- Pattern making, draping & construction - Bridal wear
- Pattern making, draping & construction - Occasional wear
- Sari jacket pattern making & construction - Part -01, - Part -02
- Fashion drawing & illustrations
- Cad illustration
- Textile science & fabric surface designing
- Batik
- Hand embroidery
- Baby care products designing
- Knit wear foundation
- Sewing technology for garment industry
- Fashion marketing

LCF has started the first intake on September 26. Those who are interested in joining the college can get registered to the 2nd intake before October 31. Join LCF to brighten up your future by learning the best and start up your creative career

Nayana - 071208113,
Anoja - 0765870599
801A, Station Road, Ragama.

Post-Pandemic: How Sri Lanka can be a Maritime Education and Training hub?

BY PROF (DR) CAPT.
NALAKA JAYAKODY

Sri Lanka is truly a blessed maritime nation. The country's exceptional maritime services, quality of seafarers and relevant training institutions, strategic geographical location, abundant natural and human resources, among many others coupled with successfully fighting against the global pandemic puts the country in a perfect position to thrive in becoming a maritime education and training hub not just in the region but globally as well. This is an opportunity that should never be missed. It's the ideal moment for the Government to lobby with other countries, establish sustainable public-private partnerships, create awareness about this lucrative profession, integrate maritime education into the school curriculum, encourage prospects to pursue their maritime training at home than abroad, invest in a range of infrastructure and support systems, among many others. It's now or never.

Maritime transport

When we talk about maritime in general, it's probably the main mode of transport for global trade with around 90pct of traded goods being carried by ships. Despite many technological advances in this sector, the shipping industry continues to still dominate as the life blood of the global economy. Things such as intercontinental trade, bulk transport of raw materials, and the import and export of affordable food, essentials and manufactured goods would simply be impossible. Simply put, without shipping we would've all gone in hunger during this pandemic.

Seafarers

Globally there are over 54,000 merchant ships trading internationally, run by around close to 1.7 million seafarers, according to International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) figures. Somewhere in between 15pct-20pct out of the global seafarers are from Philippines, second to China. The industry accounts to over 3.6pct of GDP as per the stats released last year. Being a maritime nation, Philippines have done exceptionally well, setting a world-class example to all other countries.

In contrast, Sri Lanka is also regarded as a maritime nation with



Nalaka Jayakody

many natural resources and easy access due to its strategic location in the Indian Ocean. The country may even be boasting a much higher quality in maritime education and training, with many of our seafarers notably running merchant ships of all types and sizes all across the world. However, unfortunately over the years despite having around 17,500 active seafarers, we only have around 5,000 employed at any given time. This shows that 12,500 of them are idling without any vessels. Currently, these 5,000 seafarers earn about USD 300 million a year. Though it might be a small number, the quality of the profession is very lucrative compared to sending domestic workers such as housemaids to the Middle Eastern countries.

Quality of seafarers

The quality of seafarers has gradually reduced over the years and this has become a global concern today. This can be due to many reasons. Becoming a seafarer is highly competitive two or three decades ago. You have to be the best of the best to be considered and recognized as one. The profession is highly lucrative with high income, and only a very few are recruited onboard to international ships.

For example, many years ago in Sri Lanka, if you want to recruit around 25 cadet officers the employer would receive around 500 applications. This shows that one needs to be among the cream of the cream, with an exceptional skillset. Today, the employer will not even receive 25 applications. This is not just in Sri Lanka but globally. If we take a look at the news, there are more accidents and incidents on ships compared to those days. One reason is because of the quality of seafarers and the other

is because of their inadequate level of education and training.

Pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic has caused a lot of fatigue among seafarers globally. Usually a seafarers' contract is 4 to 6 months off-shore, then they return to land to take care of their family life and again go back to sea. Thousands of seafarers remain trapped at sea and some remain stranded even after twelve months or more onboard. Even according to the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), an employer cannot keep the seafarer for more than a year. The fatigue has forced many seafarers to cause quarrels and disagreements among each other which is naturally understandable due to the mental stress and illness the pandemic has brought about.

Crisis turned into opportunity

The pandemic has forced many maritime training providers globally to shut down, notably in UK, Europe, and Australia. This is an ideal moment for the country to market and open up to limitless opportunities in this area, at least by lobbying and inviting students and prospects from the SAARC region. Our qualifications and training are internationally recognized with a very affordable fee plan. This is the right time, under the country's current leadership, to start acting upon it. In my view if this leadership fails to act upon, I fear there will not be any opportunity in the near future.

Over the years, many prospective seafarers from Sri Lanka go overseas for their maritime training programmes and job opportunities. We could've easily discouraged this as we not only lose our talent pool and resource personnel but also in foreign exchange and economic growth. In my experience, Sri Lanka has highly qualified resource personnel even surpassing some of the best countries. Being an experienced seasoned seafarer having traveled to over 90 countries with exposure towards diverse cultures, I can confidently say that we have some of the best senior captains, officers, chief engineers, and engineers as trainers like nowhere else in the world.

To be continued on next week...



NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR UNIVERSITY ADMISSION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021 BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE G.C.E. (A/L) EXAMINATION, 2020

It is hereby informed that the University Grants Commission (UGC) decided to consider the students who will be sitting for the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination to be held in the year 2020 under new syllabus and old syllabus as two distinct populations as directed by the Supreme Court in SC (FR) Application No. 29/2012 in relation to students who sat for the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination in the year 2011 under new and old syllabi. Therefore, the UGC has appointed a Committee of Experts to propose criteria as to how the selection of students to universities is made for the academic year 2020/2021 based on the Z-Scores that will be obtained by them at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination in the year 2020.

Based on the recommendations made by the said Committee of Experts, the UGC in consultation with the Admissions Committee in accordance with the Section 15 (vii) of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 (as amended) made the following decisions.

- The percentage of students to be admitted to universities from those sitting for the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination under the **new syllabus** in the year 2020 for each degree programme (course of study) on district merit from each district and all island merit shall be the composite average percentage of students admitted to universities through their **first and second attempts** during the five year period from 2014 to 2018 for that particular degree programme (course of study) on district merit from each district and all island merit, respectively.
- The percentage of students to be admitted to universities from those sitting for the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination under the **old syllabus** in the year 2020 for each degree programme (course of study) on district merit from each district and all island merit shall be the composite average percentage of students admitted to universities through their **third attempt** during the five year period from 2014 to 2018 for that particular degree programme (course of study) on district merit from each district and all island merit, respectively.

Accordingly, the selection of students to universities for the academic year 2020/2021 based on the Z-Scores of the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination to be held in the year 2020 will be made in accordance with the above decisions subject to the rules and regulations to be issued with the Handbook on "Admission to Undergraduate Courses of the Universities in Sri Lanka" for the academic year 2020/2021.

Chairman
University Grants Commission
No. 20, Ward Place, Colombo 07.
11.10.2020

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Experience 2019

The Times and Sunday Times
Good University Guide 2019



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Advertorial

Bristol Institute of Management signs up with results training

Bristol Institute of Management best known for their visionary thinking, has in an innovative move, added experiential learning to their MBA program, making them the first in the market to do so.

COO of Bristol Institute Dilshad Jiffry said, "Companies today should ideally have an effective well-designed leadership skills development program on decision-making for managing challenging market situations. These should cover aspects, such as communication, thinking and acting systematically, influence, self-awareness, resilience and agility. Such insights will gear those in leadership positions to adapt and be ready to identify problems and craft effective solutions and successfully navigate their companies through volatile market conditions."

Bristol Institute of Management has taken the lead in equipping their MBA team of graduates comprising many middle management personnel from top blue chip companies and conglomerates, to get equipped with such skills so that they in turn can drive better results for the organisations they serve.

Bristol recently signed up with Results Training a company specialised in helping organisations and industries transform their human potential through experiential learning.

The leadership programs will focus on activities that include managing teams, ice-



COO of Bristol Institute Dilshad Jiffry with CEO of Results Training Faraz Farook

breakers, cooperative game sequence, goal setting, taking ownership and accountability and displaying leadership skills followed by certain psychometric assessments.

Feedback sessions are conducted through effective debriefing at the end of each activity. An evaluation is done both by the participants and their peers, that prompts leaders to assess their strengths and areas of improvement.

This form of experiential learning will help participants recognise their loopholes and become aware of their natural style of leadership through self-awareness exercises.

Dilshad Jiffry said, "When the learning process is structured based on the science of

experiential learning, the participants acquire knowledge by analysing and reflecting on their experiences after accomplishing an assigned task. In fact, the cycle starts from experiencing, then moving on to learning from the experience, reflecting on the learning's and transferring the knowledge to their workplace.

He added, "The training programs we have designed with Results Training will help middle management to introspect, re-identify and assess the skill gap and up-skill to suite the current times and be agile-ready to perform beyond the boundaries and cope-up with the present challenges. They will gain the understanding to identify the 'real' persona in others and be enabled to identify the strengths, weak-

nesses of their co-workers, subordinates and other stakeholders involved in their organisational growth."

CEO of Results Training, Faraz Farook said, "The strength of leadership is tested at the times of crisis and uncertainty. Leaders need at such times to have a clear mind and be present in the ground situation, to wholly observe what has caused the damage, how it can be rebuilt from scratch if necessary and look ahead while seeing the bigger picture in a situation. They need to look for new opportunities in the market even at times of a downfall. As employees always look up to the head of the organisation, true inspiration should spark from the leader to ignite the entire team. When the confidence is boosted amongst the employees, the right mindset will be employed. It is also important to bring out the 'can do' culture even when things aren't merry. It is important for the leader to become the source of motivation. This is what we try to inculcate through this training."

With a reputation for harnessing creativity and out of the box thinking, Bristol Institute of Management has set a new trend in the market through this initiative that promises to help participants of their MBA program achieve a new level of leadership skills and transform their capabilities to help achieve organisational growth during challenged times.

SLIIT helps students adapt to new normal



Understanding the importance of simulating a vibrant campus experience and peer-to-peer engagement despite Covid-19 challenges, SLIIT as Sri Lanka's leading non-state university continues to successfully help students adapt to the new normal.

Due to the pandemic, the higher education environment has been evolving almost daily. For students about to embark on a new journey, it may appear strange getting used to the new reality and adjusting to the new normal.

Maximising its mission to help students excel in education, SLIIT has worked hard to remain on top of the curve. This was mainly due to speedily initiating the changes necessary. As a result, SLIIT was among the first education institutions to adopt online teaching during Covid-19, introducing an advanced digital platform working to flatten the curve.

Hence, all regular academic and pastoral-care activities were maintained online. Making the transition with confidence, SLIIT was able to deliver live lectures to students via its online platform ensuring students followed their normal learning process.

This ensured that despite being a period of uncertainty, SLIIT was able to create an impactful online environment for courses and derived dynamic ways to remain involved in broader activities. Students were supported and remained engaged in a positive manner. Also during Covid-19, SLIIT students across the island were provided effective remote support and able to view recorded lectures and live lectures also through their mobile devices.

Blended learning in the form of face-to-face teaching with online learning was used to ensure the safety of all students and staff. The main objective of this was also to maintain so-

cial distancing while maintaining other Covid-19 guidelines.

During the transition period and after Covid-19, a hybrid method was adopted to enhance the efficiency. SLIIT adopted this hybrid method for some subjects while maintaining social distancing to deliver practical lectures.

Additionally, all other precautions, including practicing social distancing protocols, increased cleaning and sanitisation of college facilities, limited in-person events and social gatherings, health monitoring and constantly reviewing ground operations are carried out regularly to meet the challenges of Covid-19.

Gearing to the new normal, SLIIT was also successful in organizing its first-ever virtual orientation program for First-Year students. This offered students a personal and engaging experience marking the first chapter in their new academic life.

Despite limitations, SLIIT remains confident that the designed activities will be able to convey its essence online and achieve success in engaging new students from the time they enter the university as new students.

As SLIIT prepared to welcome its new intakes in the coming months, the institution has made every effort to ensure that despite teaching in new classroom environments feature unique challenges.

While committed to ensuring the safety of the students, whether they continue learning in-person or online, personalised support is at hand by academic and non-academic experts to help and support students with their individual concerns.

For further information and details of SLIIT programs and new intake, contact 0117544801, email info@slit.lk or visit www.sliit.lk

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA CALLING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW ENTRANTS

The University of Peradeniya will entertain applications from candidates who have met minimum eligibility criteria for registration for the 2020 Diploma in Management and Development Programme.

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OR
2. Passed two subjects in the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination with two years of working experience
OR
3. Passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination with four years of working experience
OR
4. Passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination with any other acceptable qualification to the Board of Management of the CDCE.

Application and instructions can be downloaded from the website of the CDCE (www.pdn.ac.lk/cdce). Duly filled in applications should be sent by registered post to the Deputy Registrar, Centre for Distance and Continuing Education, No. 43, Old Galaha Road, Peradeniya on or before 10.11.2020. Incomplete and late applications will not be entertained.

For further details please call 081-2392218.

Acting Registrar,
University of Peradeniya,
Peradeniya.

11th October, 2020

CA SRI LANKA'S 41ST NATIONAL CONFERENCE

'Navigating through shattered norms'



From left: Channa Gunasekara, Alternate Chairman of the National Conference Technical Committee, Sanjaya Bandara, Vice President of CA Sri Lanka, Tishan Subasinghe, Chairman of the National Conference Committee, Manil Jayasinghe, President of CA Sri Lanka, Anoji De Silva, Chairperson of the National Conference Technical Committee, Dulani Fernando, CEO of CA Sri Lanka and Danuka Cooray, Alternate Chairman of the National Conference Committee.

While staking claim to becoming the biggest challenge since World War II, the ripple effect of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) global pandemic has reverberated through every corner of the globe, including Sri Lanka resulting first in a health emergency followed by an economic crisis with many businesses fighting to stay afloat.

Bounded with uncertainty and as businesses and the professional community navigate through these unprecedented and unthinkable times, the dynamic role of the accounting professionals including Chartered Accountants has been redefined as the world battles to come out of the deepest recession in 150 years.

Undeterred by the pandemic, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) has set the stage for the 41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants to play an important catalyst role in helping inspire Chartered Accountants, including business leaders and c-suite executives to navigate through these extraordinary and challenging times of uncertainty.

The 41st National Conference which is dubbed Sri Lanka's biggest business summit will be held from December 2 to 4 at the BMICH, under the theme "Abnormal: Navigating through shattered norms."

For the first time in its four-decade long history, this year's conference will take on a hybrid format with a combination of traditional physical sessions as well as virtual sessions due to the prevailing Covid-19 global pandemic and due to the limited number of participants permitted this year at the venue.

Addressing a press conference organised to unveil the theme of this year's conference,



CA Sri Lanka President Manil Jayasinghe delivering the welcome speech



Chairman of the National Conference Committee Tishan Subasinghe addressing the media.



Chairperson of the National Conference Technical Committee Anoji De Silva elaborating on the rationale of this year's theme.

President of CA Sri Lanka Manil Jayasinghe highlighted that exceptional times, such as these call for exceptional measures. "Sri Lanka is known for its fair share of man-made and natural disasters, but Covid-19 is perhaps the biggest challenge we are facing in our lifetime. Therefore, it is imperative that professional bodies, such as CA Sri Lanka come forward to help navigate the professional community including Chartered Accountants through such uncharted territories," he said.

Jayasinghe said that the road to recovery both at a global and local level is likely to be long and arduous, but he was confident that Sri Lanka with the help of its dynamic business and professional community will overcome this challenge too, just like in the past. "These 'Abnormal' times are a reminder to us to understand the importance of thinking outside the box and moving away from our comfort zones. Abnormal is going to be our new normal and we need to adapt to change fast and remain innovative and creative, while utilising technology to the maximum advantage. Being agile to embrace the abnormal and rising above it to rebuild better and stronger businesses will be the key to success in the future," he said.

Every year, the National Conference attracts over 2,000 participants. However, the organisers are confident of attracting a larger number of delegates this year due to the hybrid format the conference will take on. The conference attracts some of the country's well-known business leaders and c-suite executives among other high-profile chartered accountants.

Chairman of the Conference Committee, Tishan Subasinghe said that the National Conference Committee was determined to go ahead with this year's conference de-

spite the challenging situation surrounding everyone. "I believe this conference will be an important platform to engage and assess the issues facing us all, and also explore solutions from the perspective of the accounting profession, how we can assist the corporate world to embrace the abnormal and create new and innovative businesses."

Subasinghe assured that health guidelines will be given utmost attention at the conference venue, and the arrangements will be in line with the Health Ministry approved regulations. "The safety of the delegates attending the physical sessions at the venue will be our top priority," he said.

Chairperson of the National Conference Technical Committee, Anoji De Silva said that despite the gloom since Covid-19, the pandemic has actually given many an opportunity to 'redefine' and come up with a new corporate culture which focuses on stakeholder capitalism and not just shareholder profit. "We must use the pandemic as an opportunity to redefine our values which will ultimately have a long-term sustainable benefit to all stakeholders," she said.

De Silva said that the technical sessions during the 3-day conference have been tailored to inspire participants to be motivated to look beyond the horizons and play a lead role in helping Sri Lanka rebuild in a post-Covid scenario. "The conference will be complemented with a high-profile line up of local and foreign speakers and panelists who will steer the technical sessions by sharing their insights and expertise on how to rethink and rebuild businesses in times where 'Abnormal' has become the order of the day and where the business norms that we were comfortable with has been shattered, giving us the opportunity to build better businesses," she added.



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Medium of Instruction : English
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How to apply:

Duly completed applications should be handed over or forwarded under registered cover to reach the Director, Confucius Institute, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Colombo 3 along with the deposit slip after paying Rs.1000/- as registration fee.

(Application forms and other related information can be obtained from the Confucius Institute Office or downloaded from <http://ciuc.cmb.ac.lk>)

For further information

Website : www.ciuc.cmb.ac.lk
Email : info@ciuc.cmb.ac.lk
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MSU is recognised by more than 40 countries, including UK, USA, Australia, Eastern Europe, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, Indonesia and India. MSU is rated as an 'Excellent University' by Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia; the first non-Japanese University to be accredited by ABEST 21, Japan; accredited by Accreditation Services for International Colleges (ASIC) UK. MSU is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka.

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Why should we follow PhD at MSU?

Management & Science University, Malaysia has established its Learning Centre (MSI) in Colombo to create better opportunities for Sri Lankan students to receive an excellent education at their home country. The research-based PhD program offered by MSU, meets the international standards by



complementing the thesis work with minimum of three internationally recognised refereed journal publications. The program is conducted as per the schedules provided by the University that consist a defence presentation, thesis work, work completion seminar and the final defence of VIVA. A Malaysian supervisor who is assigned by the university and local advisors guides PhD candidates. Monthly progress monitoring and all exams are conducted by MSU Malaysia.

Boasting an employability rate of 95% within 6 months of graduation, all MSU programs are specifically designed to cater to industry requirements and maintains their relevance to the market. MSU also takes the extra step to ensure that students are equipped with the required soft skills and competencies in addition to academic excellence. Providing an educational experience that incorporates theory with the required external exposure, MSU's commitment is not just to create qualified individuals but employable individuals.

MSU greatly contributes to the concept of Sri Lanka becoming an educational hub in the South Asian region through a vast spectrum of programs from Diploma to Degree to Postgraduate Studies to Masters, PhD's and MBA.

Dr. Lakith Peiris: Managing Director - Hemas Hospitals and Laboratory Chain, President Association of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes

A thought-provoking, challenging and enriching three years at MSU as a part-time PhD student enabled me to complete my doctoral studies successfully in exactly three years. I found both the academic and administrative staff at MSU Colombo and Malaysia to be extremely friendly and supportive. The environment was vibrant with



Prof. Dr. Prasadini Gamage: Professor in Human Resources Management, Department of Human Resources Management, University of Kelaniya

It is with great pleasure that I pen down this message as a successful PhD holder of the 1st batch completed doctoral studies at the Management and Science University of Malaysia (MSU) through the MSU Learning Center Colombo. For my doctoral studies, I selected one of the booming industries in Sri Lanka; the tourism industry and developed an HRM model to boost the performance of employees in star class hotels in Sri Lanka. In this dynamic environment, hotels have to rethink about their practices to respond to the customers' demands more efficiently and effectively. The findings derived from this study could provide insights to the management



of the star class hotel industry on the ways of how this sector could gain a competitive advantage and better perform through nurturing its HR by means of adopting High Performance Work Practices to face new challenges. I would like to express my sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to my supervisors, the Dean of the School of Business, MSU Malaysia, staff members at MSU Learning Center, Colombo for their invaluable guidance and support extended during the past three years.

For more information about MSU Ph.D and other programs (more specifically about the PhD intake in May 2018), contact Management and Science University, through our local Representative MSI Colombo on enquiry@msi.edu.lk Tel: 011 257 6900 / 011 257 6700 Hot line 077 0777 880, or visit us at No 300, Galle Road Colombo 3. www.msu.edu.my

lectures, workshops and training sessions by highly acclaimed academics. Their support, advice, patience, encouragement, insightful comments were invaluable for me to be successful in completing my PhD in such a short span of time. Being a part time student, holding high office in the corporate sector, spending quality time with the family, a challenging work environment and frantically juggling commitments each day was a daunting task. However, highly supportive staff and the supervisors at MSU assisted me in numerous ways to pursue my goal despite my hectic schedule.

My doctoral study was conducted on the impact of management control and the financial performance of the manufacturing companies in Sri Lanka. The research thesis was guided by two renowned Professors of Malaysia and Sri Lanka. "It is with gratitude that I state that the Management and Science University, Malaysia conducts its PhD programs within the stipulated time frame and it is worth the effort for a Professional."

Prof. Harendra Kariyawasam: Head - Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce - University of Sri Jayawardenepura

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Advertorial

HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES

Open University welcomes new students

The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) is ready to welcome a new cohort of students for its Faculty of Health Sciences.

We are the pioneer in distance learning education in Sri Lanka. If you have missed the opportunity to gain a degree after your A/LS, then, we are here to give you another opportunity in keeping with its vision to enhance university-level learning to professionals and those who are keen to learn. We offer education to persons regardless of geographic, economic or social circumstances. Since its inception in 1980, as one of the National Universities in Sri Lanka, the OUSL has opened its doors to many Sri Lankans keen on obtaining degree-level qualifications. With our experience in providing distance learning, you can read for a degree while working or you can pursue your higher education as a fulltime distance learner. It is a choice that will change your life.

As the premier Open and Distance Learning (ODL) institution in the island, with the same legal and academic status as any other National University in Sri Lanka, the OUSL offers a unique experience which not only gives you a sound understanding of subject knowledge but also instills other life skills as time management, self-organisation, confidence, independence and leadership which many employers have praised in our graduates.

Allied Health Science Degrees The Faculty of Health Sciences

We are one of the six Faculties at the OUSL and have reached a milestone in 2020 by completing five years since its inception as a faculty. We provide higher education to an excess of 4,000 students enrolled in the Honours degree programs offered by the Departments of Nursing, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Pharmacy, Basic Sciences, and Psychology and Counselling. The BSc Nursing, Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences and Bachelor of Pharmacy Honours Degree Programs allow career advancement to those already in the healthcare sector. The BSc Honours Degree in Psychology which is the most recent degree to be offered by the Faculty, beckons learners interested in the field to join the prestigious ranks of a healthcare professional. All these Honours Degree Programs are conducted in the English medium.

Teaching and learning

The Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode of teaching and learning

is based on self-study and independent learning where distance learners assume responsibility in initiating a self-directed learning experience. You will experience that regular lectures, a feature of face-to-face teaching at a conventional university, is minimal at the OUSL. Instead, you will have the opportunity to plan your studies according to your schedules as students learn through carefully prepared study material together with other forms of support that facilitate the self-study mode of learning. You will have discussion classes, online forums, audio visual support material complemented with compulsory practical exposure through laboratory and work-based training. In addition to subject specific knowledge, the OUSL is committed to helping learners of different ages and experiences to develop their competencies in independent learning, soft skills and English Language and computer skills through its Student Academic Readiness Training Program offered to all new students.

Nine Regional Centres

The OUSL consists of a central campus in Nawala, and we are also present in all nine provinces of the country. Our regional centres in Kandy, Mataara, Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Kurunegala, Batticaloa and Ratnapura offer study locations closest to you for selected learning activities. Though the OUSL is different in its teaching styles and the age groups of the student population, the degrees awarded are equal to those awarded by any other National University in Sri Lanka and are recognised internationally as well. Since 1980, the student body has increased from 3,000 to over 40,000, accounting to a large proportion of the total university enrolments in the country.

Affordability

The cost of the OUSL degrees are reasonable in comparison to other study programs available in Sri Lanka, since part of the fees are subsidised by the Government as it is one of the 15 national universities coming under the purview of the UGC, Sri Lanka. Also, the flexible scheme of payment allows students to pay annually, in two instalments. The OUSL provides financial assistance through several scholarships and bursaries based on merit and need.

Succeed as a graduate nurse

The OUSL's Bachelor of Science Honours in Nursing is the first Nursing Degree Program offered to the work-

ing professionals from a State University in Sri Lanka. This innovative program was launched in 1994 and has continued to enhance the knowledge, skills and favourable attitudes of nursing professionals enabling the provision of quality care in every aspect of nursing practice. A remarkable number of students are enrolled for the Nursing Degree Program and a large number of OUSL Nursing Graduates are rendering a great service to the health sector in Sri Lanka. In 2020 Convocation, a record number of 543 nurses would be graduating which will increase the total number of Nursing Graduates produced by the OUSL to 2,142 over the years. This Program is offered throughout the OUSL Regional Centre network providing an outstanding opportunity for nurses working in any part of the island to develop competency in nursing education, evidence-based nursing practice, leadership and management. The BSc Nursing Degree Program at the OUSL offers nurses a gateway to enter the global community of nursing and extend their experience and skills on par with nursing professionals in developed countries.

To be a pharmacist with a Honours Degree

Bachelor of Pharmacy Honours Degree at the OUSL was launched with the continuing and expanding demand for higher education opportunities for pharmacists already employed in the health sector. The major objective of this program is to develop a graduate with knowledge, skills and attitudes to become a competent pharmacist who can contribute to the needs and challenges in the pharmacy profession. Emphasis is also placed on developing critical thinking, communication skills, maintaining professional conduct, problem solving skills, ethical practice of the profession to suit the needs of the healthcare sector, academic and research fields.

Graduate with an Honours Degree while working as a Medical Laboratory Technologist

Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences Honours at OUSL offers opportunities for medical laboratory technologists (MLTs) to update their knowledge and skills in Medical Laboratory Sciences to suit the needs of the healthcare sector and for relevant academic and research fields. This program is therefore, an excellent opportunity for MLTs who have diploma level qualifications to become graduates and update themselves while

working in the government or private health sector. It is designed to create professionally competent individuals to engage in the fast-developing field of Medical Laboratory Sciences while recognizing their role in the assurance of quality healthcare provision.

Turn your interest in Psychology to a degree level qualification

Bachelor of Science Honours in Psychology Degree Program was launched for the first time in 2018 with the intention of widening opportunities for working professionals, adult learners as well as A/L school leavers to gain a degree with quality assured standards.

A degree in Psychology provides the first step towards becoming a professional psychologist in Health, Counselling, Developmental, Educational, Occupational and Clinical branches or any other sub-fields of the discipline.

The most attractive quality of a Psychology Degree is that it can be applied to a wide range of other professional areas such as social work, education, business, human resource management, consumer, media, advertising or any other field which involves public engagement. Understanding the human mind, body and behaviour interaction is important in successfully navigating through the life's myriad journey and that will be complemented by a first degree in Psychology while enhancing your career advancement and/or further education in the field.

This year, applications for the above four Honours Degree programs will be accepted from October 11 to November 11.

Applications for the Nursing, Pharmacy and Medical Laboratory Sciences are open for those health care professionals already possessing prior qualifications awarded by the Ministry of Health in the relevant fields, while the Psychology Program is open to those having only A/Levels in any subject stream.

All four Honours Degree Programs consider previous academic qualifications and grant exemptions on evaluation for selected courses. Enrolment in all four study programs is competitive and applicants are selected through an entry test.

For more information, visit <https://www.ou.ac.lk/faculty-of-health-sciences/or> drop an e-mail to pio@ou.ac.lk or visit the Central Campus at Nawala or any of its Regional/Study Centres.

Father of free education

By
Vasana
Abeynayake



"FREE EDUCATION IS NOT THE PATRIMONY OF THE RICH BUT THE INHERITANCE OF THE POOR"

Education gives us knowledge of the world around us. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life.

People debate over the subject of whether education is the only thing that gives knowledge. Public education should be universal and free to anyone, despite which of the social classes they are a part of. Education equals equality. Equal opportunities bring a sense of togetherness.

The notion of free and universal education, along with school choice, has been a topic that has been brought to our attention throughout the past few years, but has been present for decades. There are several debates regarding this topic. Some believe that education should be free and universal because education is something that everyone deserves. Some believe parents should have the choice as to which school they send their children to. Others believe that education should be something a person pays for.

The first thing that strikes about education is knowledge gain. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life. Some say education is the process of gaining information about the surrounding world while knowledge is something very different. They are right. But then again, information cannot be converted into knowledge without education. Education makes us capable of interpreting things, among other things. It is not just about lessons in textbooks. It is about the lessons of life. No child who is left behind changes the world for good!

However, in marking the birth anniversary of Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara, it is quite comforting to recollect the good old past days with the magnificent efforts of him in making the free education prosper in Sri Lanka. If not for Kannangara's vision, we would not have prospered so much in the field of education. Sri Lanka achieves great heights in professional fields from the valleys of defeat to the mountains of victory with the immense efforts of Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara against all odds.

Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara was born on October 13, 1884 in Randombe, Balapitiya. He studied at Wesleyan Missionary School in Randombe and later at Richmond College, Galle. He was an excellent all-round student, but had to undergo many difficulties at his young age.

He served as a teacher first and became a lawyer in 1910. He entered politics in 1919 and was the first Minister of Education in Sri Lanka. He introduced free education for all and started Central Schools. He served 16 years as the Minister of Education which marked a remarkable progress in the field. He passed away on September 23, 1969 in Colombo. He is known as the "Father of Free Education". Kannangara was first elected to the Ceylon

Legislative Council in 1923 and then to the State Council. He also served as the President of the Ceylon National Congress. Kannangara's significant achievements in areas of education have led him to be commonly referred to as the Father of Free Education in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Kannangara was determined to create a new education system for the country that would ensure equal opportunity for every child in the far off village or in the city, irrespective of the class, religion, ethnicity or the economic status of the family. He realised that education then was not standardised even though education in vernacular schools was free with grants provided by the government and buildings, equipment and even books provided by philanthropists in some instances. As Chairman, Dr. Kannangara guided the



SRI LANKA ACHIEVES GREAT HEIGHTS IN PROFESSIONAL FIELDS FROM THE VALLEYS OF DEFEAT TO THE MOUNTAINS OF VICTORY WITH THE IMMENSE EFFORTS OF DR. C.W.W. KANNANGARA.

members in the direction he envisaged with success, and received approval of the members to make those recommendations to the State Council: Education should be free from the Kindergarten to the University, the mother tongue should be the medium of instruction in the Primary Schools and English should be taught in all schools from the Standard Three. He insisted on a curriculum for the child which would develop the "child's head heart and hands" as in the education of emotions, education of intellect and the education for practical ability for the well-being of the child.

Granting free education up to secondary level will result in a higher level of job opportunity in the country. It is a way to extract revenue for the Government. In recent years, the countries with an increase in unemployment there is also an increase in crime and violence. Free education up to secondary level will reduce the crime rate. It will enable needy students to attend school and become someone of ambition and intelligence, so they can get a job.

NITC 2020 to foster digitally sustainable Sri Lanka

The 38th National Information Technology Conference (NITC), the country's flagship ICT event themed 'Towards a Sustainable Digital Sri Lanka' and organized by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) will be held on October 14 and 15 at the Shangri-La Hotel.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will grace the conference inauguration as the Chief Guest and ICTA Chairman Jayantha De Silva will be the Guest of Honour. Founder/CEO of 99X Technologies and Board Director of ICTA Mano Sekaram will deliver keynote addresses on the inauguration day.

A fireside chat with the key industry stakeholders: Prof. Kapila Perera, Secretary Education Ministry, Jayanatha De Silva, Chairman ICTA, Oshada Senanayake, Director General Telecom Regulatory Commission, on the Theme Digital Sustainable Sri Lanka Moderated by Indika De Zoysa, will be a key feature of the inauguration day.

CSSL National ICT Awards recognising outstanding national contributions by ICT Professionals of the country in the presence of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will also be a key highlight at the inauguration of the National ICT Conference 2020.

NITC 2020 also features an annual colloquium track in which more than 15 papers short-listed after an assiduous selection process will be presented by prominent local and international researchers on the third day of the conference. Computer Society of Sri Lanka President Prabath Samindra Wickramaratne said, "Rapid digital transformation is a key need of any country to stay ahead in today's globally competitive world. Sri Lanka has to be more proactive in digital policy making, adaption and use of digital technologies on all spheres of the society. NITC 2020 will be an international platform to deliberate latest developments, trends, and challenges of the digital era, and thousands of ICT practitioners are expected to gather at the largest and longest running annual ICT conference in the country.

NITC Conference Chair, Heshan Karunaratne said, "For the first time in history, we have a President who has a sound knowledge on technology advancements and has a vision to establish a digitally inclusive Sri Lanka, with a citizen-centric digital government for the



Prabath Wickramaratne



Heshan Karunaratne

convenience of every Sri Lankan. Therefore, we at CSSL have also considered our theme in line with this vision and are working closely together with ICTA and other industry partners towards making this event a success. There will be several panel discussions on Sri Lanka's Digitalisation journey."

This year's version of the NITC will be focused on positioning Sri Lanka as a digitally sustainable nation. As the Government strives for rapid digitalisation of the country, NITC 2020 is held to create a common platform for effective interaction among all stakeholders locally and internationally. NITC 2020 has lined up over 25 international and local speakers under the themes Industry 4.0& IOT, Robotics, AI, Deep Learning and Digital Health, Towards USD 3 Billion Journey, Sustainable Digital Innovations, Digital Payments and Digital Media.

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) established in 1976 is the apex body representing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) professionals in Sri Lanka. The CSSL organises the National Information Technology Conference (NITC) annually, which is the flagship ICT event in Sri Lanka. Last year, the event was Sri Lanka's biggest ever international ICT event. This event involves key ICT decision makers in private and public sector together to share and discuss latest trends in Information and Communication Technology with over 30 foreign and local speakers and 1,500 plus ICT professionals.

The Conference is organised under the leadership of Prabath Samindra Wickramaratne, President CSSL. The Conference Chair is Heshan Karunaratne, while Professor Koliya Pulasinghe spearheading the academic track and colloquium of the conference NITC 2019 will be supported by Presidential Secretariat and Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka as the National Partner.

This year's event would also not be possible if not for our dear sponsors. Huawei is the Platinum Sponsor and Sri Lanka Telecom and Mobitel are the joint Principal Sponsors. Bank of Ceylon is the Banking Partner and CryptoGen, SLIIT, Axiata Digital Labs also have joined in as sponsors.



Win-Stone Alumni holds blood donation

A blood donation campaign organised by senior graduating batches at the Win-Stone School of Culinary Arts was held on September 23 to aid Apeksha Cancer hospital in Maharagama. About 150 students took part in the event. They also took part in a religious event. The Covid-19 pandemic left a gap in blood supplies to hospitals due to travel restrictions.





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 - Diploma in Nursing awarded by the OUSL, or,
 - Three (03) year Diploma in Nursing awarded by any other institution recognized by the Ministry of Health or any other government regulatory body in Sri Lanka or any other country with minimum of two (02) years working experience
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- Obtained:
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 - Minimum Simple Pass (S) for English at the G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination, Sri Lanka
 - An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate
 AND,
- Pass the Selection Test (Computer based) and be eligible for admission based on the Merit List of the selection test marks.
 *Selection test paper of one-hour duration will comprise of General Knowledge, IQ, English Comprehension & Nursing related questions.



Each OUSL Regional Centre will be first assigned a minimum quota of 30 places, which will be filled based on the Merit List of the respective Regional Centre. Remaining places available for admission will be filled based on the Overall Merit List. To be eligible for selection on the Overall Merit List or Regional Centre-Level Merit List, the candidate has to score a minimum of 50 marks at the Selection Test. A candidate can only apply to the Regional Centre which is nearest to their place of work or to their permanent residence.
Selection Test (Medium - English): 05th & 06th December 2020



Bachelor of Pharmacy Honours

Admission Requirements

- Certificate of Proficiency in Pharmacy, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka or Diploma in Pharmacy, University of Colombo or Certificate of Efficiency in Pharmacy, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
- Minimum of three (03) Pass grades in one sitting at the G.C.E. A/Level Examination, in the Science stream including a Credit pass (C Grade) for Chemistry,
- Minimum of S Pass for English at the G.C.E. O/Level examination
- An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate
- Pass the Selection Test and be eligible for admission based on the merit list of the selection test marks.

* Selection Test (Paper based) of one hour duration will comprise of General Knowledge, IQ, English Comprehension & Pharmacy related questions.

Selection Test (Medium - English): 22nd November 2020 (11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon)

Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences Honours

Admission Requirements

- Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
- Minimum of three (03) Pass grades in one sitting in the Science stream including Chemistry at the G.C.E. A/Level Examination, Sri Lanka
- Minimum Simple Pass (S Grade) for English at the G.C.E. O/Level examination, Sri Lanka
- An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate
- Pass the Selection Test and be eligible for admission based on the merit list of the selection test marks scored

*Selection test paper of one-hour duration will comprise General Knowledge, IQ, English Comprehension & Medical Laboratory Science related questions.

Selection Test (Medium - English): 22nd November 2020 (09.30a.m. to 10.30a.m.)



Bachelor of Science Honours in Psychology

Admission Requirements

- Obtained a minimum of:
 - Three (03) Pass grades in one sitting at the G.C.E. A/Level Examination, in any stream of study, or,
 - C grades or equivalent of 60 credits among the Foundation Courses of the OUSL in Science/Social Sciences, or,
 - An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate
 - S Pass for English at the G.C.E. O/Level examination
 AND,
- Pass the Selection Test which includes a 90 minute Computer-based Theory test (General Knowledge, Reading Comprehension & Basic Writing Skills) and a Viva Voce (Oral Examination). Candidates should obtain a minimum of 50% each for the Theory test (Part 1) and the Viva voce (Part 2), to be eligible for selection. Limited number of candidates will be selected on merit basis.

Computer based Selection Test (Medium - English): 28th November 2020 (Duration 90 minutes)
Viva voce 14th, 15th & 16th December 2020 -08.30a.m-4.30p.m (only in Colombo Regional Centre)



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All entry criteria should be fulfilled on or before the date of registration of the relevant degree programme and compulsory to sit for the Selection Test.

For further details, download the Faculty Prospectus: <https://www.ou.ac.lk/faculty-of-health-sciences/>

For further information contact :

Public Relations Office, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. (on all days except Public Holidays)

Visit any of the OUSL Regional & Study centres from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. (on all days except Sundays, Mondays and Public Holidays)

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Registrar, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda.

Advertorial

Union Assurance marks World Children's Day

SISUMAGA+ CHILDREN'S DAY IN KANDY

The Kandy city was abuzz with fun and frolic on October 1 with the Union Assurance Sisumaga+ Children's Day at the Kandy City Center. The event was action-packed with art competitions, photo booths and other fun activities which took place throughout the day from 10 am 5 pm. Children and parents turned up in large numbers to be a part of the event.

The highlight of the event was the art competition titled Loku Wunama Mama (When I Grow Up), where children could show off their skills and stand a chance to win prizes. All chil-

dren participated in the competition sharing their thoughts on what they wanted to be when they grow up.

Union Assurance recently launched Sisumaga+, a unique protection-based plan specially designed to ensure uninterrupted education from childhood through to university. Sisumaga+ is for parents who wish to make provision for their child's academic expenses for University or tertiary education, ensuring that the higher education costs are met, even in the unfortunate circumstance of a possible demise of the parent



Participants at the Children's Day program organised by Union Assurance



Sysco LABS - Educate Lanka announces successful partnership on mentoring program

In 2017, Sysco LABS partnered with the Educate Lanka Foundation (ELF) to launch a mentorship program that serves as a blueprint for structuring career guidance for young people in Sri Lanka. Through the Educate Lanka Mentorship and Skills Development Program, three mentors from Sysco LABS were matched with young mentees chosen by ELF- and the results stand testament to the importance of a structured program to guide promising youth in Sri Lanka.

Take Supun Muthantrige and his mentee Solomon Jayasena for example. Supun is a Senior Software Engineer at Sysco LABS, while Solomon was a student. Over 10 months and with the help of a structured program developed by ELMP, Supun guided his mentee to become a successful entrepreneur. As a result, Solomon started his own business and has secured key clients from the USA. He said it was a turning point in his life, adding, "ELF introduced me to a great mentor and program. It has been so impactful that I try to share my story by visiting as many schools with less privileged students as I can, encouraging them to find mentors of their own." For his part, Supun said that he "has a lot of confidence in Solomon- "The Educate Lanka mentoring program allowed me to work with some of the bright-



Supun Muthantrige with his mentee Solomon Jayasena

est minds in university. I believe that Solomon will become a successful entrepreneur in the future."

They are just two of the participants in the Mentorship and Skills Development Program developed by ELF and Sysco LABS. This unique social-private partnership model is aimed at supporting the incoming generation of professionals beyond financial intervention. The program (ELMP) aims to further empower these students by pairing them with professionals in their chosen industries and taking them through a 10-unit course developing their personal and professional skills.

tored Dulip Chandana echoed similar sentiments, saying "The program provided the resources and guidelines necessary while also giving us the flexibility to bring our own experiences to the mentoring sessions to make the interactions more genuine, authentic and interesting."

Manjula Dissanayake, Founding Executive Director of Educate Lanka said, "Our partnership with Sysco LABS has been an ideal example of how social-private partnerships can advance a country's development by producing educated citizenry and economic actors who embrace their role and responsibility to each other and to the larger society as global citizens. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership with Sysco LABS while joining with other like-minded corporate partners as we strive to unearth Sri Lanka's full potential." ELF is a global peer-to-peer micro-scholarship program, which matches sponsors with socio-economically disadvantaged youth in Sri Lanka, enabling them to complete their higher education. Initially established to prevent student dropouts, Educate Lanka empowers disadvantaged youth by increasing access to education, mentorship, employment opportunities and providing them with essential tools and skills. To date, Educate Lanka has sponsored over 4,500 years of education of 1,200 students through nearly Rs. 70 million in micro-scholarships while over 500 of them have completed their higher education and gained employment.

To learn more about the program and the association behind it, contact Dhanu Amarasinghe, Country Director, ELF Sri Lanka at dhanu@educatelanka.org and/or Seevali Ratnakara, Manager, ELF Mentorship Program at seevali@educatelanka.org.



Stefhan Sebastian with his mentee Sampath Ganegala



Pubudu Dodangoda with his mentee Dulip Chandana

Entry requirements for Masters Degrees

Considering postgraduate study, but unsure whether you meet the entry requirements for a Masters-level degree? Postgraduate admissions guidelines vary by course and university, but can be quite flexible.

Your qualifications will be important, but you don't necessarily need a great Bachelors degree to apply for a Masters. Your personal circumstances and experience may also be considered during the admissions process. This guide explains the typical entry requirements for a Masters, which include:

- An undergraduate degree in a relevant subject - Depending on the program and institution, you may need a 2.1 in your Bachelors, but this isn't always the case
- Language proficiency - If English isn't your first language, you'll need to display a certain ability level, usually through a language test
- Professional experience - Some postgraduate programs may require you to have some professional experience (this is usually the case for PGCEs and Masters in Social Work)
- Entrance exams - These are only required in certain subject areas and qualifications, including some MBAs

Academic qualifications

As postgraduate qualifications, Mas-

ters courses are intended for students who've already completed a Bachelors degree or other undergraduate course. These existing qualifications show prospective universities that you have the knowledge and academic ability to succeed at Masters level. As such, your previous degree results may be one of the most important entry requirements for postgraduate courses.

A Bachelors (or other undergraduate) degree

Most UK universities require applicants to have a Bachelors degree in a relevant subject. International applicants should hold an overseas qualification of a similar standard, from a recognised higher education institution.

You'll normally need an upper second class degree or its equivalent for entry to a Masters degree. Some universities and courses also accept students with lower second class degrees.

In extenuating circumstances, it might even be possible for a student with a third class degree to continue to postgraduate study. Note that some Masters courses do not specify the exact grade required, and instead request applicants with a 'good honors degree'.

Pre-Masters courses

Some universities offer Pre-Masters courses, which provide students with the chance to improve their skills in or-

der to meet the academic requirements for postgraduate study. Pre-Masters courses may be offered to international students, to help improve their research skills and academic proficiency in the English language. The Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma

In some cases, a university may ask a student to complete a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) or Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) before registering on the corresponding Masters. This might be the case if a student doesn't have the necessary academic qualifications to enroll on a Masters course straightaway. The Diploma is itself a postgraduate qualification, and is usually shorter than a full Masters course. Boosting the Diploma to a full Masters is often just a case of carrying out a postgraduate dissertation, but this varies course by course.

Relevant experience

If you do not have the undergraduate degree required by a Masters course, this isn't necessarily the end of the world. Nor should you panic if you are a mature student, or returning to postgraduate study after a hiatus.

Some universities are willing to consider applicants who do not have the standard requirement of a good undergraduate degree, as long as they have other relevant qualifications or experi-

ence. This is particularly true of vocational courses, such as Creative Writing or Journalism, which require the applicant to demonstrate a set of practical skills.

If a candidate has, for example, already spent a period of time working in the industry, or has had work published, this may prove that they have both pre-existing experience, and a real passion for their course.

Ideally, candidates should show both academic qualifications and practical experience in their chosen field.

Language proficiency

If you're studying a Masters abroad, or studying a course that isn't delivered in your first language, you may need to demonstrate language proficiency as part of your admissions process.

This is usually done through a postgraduate language test. These assess your ability to speak, read and write in a specific language at a level sufficient for postgraduate study.

Note that simply having some proficiency in a language may not be enough. In order to gain admission to a foreign-language Masters you'll need to be able to comprehend and communicate complex concepts in this language. Some existing language proficiencies may be accepted as evidence - such as professional experience or previous pe-

Be a Lab-Star and assist Doctors in saving lives

If you have a liking for the medical field and wish to join the world of tests, results and life-giving solutions for patients, then a career path in MLT may just be right for you!

In the end, you are the only one who can answer that question, Is a Career as a Medical Laboratory Technician good for me?

We at PATHE Academy understand what an important question that is! Here are just a few criteria for you to understand what a MLT Technician entails.

1. You Love Science
Since you were a child, Science fascinated you. You would play with tubes and coloured chemicals and imagined many interesting concoctions. You developed this love as you grew older and now it has become quite a passion.

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You will also have a holistic vision that you are part of a life-saving medical team!

3. You are okay with repetition
If you do not mind repeating the results and doing the same task repeatedly, then this job is up your alley, so to speak!

4. You are a back-stage Star!
If you do not mind not being in the spot-light and do not crave for the spotlight like some doctors and surgeons, then this is the type of job that will make you happy!

5. You get a buzz from Technicalities in Lab-Science

If you love preparing solutions, collecting samples, examining cells, analysing data and test results, crafting charts, reports and graphs, discussing and reporting results with doctors and other



medical personnel and if you like to look after a lab meticulously, then you have passed the test in terms of choosing the right career path.

After reading this article and if you will probably feel a tinge of excitement running in your veins, then you should take the next step and enrol in our MLT program at PATHE Academy. We have something special brewing for those 'wannabe' Lab Technicians!

Apply now for our next intake in October 2020.

Medical Professionalism
You will be tutored by the pioneers in the health-care industry and will enjoy the interaction with other like-minded science professionals. Our affinity to Park Hospitals which is managed under the UN Consortium will give you the added benefit of working in a private hospital under professional supervision.

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If you think of Covid-19 and the global impact it has had on the health science industry, you will be proud to know that MLT Technicians have been in demand to support the doctors quell a global pandemic!

We can arrange referrals from our past students who have been successful and are entrenched in private hospitals. You can meet with them and get more insights to your future aspirations!

PATHE Academy is located at No. 7 Rajaguru Sri Subhuthi Road, Wellawatte. Call us on 0720259426 or visit!



riods of study. Language requirements (and tests) differ slightly in different countries.

English language requirements

If you're studying a Masters in English as a second language, you may be expected to take an English test as part of the admissions process for a Masters program. (This is likely in countries like the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand and parts of Canada).

Tests prove that you have an appropriate level of written and spoken English, and ensure you would not struggle to understand a Masters course taught in English.

There are several different types of English exam. The most common of these are:

- IELTS (International English Language Testing System)
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- Cambridge Assessment English's C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency
- PTE Academic (Pearson Test of English)

Other requirements

Wondering what else might be required to study a Masters? Here's a sum-

Entrance exams

A small number of courses require applicants to take subject-related tests as part of the admissions process.

Examples of these are the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) which is required by some MBAs and other management programs, and Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) which are sometimes required if an applicant hasn't studied in the UK before.

Financial requirements

You may be required to show evidence that you are aware of the cost of your Masters, and of how you plan to fund the course. For example, your funding might come from personal savings, a postgraduate loan, a scholarship, a charity, or even crowd funding.

Attending an interview

Some courses require applicants to attend an interview as part of the postgraduate admissions process. This is an excellent opportunity for applicants to prove that they're passionate about their subject, and that they have what it takes to flourish on a rigorous postgraduate course.

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2. Having completed the Intermediate Certificate of a recognized professional Chartered Institute, of which the subject area is relevant to the post.
 AND
 01 year post qualifying service experience in the subject area relevant to the post.
3. 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.
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- Possess minimum of 3 years' experience in a similar position in a reputed brand-based organization.
- Experience in FMCG industries would be an added advantage.

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CONSULTANCY TITLE: Designing a Marketing Strategy for the Center for Cooperative and Community Studies (CCCS, SANASA Campus)

SANASA Campus intends to hire a Consultant to carry out a short-term mandate aimed at developing a 3-year marketing plan for its Center for Cooperative and Community Studies (CCCS), based in Kegalle, Sabaragawuma Province. The marketing plan is expected to promote the training and other non financial and business development services that were developed under the EFECs Project funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by SANASA International.

The Marketing Consultant will be responsible for the designing and implementing of a marketing strategy and action plan for the CCCS's. The Consultant shall develop the strategy with the objective to achieve competitive advantages by taking into consideration the cost, quality, time and flexibility dimensions as well as the marketing mix.

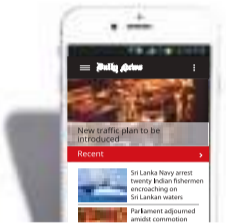
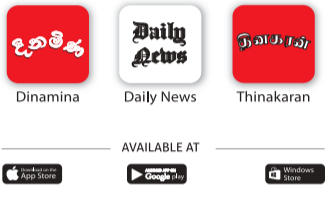
The assignment shall be conducted over a 6-month period.

Further details can be obtained by sending an email to info@sefec.lk and requesting for the Terms of Reference for the above consultancy.

Closing date for receiving responses will be 25th October 2020.

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**MINISTRY OF PLANTATION
TEA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA**



TEA RESEARCH BOARD

VACANCIES

Post of Estate Medical Practitioner, St. Coombs Estate, Talawakelle

Applications are invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka for the above post.

Job Description

Maintaining a Healthy Work Force by attending to their day-to-day medical needs under the guidance of Superintendent, St. Coombs Estate. Also, should be able to maintain all relevant documents and co-ordinate health service with Health Department.

Educational Qualifications:

GCE (O/L) Examination with English & Arithmetic/Mathematics (This will not apply to those who have experience in the Trade)

&

Registered member of the Ceylon Medical College Council

Experience :

4 years' experience as a Junior Estate Medical Assistant (JEMA).

Salary Scale:

Rs. 32,320/= - 1x350x40 - Rs. 86,320/= p.m.
Annual Increment: Rs. 1,350/=

Age:

Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.

The post is permanent. The selected candidate will be required to work at St. Coombs Estate, Talawakelle or any other Estates managed by the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka as per the service requirements.

Application giving full **Curriculum Vitae** along with the copy of Birth Certificate, copies of relevant Educational and other Professional Qualifications, Service Certificates and the Names and Addresses of two Non-Related Referees who can assess the applicant skills and knowledge in the relevant field, should be sent under registered cover to reach the undersigned **on or before 26th October 2020**.

Applications from officers in the State Service/Corporations/Statutory Board should be forwarded through the Head of the respective Institution. Non conformity with this requirement will result in the application being rejected. Also state the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Kindly visit Tea Research Institute's website www.tri.lk for information.

**The Director
Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka,
St. Coombs, Talawakelle.
05/10/2020**

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**MINISTRY OF PLANTATION
TEA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA**



TEA RESEARCH BOARD

VACANCIES

Applications are invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka for the following post at the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Talawakelle.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR

Job Description

Responsible for coordinating, monitoring and evaluating research and development programs with Deputy Directors, Research and Extension, and for planning, monitoring human resource development activities of the Research, Technical and other staff in Research Divisions/Units, Extension Divisions and perform other duties delegated by the Director.

External:

A four(04) year special degree with a first class or second class upper division in Science/Agriculture or Engineering from a recognized University and a PhD degree in relevant discipline.

AND

At least eighteen (18) years of research experience at managerial level and management or extension experience in a recognized Organization, of which ten (10) years should be after obtaining PhD degree and three(03) years at senior managerial level with a proven track record.

AND

Should possess a proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams of research scientists/extensionsists. Experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources will be an added qualification.

Internal:

A four(04) year special degree in Science/Agriculture or Engineering with a second class division from a recognized University and a PhD degree in a relevant discipline **AND** three(03) years satisfactory service as Deputy Director Research/Extension **OR** six(06) years satisfactory service as a Head of the Division/Principal Research Officer/Principal Advisory Officer of TRI.

OR

A degree in Science/Agriculture or Engineering with a two(02) years postgraduate research degree, and PhD degree in relevant discipline **AND** three(03) years satisfactory service as Deputy Director Research/Extension **OR** six(06) years satisfactory service as a Head of the Division/Principal Research Officer/Principal Advisory Officer of TRI.

AND

Proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams of research scientist. Experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources will be an added qualification.

Salary Scale:

HM 2-1 (2016) (1) Rs. 91,645/= - 12x2,700 - Rs. 124,045/= p.m.

Age:

Should not be less than 40 years and not more than 50 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates.

Method of Selection: By a Structured Interview.

Other Benefits:

- A rent free furnished quarters will be provided at the Tea Research Institute, Talawakelle.
- Medical benefits available according to the prevailing rules of the Institute's Medical Scheme.
- Provident Fund: The selected candidate will be required to contribute 10% of the salary to the Staff Provident Fund while the Institute will contribute 15%. The Institute will also contribute 3% to the Employees' Trust Fund.
- Two domestic labour units (One-Indoor & One-Outdoor)
- Other fringe benefits applicable to the post in the Tea Research Institute.

The Post is permanent. Application giving full **Curriculum Vitae** along with the copy of Birth Certificate, copies of relevant Educational and other Professional Qualifications, Publications in Scientific Journals & other evidence in relation to innovative skills, managerial & administrative competencies (if available) and the Names and Addresses of two Non-Related Referees who can assess the applicant skills and knowledge in the relevant field, should be sent under registered cover to reach the undersigned **on or before 26th October 2020**.

Applications from officers in the State Service/Corporations/Statutory Boards should be forwarded through the Heads of the respective Institutions. Non conformity with this requirement will result in the application being rejected. Also state the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Kindly visit Tea Research Institute's website: www.tri.lk for information.

**The Director
Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka,
St. Coombs, Talawakelle.
05/10/2020**



**MINISTRY OF PLANTATION
TEA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA**



TEA RESEARCH BOARD

VACANCIES

Applications are invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka for the following posts at the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Talawakelle.

1. RESIDENT ENGINEER

Job Description

Responsible for overall planning, estimation, constructions, maintenance and design of all civil, electrical and mechanical works.

External:

A Bachelor's degree in Engineering (Civil) from a recognized University

AND

Three (03) years post qualifying experience

OR

NDT certificate in (Civil) or National Diploma in Engineering Sciences (NDES) with eight (08) years post qualifying experience in Civil Engineering work in a government or recognized private Institution

Internal:

Engineering Assistant (Civil) with a minimum of five (05) years satisfactory service in Grade I of Junior Manager category.

Salary Scale:

MM 1-2 (2016) Rs. 54,550/= - 10x1,375 - 15x1,910 - Rs. 96,950/= p.m.

Age:

Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates.

Method of Selection: By a Structured Interview.

2. TECHNICAL OFFICER (RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT)

Job Description:

Responsible to carry out the activities of technological nature to facilitate, support and supplement the managerial work and the technological work of the Institute.

External:

- Three(03) passes in GCE (A/L) in Science in one sitting and GCE (O/L) with six (06) subjects in one sitting with four(04) credits for Mathematics, Science and Language (Sinhala/Tamil and English).

AND

- A two(02) year Diploma in a relevant field not below than the NVQ Level 5 from a recognized Institution approved by the UGC.

Internal:

Same as for external candidates.

Salary Scale:

MA 2-2 (2016) Rs. 30,310 - 10x300 - 7x350 - 4x600 - 20x710 - Rs. 52,360/= p.m.

Age:

Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates.

Method of Selection: By a Written Competitive Examination and a Structured Interview.

**** Those who have submitted applications to the post of Technical Officer (Research & Development) as per the paper advertisement appeared on 16th June 2019 need not re-apply ****

Other Benefits:

- Accommodation (fully furnished quarters/hostel rooms) will be provided if available or an allowance will be paid in lieu of accommodation.
- Medical benefits available according to the prevailing rules of the Institute's Medical Scheme.
- Free transport will be provided for urgent medical treatment according to the Institute's guidelines.
- Transport will be provided every weekend to Colombo and Kandy from St. Coombs, Talawakelle.
- Provident Fund: The selected candidate will be required to contribute 10% of the salary to the Staff Provident Fund while the Institute will contribute 15%. The Institute will also contribute 3% to the Employees' Trust Fund.
- Other fringe benefits applicable to employees in the Tea Research Institute.

The Posts are permanent. Application giving full **Curriculum Vitae** along with the copy of Birth Certificate, copies of relevant Educational and other Professional Qualifications, Service Certificates and the names and addresses of two non-related referees who can assess the applicant skills and knowledge in the relevant field, should be sent under registered cover to reach the undersigned **on or before 26th October 2020**.

Applications from officers in the State Service/Corporations/Statutory Boards should be forwarded through the Heads of the respective Institutions. Non conformity with this requirement will result in the application being rejected. Also state the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Kindly visit Tea Research Institute's website www.tri.lk for information.

**The Director
Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka,
St. Coombs, Talawakelle.
05/10/2020**

For classified advertisements and for replies
received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

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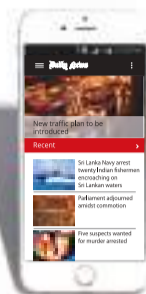
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The British School in Colombo

We are looking for energetic, self-motivated and hardworking teachers/personnel to join our team in the following positions with immediate effect.

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (Senior School)

- Relevant teaching qualification and experience.
- To be able to support individuals or small groups of pupils within or outside the classroom.
- To be able to collaborate with subject teachers to define appropriate activities for pupils in relation to the curriculum.
- To be able to develop and adapt conventional teaching methods to meet the individual/ specific needs of the pupils.
- To be able to effectively implement Individual Educational Plans.
- Previous experience in a Learning Support setting.

Senior School Librarian

- A Degree/Diploma Holder ideally with Library Science as a subject.
- At least 2 years relevant experience in similar capacity.
- Fluent in English and Computer Literate.
- Familiar with modern Library Techniques & KOHA Library Management System.
- A person with positive attitude and willingness to work with students and teachers.

Please email your CV 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 **Monday the 19 October 2020**

www.admission.lk



Sri Lanka Institute of
TOURISM & HOTEL MANAGEMENT



Ministry of Tourism

Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management

We invite competent individuals with proven training & lecturing capabilities for position of Visiting Lecturers to be attached to our faculty in Colombo & Provincial Colleges in Kandy & Koggala.

VISITING LECTURERS

Vacancies exist for Visiting Lecturers in the following disciplines

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Tourism Management | 16. Flora of Sri Lanka |
| 2. Geography | 17. Sri Lankan Elephants |
| 3. Hinduism | 18. Bird Watching |
| 4. Ramayanaya | 19. Dancing of Sri Lanka |
| 5. Christianity | 20. Music of Sri Lanka |
| 6. Islam | 21. Tour Guiding |
| 7. Ayurveda & Indigenous Medicine | 22. Communication & Presentation Skills |
| 8. Economy of Sri Lanka | 23. Event Management |
| 9. Industries of Sri Lanka | 24. Community based Tourism |
| 10. Textile Garments | 25. Finance Management |
| 11. Gems of Sri Lanka | 26. Marketing Management |
| 12. Ceylon Tea | 27. Adventure Tourism - Water |
| 13. Archeology | 28. Adventure Tourism - Land |
| 14. Fishery Industry | 29. Water Sports |
| 15. Fauna of Sri Lanka | 30. Trekking / Hiking |

Qualification

Applicants should possess a Diploma / Degree / Post Graduate equivalent to Masters Degree / PHD in the relevant field from a recognized university or institute.

Experience

Teaching or managerial experience of more than three years in the relevant field from a recognized institute.

Method of Application

Specimen application form could be downloaded from www.slithm.edu.lk and duly completed application along with a CV should be forwarded under registered cover to reach Registrar, No. 78, Galle Road, Colombo 03 stating the position & subject on the top left-hand corner of the envelope on or before 30th of October 2020.

**Director General
Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management
No. 78, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.**

VACANCIES

CCECC-HPRB-HNRBI Joint Venture Pvt Ltd is the main contractor of Port Access Elevated Highway Project under Road Development Authority which consists by three companies. China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation is one of them and the leading partner as well. Funded by Asian Development Bank, Port Access Elevated Highway Project is expected to connect the marine drive extension to the highway network at the New Kelani Bridge interchange.

Posts of Senior Civil / Structural / Geotechnical Engineer -2

Requirements:

- Bachelor degree or above in Civil engineering, Geotechnical or Structural, draw sketch, design and calculation, master in ETAB, SAP2000, STAAD pro, PLAXIS, civil 3D and AutoCAD, fluent in English and communication skills and independent work.
- Must be professional & Possess overall 10 years of geological research and construction experience & 2 years' experience in Chinese enterprises. Salary negotiable

Posts of Geotechnical Engineer -1

Requirements:

- BSc. Engineering degree from a recognized University with major in Geology
- Possess overall 10 years relevant work experience , geological research and construction experience & 2 years' experience in Chinese enterprises. Salary Negotiable

Posts of QC Engineer -1

Requirements:

- Bachelor degree or above, major in Civil Engineering (bridge), more than 10 years working experience, 1 year working experience in Chinese enterprises. Salary Negotiable

Posts of Structural Engineer -1

Requirements:

- Bachelor degree or above, more than 10 years bridge construction experience, 1 year working experience in Chinese enterprises. Salary Negotiable

Posts of QS Engineer- 1

Requirements:

- Bachelor degree or above, more than 6 years working experience, major quality engineer in 2 large highway or railway projects. Salary Negotiable

Posts of Bridge Engineer -2

Requirements:

- Bachelor degree or above, with more than 5 years experience in beam prefabrication and pile foundation construction. Salary Negotiable

Posts of Claim Expert -1

Requirements:

- Bachelor degree, major in civil engineering, law, with more than 15 years working experience (at least 10 years of claim experience and successful cases), barrier free preparation of claim letters and reports, proficient in FIDIC terms, familiar with change claim process, quick thinking, independent and communication ability. Salary Negotiable

Posts of QA Engineer - 4

Requirements:

- Bachelor degree or above, more than 5 years bridge construction experience, 1 year working experience in Chinese enterprises. Salary Negotiable

Emunerations & benefits: Negotiable

Applications together with photocopies of certificates in proof of Professional competency and experience should be sent to General Manager, C E C C - H P R B - H N R B I JOINT VENTURE (PVT) LTD, No.46/4,46/4 1-1, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Col.03 or hr.paehsri.lanka@gmail.com, paeh.srilanka@gmail.com , 0112301314 within 7 days of this Advertisement.

**General Manager
C E C C - H P R B - H N R B I JOINT VENTURE (PVT) LTD**



**The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News**



Promising Career Opportunities in Sales for School Leavers

Sri Lanka's leading Insurer, Ceylinco General Insurance, is inviting dynamic and aspiring school leavers who wish to pursue a successful career in Sales, to join their dynamic team and market the country's premium brand of insurance. Excellent career prospects await the selected candidates.

The Ideal Candidates

- The successful candidates must be driven with the right attitude and the determination to succeed.
- They should have the ability to take on any challenge in a competitive environment.

The Position

- Duties will include building a customer base while maintaining very high standards in delivery and customer service.

Required Qualifications / Skills

- A good educational background.
- Those who have excelled in sports have an added advantage.
- A pleasant personality and good communication skills.

Training

Extensive training 'in-house' and 'on-the-job', will be provided for you to sharpen your skills.

Remuneration

Successful candidates can look forward to a starting salary of Rs. 25,000/- and performance-based incentives with the potential to earn over Rs.50,000/-, hospitalization insurance, medical reimbursements, annual bonuses and a host of other attractive perks.

Forward your CV's citing the names and contact details of two non-related referees, via post or email, within ten (10) days of this advertisement indicating the post applied for as 'Opportunities in Sales for School Leavers' on the top left corner of the envelope, or in the subject column, to:

Manager - Human Resources
Ceylinco General Insurance
5th Floor, Ceylinco House,
No. 69, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 1.
Email: ciccohrd@ceyins.lk





**State Ministry of Skills Development,
Vocational Education,
Research & Innovations.**



NAITA

National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority

Applications are invited from Citizens of Sri Lanka for the following Posts of this Authority

02. POST OF DIRECTOR (TRAINING)

Qualifications & Experience

External: (1 or 2 below)

01. A Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/ Technology/ Education/ Science/Agriculture/ Mathematics disciplines which is recognized by the U.G.C.

WITH

Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters) in Engineering/ Technology/ Education/ Science/ Agriculture/ Mathematics disciplines which is recognized by the U.G.C. **OR** Associate Membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institute/ IESL, which is relevant to the above subjects.

AND

Minimum of 15 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level in a Corporation, Statutory Board / reputed mercantile establishment in the subject area relevant to the post.

02. Full Membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institute, which is relevant to the above subjects

AND

Minimum of 15 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level in a Corporation, Statutory Board / reputed mercantile establishment in the subject area relevant to the post

Internal: (1 or 2 below)

- Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
- Completion of minimum five (05) years satisfactory service in a post in the Manager (MM 1-1) Category Grade I **OR**/WITH Academic / Research (AR-1 Grade I) Category in NAITA **OR** minimum five (05) years service in (AR-2) in the subject area relevant to the post.

Salary : As per DMS Circular No. 02/2016 (1)

Rs. 80,295 - 15 x 2,270 - 114,345 (per month) HM 1-1

(In addition, government approved cost of living allowance and Professional allowance will be paid)
Provide Transport facilities and Telephone allowance according to the Treasury Circulars.

02. POST OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (MAINTENANCE & CIVIL)

Qualifications & Experience

External: (Select 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 below)

- A Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/ Technology in the Civil Engineering discipline which is recognized by the U.G.C. with three (03) years post qualifying Junior Manager level experience in the relevant field in a Corporation, Statutory Board / Institution **OR** a reputed mercantile establishment
- Intermediate Level qualification from a recognized Chartered institution in a relevant field.
- Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 07, issued by a Technical / Vocational training institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission with three (03) years post qualifying Junior Manager level experience in the relevant field in a Corporation, Statutory Board / Institution **OR** a reputed private institution.
- Having successfully completed a Diploma in Civil Engineering Technology (NDT/NDES/HNDE/D. Tech) conducted by a recognized university **OR** organization of Technical and Vocational Training **OR** a Certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 06, issued by a Technical /Vocational training organization accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission **WITH** twelve (12) years of postqualifying experience and at least six (06) years at Junior Manager level experience out of 12 years.

Internal: (Select 1 or 2 below)

- Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
- Completion of minimum five (05) years satisfactory service in a post in the Junior Manager (JM 1-1) Category, in the subject area relevant to the post.

Salary : As per DMS Circular No. 02/2016

Rs. 53,175 - 10 x 1,375 - 15 x 1,910 - 95,575 - (MM 1 -1)

(In addition, government approved cost of living allowance and Professional allowance will be paid)
Provide Transport facilities and Telephone allowance according to the Treasury Circulars.

03. POST OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CERTIFICATION)

04. POST OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL TRAINING)

05. POST OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CLUSTER)

Qualifications & Experience

External: (Select 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 below)

- A Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/ Technology/ / Science/ Mathematics/ Agriculture/ Management/ Sociology/Education/Commerce disciplines which is recognized by the U.G.C. with three (03) years post qualifying Junior Manager level experience in the relevant field in a Corporation, Statutory Board / mercantile establishment after obtaining the first degree.
- Council of Engineering (CEI) former syllabus Part II new syllabus Part III/ Institute of Engineering Sri Lanka former syllabus Part II new syllabus Part III with three (03) years post qualifying Junior Manager level experience in the relevant field in a Corporation, Statutory Board / reputed mercantile establishment.
- Having obtained a Certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 07, issued by a Technical / Vocational training institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission **WITH** three (03) years post qualifying Junior Manager level experience in the relevant field in a Corporation, Statutory Board / reputed mercantile establishment.
- Having successfully completed a Diploma in any Engineering Technology (NDT/NDES/HNDE/D. Tech) **OR** Diploma in Technical & Vocational Education discipline conducted by a recognized university **OR** organization of Technical and Vocational Training **OR** a Certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 06, issued by a Technical /Vocational training organization accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission with twelve (12) years of experience and six (06) years at Junior Manager level experience out of 12 years.

Internal: (Select 1 or 2 below)

- Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
- Completion of minimum five (05) years satisfactory service in a post in the Junior Manager (JM 1-1) Category, in the subject area relevant to the post.

Salary : As per DMS Circular No. 02/2016

Rs. 53,175 - 10 x 1,375 - 15 x 1,910 - 95,575 - (MM 1 -1)

(In addition, government approved cost of living allowance and Professional allowance will be paid)
Provide Transport facilities and Telephone allowance according to the Treasury

06. POST OF DIRECTOR / PRINCIPAL

Industrial Engineering Training Institute - Katubedda

Qualifications & Experience

External : (Select 1 or 2 or below)

01. A special Degree in Engineering / Technology/ Education /Science/ Agriculture/ Mathematics disciplines recognized by the U.G.C.

WITH

A Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters) in Engineering/ Technology/ Education/ Science / Agriculture/ Mathematics fields.

AND

Minimum of eight (08) years post qualifying research/ academic experience after obtaining the Bachelor's Degree in a Corporation, Board/ Statutory Institution **OR** a reputed training institution.

02. A special Degree in Engineering / Technology/ Technical & Vocational Education/ Science / Agriculture/ Mathematics disciplines from a university recognized by the U.G.C.

WITH

PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in a related field

AND

Minimum of five (05) years research/ academic experience after obtaining the Bachelor's degree in a Corporation, Board / Statutory Institution **OR** a reputed training institution.

Internal: (Select 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 below)

- Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
- A Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology/ Technical & Vocational Education **OR** Special Degree in OR Science/ Agriculture/ Mathematics disciplines **OR** General Degree in Technology/ Education/Science/Mathematics disciplines from a university recognized by the U.G.C.

WITH

Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters) in Engineering/ Technology/ Technical & Vocational Education/ Science/ Agriculture/ Mathematics disciplines

AND

Minimum of eight (08) years satisfactory service of a post in the Category of Academic /Research (AR-1)

03. Having obtained a Certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 07, issued by a University / Technical /Vocational training organization accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission

WITH

Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters) in Technology/ Technical & Vocational Education disciplines

AND

Minimum of twelve (12) years satisfactory service of a post in the Category of Academic /Research (AR-1).

04. Having successfully completed a Diploma in Engineering Technology (NDT/NDES/HNDE/D.Tech) conducted by a recognized university **OR** organization of Technical and Vocational Training **OR** a Certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 06, issued by a Technical /Vocational training organization accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission

WITH

Two years Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters) in Engineering/ Technology/ Education/ Science / Agriculture/ Mathematics disciplines

AND

Minimum of fourteen (14) years satisfactory service in the post of Academic /Research (AR-1) Category.

05. A Bachelor's Degree in Engineering / Technology / Education / Science / Agriculture / Mathematics disciplines from a university recognized by the U.G.C with a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in relevant field.

AND

Minimum of five (05) years satisfactory service of a post in the Category of Academic /Research (AR-1).

Salary : As per DMS Circular No. 02/2016 (1)

Rs. 76,200 - 10 x 2,000 - 96,200 - (AR-2)

(In addition, government approved cost of living allowance and Professional allowance will be paid)
Provide Transport facilities and Telephone allowance according to the Treasury Circulars.

07. POST OF DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Industrial Engineering Training Institute - Katubedda

Qualifications & Experience

External: (1 or 2 or 3 below)

- A Special Degree in Engineering / Technology/ Education/ Science/ Mathematics disciplines which is recognized by the U.G.C.
- A General Degree in Engineering/ Technology/ Technical & Vocational Education / Science / Mathematics disciplines which is recognized by the U.G.C. **OR** equivalent with Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant fields.
- Associate Membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institution in Engineering / Science/ Agriculture/ Mathematics fields.


Internal: (1 or 2 below)

- Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
- Eight (08) years satisfactory service in MA - 4 Category in subject area relevant to the post.


Salary : As per DMS Circular No. 02/2016 (1)

Rs. 53,150 - 10 x 1,375 - 15 X 1,910 - 95,550 - (AR-1)

(In addition, government approved cost of living allowance and Professional allowance will be paid)
Provide Telephone allowance according to the Treasury Circulars.



**State Ministry of Skills Development,
Vocational Education,
Research & Innovations.**



NAITA
National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority

Applications are invited from Citizens of Sri Lanka for the following Posts of this Authority

08. POST OF LECTURER (GR. II)
Institute of Engineering Technology - Katunayake
Industrial Engineering Training Institute - Katubedda
Automobile Engineering Training Institute - Orugodawatte

Qualifications & Experience

External :
(1 or 2 or 3 below)

01. A Special Degree in Engineering / Technology/ Education/ Science/ Mathematics disciplines which is recognized by the U.G.C.
02. A General Degree in Engineering/ Technology/ Technical & Vocational Education / Science / Mathematics disciplines which is recognized by the U.G.C. or equivalent with Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant fields.
03. Associate Membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institution in Engineering / Science/Agriculture/ Mathematics fields.

Internal : (1 or 2 below)

01. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
02. Eight (08) years satisfactory service in MA - 4 Category in subject area relevant to the post.

Salary : As per DMS Circular No. 02/2016 (I)
Rs. 53,150 - 10 x 1,375 - 15 X 1,910 - 95,550 - (AR-1)
 (In addition, government approved cost of living allowance will be paid)
Provide Telephone allowance according to the Treasury Circulars.

Relevant Fields :

- **Automobile Technology** - **Electrical & Electronic Technology - ICT**
- **Mechanical Technology** - **Construction Technology**

09. POST OF BOARD SECRETARY & LEGAL OFFICER GR. II

Qualifications & Experience

Attorney-at-Law and Notary Public **WITH** one (01) year post qualifying experience in the relevant field in a Corporation, Statutory Board / Institution **OR** a reputed private institution.

Salary : As per DMS Circular No. 02/2016
Rs.42,600 - 10 x 755 - 18 x 1,135 - 70,580 - (JM 1-1)
 (In addition, government approved cost of living allowance will be paid)

10. POST OF INSPECTOR GR. III
(Vacancies are available in Head Office & District Offices)
- Recruitment will be done from the relevant districts

Qualifications & Experience

External : (Select 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 of below)

01. A Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/ Science/ Technology/ Education/Mathematics/ Agriculture/ Management/ Commerce/ Sociology disciplines recognized by the U.G.C. **OR** equivalent qualification.
02. Council of Engineering (CEI) former syllabus Part II new syllabus Part III/ Institute of Engineering Sri Lanka former syllabus Part II new syllabus Part III.
03. Having obtained a Certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 07, issued by a Technical / Vocational Education training organization accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission.
04. Having successfully completed a Diploma in Engineering Technology (NDT/NDES/HNDE/D.Tech) conducted by a recognized university **OR** institution of technical & vocational training **OR** a Certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 06, issued by a Technical /Vocational training organization **OR** university accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission with five (05) years post qualifying experience in the relevant field in a Corporation, Statutory Board / Institution **OR** a reputed mercantile establishment.
05. Having obtained a Certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 05, issued by a Technical/ Vocational training organization accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission with ten (10) years post qualifying experience in the relevant field in a Corporation, Statutory Board / Institution **OR** a reputed mercantile establishment.

Internal : (1 or 2 below)

01. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
02. Completion of minimum eight (08) years satisfactory service of a post in the Management Assistant Technological (MA 2-2) Category in NAITA in the relevant field.

Salary : As per DMS Circular No. 02/2016
Rs. 37,970 - 10 x 755 - 15 x 930- 5 x 1,135 -65,145 - (MA-4)
 (In addition, government approved cost of living allowance will be paid)

Age Limits :

Director (Training) - Age should be not less than **35** years and not more than **55** years.

Director/Principal - Age should be not less than **30** years and not more than **55** years.

Assistant Director/ Deputy Principal/Lecturer Gr.II/ Board Secretary & Legal Officer Gr.II/ Inspector Gr.III

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).

General Conditions :

Employees of State Corporations, Statutory Bodies and Government Departments should forward their applications through the Heads of respective institutions. Applications with comprehensive Bio-data and contact details of two non-related referees and self certified copies of relevant certificates should be sent on or before **26th of October 2020** to the Chairman, National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority, No.971, Sri Jayewardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya by Registered Post.

The post applied for should be stated on the top left hand corner of the envelope. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Only shortlisted applicants will be called for interviews.

ACCOUNTANT

We have immediate vacancy in our Head office for the above position.
Candidate should be having the following qualification and experience

- ▶ Excellent Knowledge of accounting and principles ability to implement internal Controls over company processes
- ▶ Strong analytical, interpersonal communication skills
- ▶ Having an AAT or part Qualified in Chartered
- ▶ Minimum of 4 years' experience in similar capacity
- ▶ Very good knowledge in MS Excel
- ▶ Experience using an accounts package such as QuickBooks in an added a advantage
- ▶ Good command in English
- ▶ Sound knowledge on VAT/SVAT/NBT

A Wood Lanka(Pvt)Ltd. Kottawa
Contact-077481832/0762554314/0112857884

SEEKING FOR TALENT

We are expanding and are seeking to fill the post of Management Staff at our Company in Islandwide branches. This is an ideal opportunity for candidate with a passion for sales to have a great career in sales.

MANAGER

Managing and leading the company effectively to achieve liabilities and SME targets, implementation of superior customer service standards, age between 35 - 55 years. Male/Female candidates can apply, minimum 5 years experience in Sales & Marketing field, Salary Rs. 150,000/- and provide car fuel allowance of Rs. 20,000/-

ASST. MANAGER

The Candidate should have Management part qualified or similar qualification with minimum 2 years experience in similar field for immediate employment. Age between 25 - 55 years. Male/Female candidates can apply, minimum 2 years experience in Sales & Marketing field. Salary Rs. 100,000/- and provide fuel allowance of Rs. 20,000/-

SENIOR EXECUTIVE

The Candidate should have excellent Communication Skills, relevant educational qualification with minimum 2 years experience in similar field for immediate employment. Age between 25 - 55 years. Energetic Male/Female candidates, minimum 2 years experience in Sales & Marketing field. Salary Rs. 75,000/- and transportation allowance Rs. 10,000/-

EXECUTIVE

The Candidate should have excellent Communication Skills, relevant educational qualification with minimum 2 years experience in similar field for immediate employment. Age between 25 - 55 years. Energetic Male/Female candidates, minimum 1 years experience in Sales & Marketing field. Salary Rs. 50,000/-

Forward CV by E-mail within 14 days to:
info@srilankainternationalactivities.com

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Wanted person with proven experience in Tea, Rubber & other cultivation around 50 years for medium sized estate who could handle book works and diplomatically manage all affairs.

Salary negotiable.

Contact: 0777-844733/0718 163933
The Managing Partner, Ingoya Estate, Kitulgala.

VACANCIES

**Cashier
Record Keeper**

Leading Chemical Company is looking for suitable candidates for immediate employment.

Applications are invited from Males & Females.

- Experience in similar capacity
- Age below 35 years

**The Partner,
Devi Trading Company,
125, Bankshall Street, Colombo-11.**
Tel Nos. : 0112335124-5
Mobile : 072-7761305
Email : devi@devitrading.com

CIVIL ENGINEERING VACANCIES

The following immediate vacancies exist in our company for Kaluthara Colombo and Puttalam sites. We are a Colombo based building & road rehabilitation company with a C2 classification by CIDA.

PROJECT ENGINEER

BSc (Eng) or equivalent with 10 years relevant experience

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

HNDE, TTI, NCT or equivalent with 05 years experience

TECHNICAL OFFICERS

HNDE, NCT or equivalent with 05 years experience.

KANDY CONSTRUCTIONS
 No. 568, Thalagama North,
 Battaramulla
Tel: 011-5657430 Fax: 011-2790034
E-mail: kancon.cv@gmail.com

Health System Enhancement Project
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces

VACANCY

Through Asian Development Bank funded Health System Enhancement Project it is proposed to carry out reforms of the Primary Health Care Services proposed by the Primary Health Care Policy in Central, North Central, Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces.

Project implementation is scheduled for 5 years from 2019 to 2023

Applications are invited for the following positions on full time basis in the Project Implementation Units (PI Us) based in Badulla (Uva Province) and Rathnapura (Sabaragamuwa Province)

S.N	Vacancy	Project Implementation Unit (PIU)	Salary Level (MSD Circular 01/2019)	Qualification, TOR and Application
1	Project Accountant	PIU - Uva Province	PS4	Please refer the https://www.hsep.lk/ for more information and download the application.
2	Project Procurement Officer	PIU - Sabaragamuwa Province	PS6	
3	Project Officer	PIU - Sabaragamuwa Province	PS6	

Age Limit
Under 64 years by 31.10.2020

Salary Scale
Salary scale, in accordance with the Management Circular No. 01/2019 dated 15.03.2019

Duly completed application together with detailed curriculum vitae supported by copies of educational and professional qualifications, experience and names of two non-related referees along with their contact telephone/fax/email address should be sent to reach the following address on or before **26.10.2020** in a sealed envelope stating the specific position on the top left corner of the envelope. Applications sent after the closing date will be rejected.

Address -
Project Director
Health System Enhancement Project
3/19, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08

Email - hsep.pmu@gamil.com (for E Submissions)
Telephone - +94 11 2 697 173
Fax - +94 11 2 697 163

**Recruitment of Consultant for Sri Lanka Partnership
Landscape Assessment**
for Colombo, Sri Lanka



Work Description

Under the guidance of the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Sri Lanka, the consultant will conduct a partnership landscape assessment that will identify thematic areas and issues where there is strong potential for new partnerships, key development actors and stakeholders; key partnerships and actions, including drawing out best practices and learnings, to support the implementation of the SDGs and building back better by enhancing cohesion among sectors and stakeholders, and inspire new actions and multi-stake holder partnerships, in Sri Lanka.

Contract Modality : Individual Contract (IC)

Duty Station/s : Colombo, Sri Lanka

Deadline for Submission : 21 October 2020

Please refer full Terms of Reference for the position on UNDP site:
<https://jobs.undp.org>

Qualified Sri Lankans are invited to apply by sending a methodology and CV including qualifications/competencies and relevant past experience in similar capacity and contact details of two non-related referees in one PDF file. Applicants should upload their CVs & methodology online to the UNDP job site indicated below & the financial proposal to be sent separately to consultants.lk@undp.org on or before the stipulated deadline. **To apply, please access UNDP job site; <https://jobs.undp.org> (By location > Asia and the Pacific > Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction- Job ID 94528) for vacancy notice and apply through the web site.**

Head of Procurement
United Nations Development Programme
202-204, Bauddhaloka Mawatha
Colombo 07
Sri Lanka.

IMMEDIATE VACANCY

We, **SAMOD CONSTRUCTIONS (PVT) LTD** are a reputed construction company and wish to appoint professionals as follows. The qualifications, experience, skills, responsibilities are required for the positions.

Required qualifications are as follows.

1. TECHNICAL OFFICER - CIVIL

- Should have passed G.C.E (A/L)
- Should have completed NCT/HNDE Civil Engineering
- Computer literacy
- Fluent in English
- 3 years experience in similar capacity
- Valid driving license (light vehicles)

The positions carry an excellent salary and benefits packages. If you have the required qualifications, leadership and management skills, you are informed to apply by E-mail or registered post immediately.

SAMOD CONSTRUCTIONS (PVT) LTD
No. 361/7, Henri Pedris Mawatha, Dagedara, Galle
samodconstruction@yahoo.com

Classic Venture (Pvt) Ltd, is an organization engaged in providing quality reliable and trustworthy security consultation & related services to leading business establishments in Sri Lanka.

CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANT

We are looking for a young energetic female with following qualifications to work at our Head Office at Park Road Colombo 05.

- ♦ Age below 30 years
- ♦ Pleasant Personality
- ♦ Excellent command of English
- ♦ Computer literacy and knowledge in Quick Books Package

Salary Negotiable

Please send your CV on or before 17th 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



**Institute of Biochemistry,
Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
(IBMBB)**

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

The IBMBB will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following post up to 15.11.2020.

Post of Senior Lecturer - Grade I/ Grade II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary) - Immunology

Application forms and relevant details can be obtained from Senior Assistant Registrar IBMBB during office hours. Application forms can be obtained by post by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope or can be downloaded from the website www.ibmbb.lk

Duly completed applications should be forwarded under registered cover to reach Director/ IBMBB, University of Colombo, 90, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03 on or before 15.11.2020.

The post applied for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Applications received after the closing date or not submitted on the format issued by the IBMBB or not sent through the Head of the Department (if permanently employed in a State Organization) will not be considered.

Senior Assistant Registrar
Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and
Biotechnology University of Colombo
No. 90, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha
Colombo 03
Telephone: 011-2552528
11.10.2020

The Housewives' companion

**Classifieds on
Daily News**



GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY



VACANCIES

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

1. Post of Assistant Registrar (Legal & Documentation)
2. Post of Curator (Museum) Grade II
3. Post of Curator (Landscape) Grade III

SALARY SCALES

1. Post of Assistant Registrar (Legal & Documentation)
U-EX I (II) Rs. 50,625 – 3x1,125 – 54,000 (EB) 55,335; 12x1,335 – 71,355 p.m.
2. Post of Curator (Museum) Grade II
U-EX 2 (II) Rs. 66,180 – 8x1,335; 8x1,630 – 89,900 p.m.
3. Post of Curator (Landscape) Grade III
U-EX I (II) Rs. 50,625 – 3x1,125 – 54,000 (EB) 55,335; 12x1,335 – 71,355 p.m.

METHOD OF RECRUITMENT

1. Post of Assistant Registrar (Legal & Documentation)
Selection will be done by an aptitude test and structured interview.
2. Post of Curator (Museum) Grade II
Selection will be done by a structured interview.
3. Post of Curator (Landscape) Grade III
Selection will be done by a structured interview.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
2. Selections will be done in accordance with the recruitment and promotion procedures approved in relation to each post by the UGC and KDU, and based on the results of interview.
3. Only the applicants who meet the required qualifications will be summoned for the interview.
4. The University reserves the right to shortlist candidates for interview.
5. Applicants are strictly advised to apply in the format which can be downloaded from the KDU website. Late, incomplete or applications which do not comply with the prescribed format will be rejected.
6. Salaries are according to the latest UGC circulars. In addition to salary, other allowances approved by UGC will be paid.
7. Duly completed applications with copies of relevant certificates should be forwarded under registered cover to reach "The Registrar, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana" and applied post should be written on the top left hand corner of the envelope.
8. Candidates are instructed to refer to KDU website & UGC Circular No. 948, 922, 06/2020 and relevant amendments for special notes and qualifications.
9. Selected candidates should be able to serve and perform duties of the post in any premises of KDU.
10. Applicants from Universities/Institutes/Govt. Depts./Corporations or Statutory Boards should forward their applications through the Heads of respective Institute.

Closing Date
26th October 2020

Application should be addressed to

The Registrar,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University,
Ratmalana 10390,
Sri Lanka

Email: staffrecruit@kdu.ac.lk

Visit our
website for further details
www.kdu.ac.lk

VACANCIES



NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD

(Ministry of Water Supply)

**POSTS OF
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (INTERNAL AUDIT) &
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER (HUMAN RESOURCES)**

National Water Supply & Drainage Board (NWS&DB) is the leading government agency responsible for provision of Water Supply and Sewerage facilities to the people of Sri Lanka. The Board presently provides piped water to about 08 million people through more than 2 million service connections. It is a prestigious Organization having a large number of Professionals. Activities of the Board are being expanded to achieve the government's objective of piped water coverage up to 75% and safe water coverage up to 100% in Sri Lanka by the year 2024.

Applications are hereby invited from Citizens of Sri Lanka, for vacancies existing in the above-mentioned posts. The applicants should possess the following qualifications and experience.

01. Deputy General Manager (Internal Audit)

Qualifications & Experience:

- Membership of ICA of Sri Lanka or equivalent qualifications

AND

- 10 Years executive experience in financing / auditing in a recognised institution of which 3 years post qualifying experience after obtaining the full Membership.

Salary Code : HM 2-2

Salary Scale : Rs.183, 569 – 8 x 3,772 – 213,745/= p.m. plus cost of living allowance & other allowances.

Board Grade : 2

Criterion of Selection : Interview

Fringe Benefits : * Annual Bonus Payment, Productivity Allowance, Professional Allowance.
* Encashment of un-availed medical leave.
* Entitlement of an official assigned vehicle including Private mileage.
* Medical reimbursement scheme.
* Vehicle loans / Housing loans through the Government Banks
* Distress loans on concessionary terms.

02. Assistant General Manager (Human Resources)

Qualifications & Experience :

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent qualifications with Membership of the Institute of Personnel Management with 11 years Post Degree executive experience out of which 3 years experience should be in personnel Management and Administration in a Senior Executive Capacity.

OR

- An Officer in Cl. 1 of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service possessing a Degree of a recognized University or having equivalent qualifications with 3 Years experience in a Senior Executive capacity in Personnel and Administration.

OR

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent qualifications and a Diploma in Human Resources Management / Personnel Management/ Business Administration with 13 years Post Degree experience out of which 8 years should be in a Senior Executive capacity. Out of the total experience of the 13 years, the candidate should have 8 years experience in the fields of Human Resources Management/ Personnel Management / Administration.

Salary Code : HM 1-3

Salary Scale : Rs.169,062 – 10 x 3,289 – 201,952 p.m. plus cost of living allowance & other allowances.

Board Grade : 3

Criterion of Selection : Interview

Fringe Benefits : * Annual Bonus Payment & Productivity Allowance.
* Encashment of un-availed medical leave.
* Medical reimbursement scheme.
* Vehicle loans / Housing loans through the Government Banks
* Distress loans on concessionary terms.
* Home to Office transportation facilities.

Age Limit : Not more than 45 years of age on the closing date of applications. This age limit will not apply to the candidates in the Government Sector Organizations. Their applications should be forwarded through the respective Heads of their Institutions.

Applications with complete Bio-data along with copies of all relevant testimonials should be forwarded under registered post to reach the Additional General Manager (Human Resources Management), National Water Supply & Drainage Board, Galle Road, Ratmalana on or before 26 October, 2020. The post applied for should be marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope. The applications without the attached relevant certificates will be rejected. An additional copy of the application should be sent by e-mail to vacancies@waterboard.lk post of "Deputy General Manager (Internal Audit) or Assistant General Manager (Human Resources)" should be mentioned in the "subject" line.

GENERAL MANAGER

**National Water Supply & Drainage Board,
Galle Road,
Ratmalana.**

MicroTech BIOLOGICAL Microtech Biological (Pvt) Ltd, one of fast growing suppliers in medical diagnostics and life science research market in Sri Lanka, is looking for professionals for following positions.

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

- B.Sc. Eng., NDT, HNDE, NDES or equivalent in electronics with minimum two year experience in diagnostic field service.

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

- Bsc graduate on Agriculture/ Food Science/ Micro Biology/ Physical Science with excellent Communication & interpersonal skills.
- In Industrial exposure on sales & marketing activities in similar business sectors would be an added advantage.

An attractive remuneration package coupled with opportunities to expose to large world of learning & career advancement will offer for the successful candidates.

Please forward your CV to hr@microtech-bio.com

MICROTECH BIOLOGICAL PVT LTD
Contact: 0114 330 718 www.microtech-bio.com

ASB Group of companies

ASB, the leading textile chain in Sri Lanka well over 32 years of experience in the field of apparel. We are looking an energetic, Innovative and Hard working individuals to join the management team at ASB to take the Company to greater heights.

MANAGER
STOCK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

- Full / Part qualification in Stock Management
- Working Experience in a reputed company in the Retail Textile Industry
- Computer literacy.
- Good Communication skills.
- Willing to work at our Head Office Kalutara.

Successful candidates will be offered attractive salaries and fringe benefits. Those possessing the above qualifications should send in their applications within 10 days via email or the postal address shown here-below.

Manager Human Resources
ASB GROUP OF COMPANIES
266/2, RATHNAJOTHI MAWATHA, KUDA WASKADUWA, WASKADUWA.
E-mail : careeratasb@gmail.com Fax : 0344 280 981
Hot Line : 071 -9 057 057 / 070 -2584703

CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANT

We are looking for a young energetic female with following qualifications to work at our Head Office at **Pepiliyana - Boralasgamuwa.**

- Qualification that you need
- Successful Completion Of G.C.E O/L and or A/L
- Age between 18 - 28
- Fluency in any TWO LANGUAGES
- ENGLISH, SINHALA and TAMIL
- Minimum 02 Year experience in a recovery call center

Please send your CV on or before 17th of October 2020 to the below address or by email.

Director,
E Plus Holding (Pvt) Ltd
No. 447 A 3/1, Colombo Road, Boralasgamuwa, Pepiliyana.
Tel - 077 5100 550, 011 7771 771 | Email - ushansujeewa@gmail.com

SHOWROOM SALES EXECUTIVE (MALE) - MALABE

A leading world-class-tableware manufacture and Exporter in Sri Lanka, seeks to recruit a Competitive and trustworthy Showroom Sales Executive for Malabe branch. Dynamic, self-motivated and result oriented candidates with below qualifications eligible to apply.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Minimum 5 years working experience in similar capacity with pleasing personality & leadership qualities.
- Retail working experience in Ceramic, porcelain Pottery house holding items will be a distinct advantage.
- Professional qualification in SLIM/CIM would be an added advantage.
- Proficiency in English and Sinhala (having good communication skills in Tamil will be added advantage)
- Maintain a friendly and energetic personality and focus on customer satisfaction in a fast-paced environment.
- Solid communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to perform under pressure and address Customer complaints in a timely manner.
- Target oriented & willing to work long hours.
- Age below 45 years

REMUNERATION

An attractive remuneration package (Salary+Commission) based on experience will be offered to the successful candidate.

Send your CV your comprehensive CV with recent photograph, address & contact details of 02 non-related referees within 07 days of this advertisement to

dankotuwahouseholdings@gmail.com

OBSERVER JOBS

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GENERAL MANAGER - SALES (AGRICULTURE SECTOR)

With a main focus on Sales and providing strategic leadership to the sales team of the Agriculture Division, while maintaining focus on the company's strategic goals. Responsible for planning, Reporting & implementing strategies to achieve agreed revenue targets while meeting company goals and objectives.

ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENTS

Key Responsibilities:

- Plan the Divisional Sales and Marketing strategies for customers with budgeted proposals and offers to achieve Sales revenue and the set target along with timely cash collection
- Manage the sales force with increased focus and expansion into the Dairy industry, Livestock development and Domestic pet veterinary products
- Perform Principal communication while building an opportunity pipeline with competitive strategies
- Report to the Board of Directors on the overview of the division, that includes Sales Strategies, Sales Plans/ Targets, Sales Achievement and on timely cash collection.

Key Requirements:

- Over 12 years' of experience in Sales & Management; preferably in Dairy, Livestock development and Domestic pet veterinary Sectors
- Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture or Masters & excellent attention to detail, communication, reporting and leadership qualities with high proficiency in MS Office.

Send us your profiles within 10 days of this advert with 2 non-related referees to: vacancy.corp@aip.lk

Head of Group Human Resources
Analytical Instruments (Private) Limited
No. 100, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08.
Tel: 0112-639000 | Web: www.aip.lk

VACANCIES

UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA SRI LANKA

University of Moratuwa will entertain applications for the undermentioned posts from suitably qualified persons up to 07th November, 2020.

Faculty of Business

Department of Decision Sciences

Senior Lecturer Grade I/Senior Lecturer Grade II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed) /Lecturer (Probationary)

Areas of Expertise

- Computer Science, Electronics & Telecommunications Engineering or any closely related discipline

SALARY SCALES#

(a) Senior Lecturer Grade I - Rs.91,310 - 7 X 2,170 - 106,500 p.m. [U-AC 3 (I)]
Academic Allowance # of 151% of salary will be paid

(b) Senior Lecturer Grade II - Rs.79,360 - 11 X 1,630 - 97,290 p.m. [U-AC 3 (II)]
Academic Allowance# of 151% of salary will be paid

(c) Lecturer(Unconfirmed) - Rs.69,580 - 5 X 1,630 - 77,730 p.m. [U-AC 3 (III)]
Academic Allowance# of 131% of salary will be paid

(d) Lecturer (Probationary) - Rs.54,600 - 10 X 1,335- 67,950 p.m. [U-AC 3 (IV)]
Academic Allowance# of 115% of salary will be paid

Salary and Academic Allowance will be paid according to the University Grants Commission Circular No. 17/2016 (v) dated 01.06.2018 and No. 17/2016 (vi) dated 14.06.2018, Commission Circular No. 13/2017 dated 15.06.2017 and Department of Management Services Circular No. 04/2016 dated 18.08.2016.

In addition to the above salary, cost of living allowance and other approved allowances will be paid to the selected candidate/s.

Applications should be sent **only Online** and further particulars and application forms along with the handout could be downloaded from the University web site - www.mrt.ac.lk/web/vacancies up to 07th November, 2020. Online applications should be submitted to reach Deputy Registrar, Establishments Division, University of Moratuwa, on or before the closing date of applications.

Applicants from the University System/Government Departments/Corporations and Statutory Boards should channel their applications with the recommendation of the Heads of their respective Institutions, using form 'A' and attaching the scan copy of the same.

Applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications and applications not submitted in prescribed format of the University of Moratuwa will be rejected without intimation.

Registrar
University of Moratuwa, Moratuwa.
06.10.2020

VACANCY SALES EXECUTIVE
(Trainee & Experienced)
vehicle importing company

Apply:
No.36B, S.De S Jayasinghe Mawatha, Kalubowila.
Email: deepikadesilva76@gmail.com

Private school in Galle seeks two qualified **TEACHERS** for subjects **History and Geography** in English medium. Contact us on mountcalvary3@gmail.com

MAINTENANCE FOREMAN

A Well Established & Passenger Transportation Company, requires the services of a well experienced Maintenance Personnel to be recruited as a Maintenance Foreman immediately to their Operations Center in Moratuwa. The Suitable Candidate should be a Team Player & with a proven Track record of Vehicle Fleet Maintenance.

Requirements

- Age Between 40 - 50 Year's.
- Minimum of 5 year's Experience in Maintaining a Fleet of Vehicles, of which 3 Year's, in a Supervisory Level.
- Basic qualification in Motor Mechanism from a Reputed Institution.
- Ability to Handle a team of mechanics.
- Attending to all Repairs Independently, Timely Delivery & Maintain Records.
- Ability to estimate accidents repairs for insurance.
- Posses a Valid Driving License for all Categories of Vehicle's.

Please send your CV Email - jeevap@ecdglobal.lk
Level 02, No.178, George R De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 13.
0711-115115

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LAKE HOUSE

SOUTH EASTERN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

VACANCIES

The South Eastern University of Sri Lanka will entertain applications up to 06.11.2020 from suitably qualified persons for the following posts.

- PROJECT OFFICE**
 - Project Manager - Construction Works
- STAFF AND STUDENT WELFARE DIVISION**
 - Medical Officer
 - Farm Manager, Grade III
 - Marshal, Grade II
 - Sub-Warden, Grade II (Full Time)
 - Pharmacist (Lower Grade)
 - Public Health Inspector, Grade III

Salary Scales:

Project Manager : U-EX 2(II) - Rs. 66,180 - 8x1,335; 8x1,630 - 89,900 p.m.

Medical Officer : U-MO 1(II) - Rs. 55,350 - 10x1,335; 1x1,630 - 70,330 p.m.

Farm Manager, Gr. III : U-EX 1 (IV) Rs. 50,625- 3x1,125 - 54,000(EB) 55,335; 12x1,335-71,355 p.m.

Marshal Grade II : U-MN 3 (II) - Rs. 42885 - 18x660 - 54,765 p.m.

Sub-Warden Gr. II (Full time) : U-MN 3 (II) - Rs. 42885 - 18x660 - 54,765 p.m.

Pharmacist (Lower Grade) : U-MT 1(IIIA) - Rs. 31,625 - 7x300; 10x355 - 37,275 p.m.

Public Health Inspector, Grade III : U-MT 1(IIIA) - Rs. 31,625 - 7x300; 10x355 - 37,275 p.m.

(The other allowances determined by the University Grants Commission will be paid in addition to the above salary).

BENEFITS

Selected candidates will contribute 10% of their monthly salary to the Universities' Provident Fund, while the employer will make a contribution of 15% of their salary of which 8% will be credited to the Universities' Pension Fund and 7% to the Universities' Provident Fund. In addition, they will become contributors to the Employees Trust Fund under which the University will contribute an amount equivalent to 3% of the salary.

The Senior Administrative will be eligible for sabbatical leave for one year with pay or two years no-pay on completion of 07 years of service. Those proceeding abroad on sabbatical leave will be entitled to receive full return air passage for self and spouse.

APPLICATIONS AND PARTICULARS

Application form, required qualifications and other details are available in the University website at www.seu.ac.lk Interested persons can make their application in prescribed form of application downloaded from the University website on payment of Rs. 200/- per application. The fee should be paid in any branch of People's Bank in cash to the credit to the **South Eastern University of Sri Lanka A/C No. 228-1001-9000-1704 People's Bank, Addalaichenai** and attach the Pay in Voucher with the application. Those who wish to apply for more than one post should apply in separate forms for each post.

Duly completed application forms and copies of the certificates should be sent under registered post to reach the **Registrar, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, University Park, Oluvil # 32360** on or before **06.11.2020**. The title of the post applied for should be indicated at the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Applicants who are employees of Government Departments, State Corporations and Statutory Bodies should forward their applications through the Head of their respective institutions, but may send an advance copy in the first instance. However, no such applicant will be considered for appointment, if the application has not been routed through the respective Head of the State Institution.

Incomplete and illegible applications or applications received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation. South Eastern University of Sri Lanka reserves the right to shortlist the candidates. Only shortlisted applicants will be called for an interview.

Registrar
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka
University Park,
Oluvil # 32360.
07.10.2020



We are on a Journey to bring prosperity to our National & its people. Do you like to be a part of it ???

Regional Development Bank, as a premier development bank in Sri Lanka with a network of 276 branches islandwide and with over 3000 manpower strength, invites applications from dynamic and result oriented individuals with relevant qualifications and experience for the following posts.

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER – RECOVERY

Reporting to General Manager/CEO, Deputy General Manager – Recovery is responsible in maintaining minimum NPL by way of portfolio monitoring, developing and executing recovery plans, providing leadership and guidance to provincial offices, district offices and branches in aligning with legal support for recovery functions in order to maintain NPA ratio below the industry average.

The Job Role:

- Manage non performing portfolio of the bank in a minimum level by strictly following directions and guidelines issued by Central Bank of Sri Lanka
- Conduct periodic review and monitor credit portfolio and initiate recovery action by various means to curtail/ reduce NPA of the bank
- Maintain healthy dialogue with credit line to minimize recurrent weaknesses of credit operations
- Take actions to recover debts by rehabilitation of sick projects coordinated with Deputy General Manager – Credit (loan restructuring, extending grace period, rescheduling process, lump sum settlement on concession basis etc.)
- Establish centralized recovery support team at Head office and monitor, follow-up and guide critical regions, districts and branches in recoveries
- Monitor/ follow up the progress of recovery actions on monthly and quarterly basis and preparation of action plans to avoid any deviation with the support of provinces/ districts and branches
- Manage the pawning business profitable to the bank by ensuring that branch level pawning articles are physically verified and taking measures to auction in a timely manner
- Arrange the parate execution process in terms of the provisions in the relevant legislation to sell the properties to recover the loans from bad debts

Key Requirements:

- Should have one of the following qualifications:
 - a) a degree from a recognized University with a postgraduate qualification or postgraduate diploma in a relevant field or
 - b) full professional qualification in banking
- Should have eight years' experience at Senior Management level in Banking
- Experience in the field of recovery at Senior Management level is a requisite

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

Reporting to General Manager/CEO, Chief Marketing Officer is responsible in developing and implementing marketing strategies and plans suited for respective target segments and promotions while creating corporate image of RDB and building brand loyalty by way of communication through mass media and arrange propaganda and field promotions coordinated with provincial and district office in a most cost effective manner.

The Job Role:

- Carryout marketing research, assesses market potential, identify new marketing opportunities and prepare overall marketing, advertising and sales promotion plans and implement same.
- Formulate and implement marketing strategies to enhance the Bank's loan portfolio and savings.
- Prepare marketing budget, annual marketing plan coordinated with relevant divisions and all provinces and arrange gift items and other marketing details in a timely manner
- Develop new products in accordance with Bank's vision in developing its business and provide leadership to products promotion campaigns
- Liaise with advertising agencies and implement an effective advertising, publicity and promotion strategies which includes communicating through masses like TV/radio/print media and mobile alert and outdoor promotion like cutouts/ banners/ posters
- Monitor competitor activities and implement effective short-term counter strategies.
- Suggest /improve service delivery processes in order to ensure timely delivery of loan and deposit products and also ensure superior services to its clients coordinated with relevant functional heads
- Monitor progress of marketing and promotion activities implemented by the bank and report the management with remedial measures if any issue

Key Requirements:

- Should have one of the following qualifications:
 - a) a degree from a recognized University with a postgraduate qualification or postgraduate diploma in a relevant field or
 - b) full professional qualification in banking
- Should have eight years' experience at Senior Management level preferably with banking and finance sector.
- Full professional qualification in Marketing will be an added advantage
- Should demonstrate the ability to build close and solid relationship with key client.
- Motivational talent, multi-tasking and excellent communication, interpersonal and people management skills are essential attributes

CHIEF RISK OFFICER (CRO)

Reporting to the Board Integrated Risk Management Committee, the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) is accountable for the management of key risks including Credit, Market and Operational Risk exposure to the Bank; and also enabling sufficient business growth whilst balancing the risk reward aspects ensuring the bank's conformity to all applicable internal and external regulations and standards. The CRO has the primary responsibility in setting up and managing of Standards in risk management; identifying, monitoring, controlling, mitigating and reporting the full spectrum of risk exposed to the Bank.

The Job Role:

- Develop, manage and refine qualitative and quantitative Risk appetite framework which meets the needs of the Board and the Bank's strategic plan in order to support effective business growth
- Work closely with the Corporate Management and the Board Integrated Risk Management Committee to instill a high achieving and a well-controlled organization which can achieve sustainable growth
- Formulate and articulate a coherent risk appetite and infrastructure, continuously develop, enhance and embed the risk framework for managing risks across the institution, ensuring that processes are fit for purpose
- Assess existing risks as well as new and emerging risks through both quantitative and qualitative assessment techniques and offer sustainable solutions for implementation
- Establish and maintain corporate governance systems and committee structures in order to review and confirm investment processes
- Ensure the Bank's risk levels and business processes are consistent with the bank's risk appetite, internal risk policies and regulatory requirements for risk management
- Embedding a positive culture of confident and informed risk taking through training, communication and promotion of the agreed risk framework
- Provide essential input as a member of the Corporate Management to instill credibility by challenging the management of current issues and the development/ implementation strategy.

Key Requirements:

- Should have one of the following qualifications:
 - a) a degree from a recognized University with a postgraduate qualification or postgraduate diploma in a relevant field or
 - b) full professional qualification in banking
- Should have eight years' experience at Senior Management level in Banking/ Financial Services Industry
- Experience in handling Risk Management function at Senior Management level is a requisite

- Exposure to credit evaluation and approval process would be an advantage
- Leadership skills, including the ability to manage risk, compliance and control activities in a complex financial operations
- Strong knowledge and exposure of best practices in risk management and governance framework, methodologies and emerging practices

CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR (CIA)

Reporting to the Board Audit Committee, CIA is accountable for strengthening the internal controls of the bank's operation within the scope of the internal audit and plan/design monthly or quarterly audit programs and conduct regular audits adhering to the audit manual of the bank and produce independent reports to the Chairman of the Board Audit Committee with findings, observations and recommendations including the suggestions to improve the efficacy of systems and processes to minimize cost in order to promote pro-active cost effective controls

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop and execute the overall internal audit plan for the bank covering all aspects of business which include review of the internal controls introduced by the management for the effectiveness in design and operation with special emphasis on internal controls relating to financial reporting.
- Review of Bank's policies, procedures to comply with laws, regulations and disciplinary procedure which could have a significant impact on Bank operations and risks.
- Train and develop the staff in the internal audit division to reach their full potential.
- Conduct investigations into the matters where necessary and report them to the audit committee.
- Coordinate with external auditor/s, government agencies and other regulations with regard to audit matters.
- Review and appraise the economic and efficient deployment of resources.
- Assist the Board Audit Committee in its deliberations.

Key requirements:

- Professional Membership of at least one of the following:
 - a) Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka
 - b) Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales
 - c) Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of UK
 - d) Chartered Management Accountants UK/ Sri Lanka or any other equivalent professional qualification
- 08 years experience at Senior Management level of which 05 years should be in a Bank/Financial Institution attached to Internal Audit division
- Excellent hands-on experience with knowledge on IT based audit technique.
- Familiarity with Auditing and Accounting standards issued CA Sri Lanka and other government institutions and industry best practices
- Proven track record of man management and interaction at board level.
- Familiarity with the banking sector corporate governance practices and disclosure requirements.
- Candidates with knowledge on IFRS will be an added advantage.

CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER (CHRO)

Reporting to General Manager/CEO as member of Corporate Management Team, Chief Human Resources Officer is involved in achieving business goals in a consistent manner by applying and strategic and integrated approach in acquisition, development and engagement of human capital by using relevant tools, proper policies and procedures.

The Job Role:

Human Resource Development:

- Provide strategic direction for the HR functions in line with objectives of the Bank
- Develop and lead workforce plans and programs that support the Bank's overall strategic objectives
- Provide budgets and programs for workforce cost and maintain cost effectiveness in all HR functionalities
- Review staffing structures, functionality and staffing compositions towards strategy alignment
- Competency development and capacity planning
- Align staff towards objectives and plans through performance driven KPI system
- Provide emolument in line with industry standards and support for employee wellbeing
- Devise strategies to select competent employees ready to move into key positions of the Bank
- Promote online applications and electronic platform for HR functionalities
- Continuous evaluation, development and implementation of HR policies and procedures

Administration:

- Handle all aspects of Bank procurement
- All logistic and administration matters including fixed asset inventory, transport and other utility services
- Oversee all aspects of security measures to function as custodian

Key Requirements:

- Should have one of the following qualifications:
 - a) a degree from a recognized University with a postgraduate qualification or postgraduate diploma in a relevant field or
 - b) full professional qualification in banking
- Should have eight years' experience at Senior Management level preferably with banking and finance sector.
- Full professional qualification in HR will be an added advantage
- Hands on experience in handling HR functions in a service organization with over 500 employees covering all key results areas of HR
- Ability to lead HR related work through automated HR system and conduct performance review visiting to regions
- Be able to demonstrate excellent leadership, negotiation, analytical, interpersonal and communication skills
- Knowledge and exposure of handling all aspects of bank procurement as to lead the Procurement Team

Age Limit:

Below 57 years for the external candidates and age limit will not be applicable for internal candidates

Remuneration:

An attractive negotiable remuneration package will be on offer to the right candidate.

Closing Date for Applications: October 20, 2020

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested qualified candidates should send their applications, curriculum vitae and copies of their educational/Professional transcripts and the names, addresses and contact numbers of two professional non related referees. Post applied for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing the application.

General Manager/CEO
Regional Development Bank,
No. 933, Kandy Road,
Wedamulla,
Kelaniya.



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF
 MEDICAL SCIENCES (PGIMS)
 UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

POST OF DIRECTOR (FIRST DIRECTOR)

Applications are invited from those who are suitably qualified for the Post of Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), University of Peradeniya.

In terms of the Ordinance of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, the Director, is a full time officer who will be the Principal Executive Officer, Principal Academic Officer and Accounting Officer of the Institute. The tenure of the office is three years and applicants should preferably be below the age of 62 years and should not be more than 65 years of age as at 29.10.2020.

The prospective candidate should possess the Board Certification or Doctoral [PhD or equivalent] in a medical specialty. An experience in administering an academic entity is an added advantage. The successful candidate should possess excellent interpersonal skills necessary to perform duties in a multi-disciplinary academic environment and understanding of the Institute's commitment to the community. He/She will be responsible for providing academic leadership.

The Director is eligible to receive a salary, other approved allowances and transport facilities as per the Establishment Circular Letter No. 13/2015 of the University Grants Commission and its subsequent amendments from time to time.

Applicants should send in their applications along with the Curriculum Vitae and a Vision Statement for the Institute under registered post addressed to the Office of the Vice - Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya on or before 29.10.2020. The title of the post should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Applications which are incomplete or illegible or do not conform to the stated requirements or received after the closing date will be rejected.

Further details could be obtained from the Assistant Registrar/Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya on 081-2396201 during normal office hours.

**Vice - Chancellor,
 University of Peradeniya,
 Peradeniya.**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

WIJAYA KUMARATUNGA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL – SEEDUWA

Invitation of Applications for the Vacant Positions

1. MEDICAL OFFICER

Qualifications : Medical Officers registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council

- Two (02) years experience as a Grade II Medical Officer in a Government Hospital
- Medical Officers who are retired from the Department of Health will be considered
- When there are no applications from fully qualified applicants, applications of the post intern medical officers will be taken into consideration.

Salary Scale : **Medical Officer – Primary Grade**
 Rs. 67,862.50 – 2 x 1,668.75 – 71,200.00 (Monthly)

Medical Officer – Grade II
 Rs. 72,881.25 – 6 x 1,681.25 – 12 x 2,037.50 – 107,418.75 (Monthly)

2. NURSING OFFICER

Qualifications : 03 years experience in a government hospital as a Nurse

Salary Scale : Grade III – Rs. 40,656.25 – 18 x 556.25 – 50,668.75 (Monthly)
 Grade II – Rs. 47,043.75 – 21 x 825 – 64,368.75 (Monthly)

3. OPTOMETRIST

Qualifications : Certificate obtained from the College of Optometry and should have been registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council and should have three (03) years experience

Salary Scale : Rs. 40,100 – 10 x 556.25 – 11 x 825 – 10 x 912.50 – 10 x 937.50 – 73,237.50 (Monthly)

General Conditions:

- Preference will be given to applicants below 45 years
- An increment of 25% than the salaries paid to the government servants has been included in the above salary scales. Salaries will be paid according to the Public Administration Circular No. 03/2016.
- Applicants employed in government service should direct their applications through the respective Heads of Divisions / Heads of Institutions.
- Duly perfected applications along with certified copies of educational / professional / service certificates should be sent by post addressed to "Chairman, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa" to receive before 04.11.2020.
- Post applied for should be clearly mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.
- Applications of the retired Medical Officers will be taken into consideration only if there are no applications from fully qualified applicants. When such applicants are selected allowances would be paid according to Public Administration Circular No. 03/2018.

**Chairperson
 Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital
 Seeduwa.**

TENDER NOTICE



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 இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

Tender Number	FMD/ENG/HH/2020/02
Tender Description	Service and Maintenance of Split type Air Conditioning units installed at Regional Office – Matara and Holiday Home - Kataragama, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
Bid Closing and Opening	Date : 22 nd October 2020 Time: 1430 Hrs. Location : Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No,30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01.
Pre-bid Meeting	Date : 16 th October 2020 Time: 1000 Hrs. Location : Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01.

For further information please refer <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders> or contact Maintenance & Project Engineer on 011 2477430

Director, Facilities Management Department, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

**MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
 & HOUSING**



**Design, Construction & Financing of Housing Project at
 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Nuwara Eliya**

The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee, Ministry of Urban Development & Housing on behalf of the Urban Development Authority (UDA) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Design, Construction & Financing of Apartment and remedying any defects therein land located at Elizabeth Drive, Nuwara Eliya on Design & Build basis as described below.

Project Scope

A. Constructing of 50 Housing units comprising maximum number of floors as per planning & building regulations of UDA with following features;

- Type "A"**- Each unit consists of minimum 750 sqft floor area (30 number of housing units from total number of housing units)
- Type "B"**- Each unit consists of minimum 950 sqft floor area (20 number of housing units from total number of housing units)

2. Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding procedure.**

> To be eligible for Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and the eligible Bidders shall comply with one of the following qualification criteria;

- Local Developer or Contractor who are registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in Sri Lanka and having level C1 or above for building

or

- Bidder who does not fulfill above requirements could be considered developer / investor should be required to undertake the construction as a joint venture with a local contractor who is registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) and having level C1 or above for building. In these circumstances, they should demonstrate required financial capacity and developing and constructing similar housing projects by either party of Joint venture to carry out the proposed project.

and

> Average annual value of Turnover in the last 5 years shall be at least **LKR 1.20 Billion.** (Bidders including each partner of a joint venture, should provide financial information)

and

> At least construction of one building including (G + 10) floors shall be required in last five years (Design & Build Project)

and

> 50% Initial Contract Price should be financed by the bidder and this will be paid by the UDA within six months (06) of the Taking Over Certificate of completion of the project.

3. Contract Period – **912 Calendar Days.**

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Director - Housing, UDA, 6th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla. Tel. 0112875907 (during office hours **9.00 a.m to 3.00 p.m**)

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director - Housing, Urban Development Authority (UDA), 6th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla from **14/10/2020 to 24/11/2020** during office hours from **9.00 a.m to 3.00 p.m** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR. 100,000.00 (Hundred Thousand) + VAT** in cash in favour of **Chairman, Urban Development Authority.**

6. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the following address **at or before 2.00 p.m on 25/11/2020.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidder's representative who chooses to attend.

**Chairman,
 Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee,
 Ministry of Urban Development & Housing
 17th Floor,
 "Suhurupaya",
 Battaramulla.**

7. Bids shall be valid up to **175 Days from the Closing Date of Bids.**

8. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security of **LKR 17.00 Million.** Bid Securities shall be from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka or from the Construction Guarantee Fund. It shall be irrevocable and unconditionally encashable upon the first written Demand from the Employer. Bid Security shall be valid up to **28 Calendar Days beyond the validity of the Bid.**

9. A pre-bid meeting will be held on **11/11/2020 at 10.00 a.m** at Urban Development Authority Auditorium, 9th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla.

**Chairman,
 Urban Development Authority,
 9th Floor,
 "Sethsiripaya",
 Battaramulla.**

www.oadz.lk
 it's what you want



PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

STANDING CABINET APPOINTED PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

(STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS)

THE CHAIRMAN, STANDING CABINET APPOINTED PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WILL RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR SUPPLY OF FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of Issuing of Bid Document	Non refundable Bid Fee
DHS/C/S/WW/2/21	23.11.2020 at 10.00 a.m.	Intra Ocular Lens, Hydrophobic	12.10.2020	Rs. 100,000.00 + Taxes

BIDS SHOULD BE PREPARED AS PER PARTICULARS GIVEN IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ON WORKING DAYS BETWEEN 0930 HOURS AND 1500 HOURS FROM 12.10.2020 AT THE HEAD OFFICE, NO.75, SIR BARON JAYATILAKE MAWATHA, COLOMBO 1. THESE COULD BE PURCHASED ON CASH PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE BID DOCUMENT FEE AS ABOVE PER SET. OFFERS RECEIVED WITHOUT ENCLOSING ORIGINAL PAYMENT RECEIPT ARE LIABLE TO BE REJECTED.

ALL BIDS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A BID BOND AS SPECIFIED IN THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS.

"WHEREVER NECESSARY POTENTIAL BIDDER/BIDDERS SHOULD GET REGISTERED IN TERMS OF THE PUBLIC CONTRACT ACT NO.3 OF 1987 BEFORE COLLECTING THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALSO SHOULD GET THE CONTRACT REGISTERED AFTER THE TENDER IS AWARDED."

SEALED BIDS MAY BE SENT BY POST UNDER REGISTERED COVER OR MAY BE DEPOSITED IN THE BOX AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE AT INTERNAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT IN MEZZANINE FLOOR OF THE STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA AT NO. 75, SIR BARON JAYATILAKE MAWATHA, COLOMBO 1, SRI LANKA.

BIDS WILL BE CLOSED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION ON THE DATES AND TIME MENTIONED ABOVE AND WILL BE OPENED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE PERMITTED TO BE PRESENT AT THE TIME OF OPENING OF BIDS.

BIDDING DOCUMENTS ARE BEING SENT TO SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD AND FOREIGN MISSIONS IN SRI LANKA.

CHAIRMAN - STANDING CABINET APPOINTED PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS
C/O CHAIRMAN - STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILAKE MAWATHA
COLOMBO 1
SRI LANKA.

TELE/FAX : 00 94-11- 2335008
E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk

PEOPLE'S BANK

AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 30.06.2019 subject to renewal within 12 months at the undermentioned People's Bank Branches and Service Centers and not redeemed at the date given against, will be sold by Public Auction at 9.00 a.m. on the dates and the places stated below.

No	Br/SCs. Code No.	Branch / Service Center	Articles not redeemed up to	Date Fixed for Auction	Place of Auction
01.	020	Mullaitivu Branch	26.10.2020	27.10.2020 & 28.10.2020	At People's Bank Vavuniya Branch
	599	Oddusuddan Service Centre			
	779	Puthukkudiyiruppu Service Centre			
02.	165	Mankulam Branch			
	978	Mallavi Service Centre			
	731	Kanagarayankulam Service Centre			
03.	044	Mannar Branch			
	955	Pesalai Service Centre			
04.	166	Murunkan Branch			
	967	Nanattan Service Centre			
	742	Silawathurai Service Centre			
05.	048	Kilinochchi Branch			
	732	Kilinochchi Town Service Centre			
06.	111	Paranthan Branch			
	979	Palai Service Centre			
07.	040	Vavuniya Branch			
	983	Vavuniya Town Service Centre			
	595	Nedunkerny Service Centre			
08.	356	Chettikulam Branch			

The Bank reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate or postpone the auction without further notice to the Public.

Regional Manageress
People's Bank
Regional Head Office
Wanni, Vavuniya.
Tel : 024-2222972



PEOPLE'S BANK

AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AA - Brand Finance Rating

Sri Lanka Insurance

BID NOTICE

BID REF : SLIC/PRM/003/2020

Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Handing over of Fire Detecting System for the Head Office of Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation.

Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation invites General Information, Design/Technical proposals and Financial proposals with the Profile from reputed and experienced Fire Contractors for the following project.

Expected Duration:- within 180 days from the commencement
Project will be funded by Sri Lanka Insurance

Eligibility Criteria

- Bidder should be a Registered Contractor to the Government of Sri Lanka.
- Bidder should be specialised in Fire Protection and Detection Systems, Electrical and Mechanical services (EM).
- Bidder should possess at least 05 years of experience in the field of Fire Protection and Detection Systems
- Bidder should be a registered Contractor in Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) and registration under the Electrical and Mechanical Services (EM 04) or above category will be an added advantage (document proof should be available)
- Bidder should have not been blacklisted previously

Bid Particulars

- Issuing Period** : 12.10.2020 to 02.11.2020 from 9.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m
- Pre Bid meeting** : 20.10.2020 at 10.00 a.m via Internet (ZOOM)
- Bid Closing Date & Time** : 03.11.2020 at 1.00 p.m
- Bid Opening Date & Time** : 03.11.2020 at 1.00 p.m
- Bid Security** : Rs. 450,000/- irrevocable, encashable bid bond drawn on a Commercial Bank in Sri Lanka, valid until 29.03.2021
- Bid Validity Period** : 119 days
- Bid Submission Location** : Procurement Department, Sri Lanka Insurance, 8th Floor, No. 21, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

Terms & Conditions

- Prospective contractors who fulfill the above criteria can collect the Bidding documents on a submission of letter of request by paying a non-refundable tender fee of Rs. 6,500/-, from below mentioned address.
- Bidding documents can be inspected and collected free of charge during normal working hours. (from 12.10.2020 to 02.11.2020, 9am to 4.00pm on weekdays)
- 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: deshapriyag@sri.lankainsurance.com
Web: www.sri.lankainsurance.com
Company Registration Number - PB 289

SLIC
Sri Lanka Insurance
Like a father - Like a mother



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS & MALARIA PROJECT (GFATM)

Implementation of a Network System for an Electronic Patient Information Management System (ePIMS)

The Chairperson, Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD) under GFATM project now invites EOI from eligible Network Developers for the implementation of its Electronic Patient Information Management System (ePIMS) which is a centralized and web-based open source data system to manage TB prevention activities at field level.

The ePIMS consisted of:

- Aggregate and Case Based Electronic Recording and Reporting System
- Laboratory Investigation Management Module
- Drug Stock Information Management Module
- MDR-TB Patient Recording and Reporting System

The necessary network & hardware for the functioning of the ePIMS in all 23 District Chest Clinics (DCC) need to be implemented during the last quarter of 2020.

EOI is called upon from prospective network service providers for the above purpose.

A. Specific Objectives:

- To establish secure data transmission channels with the NPTCCD central server.
- To establish the network infrastructure at each DCC.
- To expedite the full implementation of ePIMS via the Wide Area Network.

Interested Network Implementers should provide information demonstrating that they have required qualifications, resources and experience to perform the above Assignment along with following details;

- Name, address of the firm or institute and profile of the employees pertaining to the networking,
- i. Details of previous experience in similar network implementations.
- ii. Name and address of the clients, organization and descriptions of networks,
- Full curriculum vitae including academic qualifications and relevant experience of staff designated to the Assignment,
- Technical qualifications, facilities and resources available for successful completion of Assignment with the allocated period of time,
- Experience in health sector (Government/ Private) and similar Networks undertaken by the applicant.
- Documentary evidence to indicate financial capability and financial soundness of the firm. Please attach last three years audited financial reports.

The EOI submitted by the perspective bidders will be reviewed on the basis of the following to prepare a shortlist:

- Background of the firm(s): summarizing their facilities, resources and areas of expertise;
- General and specific experience of the firm(s),
- Summary of similar Assignment undertaken by the firm(s) in Health Sector,
- Practical experience in relevant software applications & reporting tools in Health Sector in the region and in resources limited settings,
- Availability of appropriate knowledge of the firm and skills amongst staff,
- Demonstration of technical capacity with constructive opinions to complete the Assignment (Please attach constructive opinions to the TOR) and financial capability to handle this Assignment (Please attach last three years audited financial reports),and
- Working experience and knowledge in Foreign Funding Agencies and Government Ministries will be an advantage.

Short listed prospective bidders will be called upon for the pre bid meeting and will be briefed on the full project and based on the overall developed project proposals has to be handed over by the bidders.

Interested applicants may obtain further information from the Director, National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD) and inspect the proposed ToR at the GFATM Office, 4th Floor, Public Health Complex, No. 555/5, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05. From 9.00 hrs. To 15.00 hrs. On all working days.

Original & one copy of EOI shall be delivered to the following address at or before 10.00 a.m. on 27th of October 2020. The Envelope should clearly bear as reference "EOI for the Implementation of a Network System for an EPIMS for the NPTCCD". Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

Chairperson,
Regional Procurement Committee,
National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD)

Public Health Complex,
555/5, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05
Sri Lanka.

Telephone: +94 112368276

**DEDIGAMA GROUP (PVT) LTD
PRE - QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS**

Contractors in CIDA Grade C3 or Higher are Invited to Register for the Construction of a 90 Roomed Luxury Hotel in Anuradhapura.

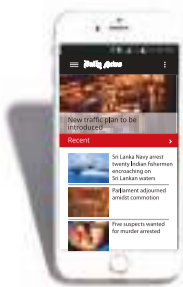
Those who are interested in applying for Pre Qualification should submit their details including following information.

1. Company Name, Business Registration and details of Company Directorate.
2. Hotels of Over 50 Bedrooms or more constructed Over the past 4 years with details of clients, Consultants worked with and period of construction.
3. Details of other construction work of over Rs.100 Million executed by the Company in the past 4 years
4. List of skilled personnel, semi skilled and general labour employed full time by the Company and details of the staff and machinery resources of the organization.
5. Audited accounts of the company over the past 3 Years
6. Current Bank facilities available
7. Current Work in hand and expected date of completion of such work
8. CIDA Registration.

Applicants should submit the above details to reach the under mentioned address within 2 weeks from the date of the advertisement.

**Manager Procurement
Dedigama Group (Pvt) Ltd
No:12, Dehiwala Road, Maharagama
procumentdedigamagroup@gmail.com**

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Tender Notice



Tender notice for Services

1. The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the Management Corporation -HCMC-2 invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following services.

Service Identification Number	Description	Date and time of tender closing / opening
HCMC2 - 001	Staff Uniforms	31st October 2020 - 1 pm
HCMC2 - 002	Pest Control	31st October 2020 - 1 pm
HCMC2 - 003	Landscaping	31st October 2020 - 1 pm
HCMC2 - 004	Janitorial	31st October 2020 - 1 pm
HCMC2 - 005	Building Insurance	31st October 2020 - 1 pm
HCMC2 - 006	Air Condition Service	31st October 2020 - 1 pm
HCMC2 - 007	Security	31st October 2020 - 1 pm

2. Tenders will be conducted through competitive value based process.
3. Complete set of documents in English language could be obtained by interested bidders from the Management Office located at the address given below from 15th October 2020 between 10.00 a.m. and 04.00 p.m. on week days before the closing date of the tender upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5000.00 to the Accountant - Management Office Colombo 06. The Offer without the receipt of the payment will not be accepted.
4. The sealed bids in duplicate, shall be addressed to the "Chairman Procurement Committee" and may be either dispatched by registered post or deposited in the Tender box at the Operation Command Centre (OCC) at the Management Office well before the closing time. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened soon after the closing of bids.
5. Please mark service identification Number on the left hand corner of the envelope.
6. The tender conditions and required items are listed in the "Schedule" of the tender document and the applicable rates on service shall be indicated for each item listed therein. The rate quoted by each bidder in the schedule of prices shall not be subjected to variation on any event. Any alteration in the Tender Document has to be countersigned with the full signature of the Tenderer.
7. The prospective service providers shall be aware that they shall include all their expenses with all taxes including VAT and other levies in the quotation submitted.
8. Interested eligible Service providers may obtain further information from the Condominium Manager (Tel:0112-137800) Administration - Coordinator (Tel:0112-137801) during office hours mentioned above.
9. The address referred to above is :

The Management Corporation Condominium Plan No: 8308 A,
Havelock City,
Davidson Tower
No 324,
Havelock Road,
Colombo 06.

Chairman - HCMC 2

**NOTICE
MINISTRY OF PLANTATION**



SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

TEA COMMISSIONER'S DIVISION

SRI LANKA TEA BOARD LAW NO. 14 OF 1975 AND SRI LANKA TEA BOARD (REGISTRATION OF TEA PACKERS) REGULATION - 1986

REGISTRATION OF LOCAL TEA PACKERS FOR THE YEAR 2021

In order to safeguard the quality of the tea presented to the domestic consumption, the Sri Lanka Tea board has made necessary arrangements to register all the tea packers in the local market for the year 2021. In terms of this regulations published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 386/13 of 28th January, 1986, all the local tea packers should be registered with the Sri Lanka Tea board.

The Tea Packers will be registered under 3 categories, on the basis of the expected monthly sales volume. The registration fee for each category is appended below.

Monthly sales Volume	Registration Fee	Registration fee with 8% VAT
Up to 2500 Kg	Rs 5,000.00	Rs 5,400.00
Between 2501 to 5000 Kg	Rs 10,000.00	Rs 10,800.00
Over 5001 Kg	Rs 25,000.00	Rs 27,000.00

The application forms for the above registration can be obtained from the SLTB head office or from following regional offices or could be downloaded from our official website www.srilankateaboard.lk

Number	Regional Office Address	Administrative Districts and Bank Accounts details
01	Assistant Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Commissioner's Division, No. 140, Ambagamuwa Road, Gampola. Tel.No: 081-2352279	Kandy, Matale, Kurunegala, Kegalle Bank Of Ceylon - Gampola A/C No : 0002499151
02	Assistant Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Commissioner's Division, No. 34, Gangarama Cross Road, Magalle, Galle. Tel: 091-2232052	Galle District Bank Of Ceylon - Galle A/C No : 0001585875
03	Assistant Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Commissioner's Division, 61/1, New Town, Rathnapura. Tel : 045-2222136	Rathnapura District Bank Of Ceylon - Rathnapura A/C No : 0001015630
04	Assistant Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Commissioner's Division, No. 23, Aluth Mawatha, Uyanwatta, Matara. Tel : 041- 2222636	Matara & Hambantota Districts Bank Of Ceylon - Matara A/C No : 0001659159
05	Assistant Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Commissioner's Division, Vishaka Mawatha, New Badulla Road, Bandarawela. Tel : 057-2222812	Badulla & Monaragala Districts Bank Of Ceylon - Bandarawela A/C No : 0002067259
06	Assistant Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Commissioner's Division, Wathurana Road, Baduraliya. Tel: 034-2247444	Galle & Kalutara (Mathugama and Elpitiya Divisional Secretariat) Bank Of Ceylon - Mathugama A/C No : 0005121673
07	Assistant Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Commissioner's Division, No. 10, Kelegala, Nanuoya Road, Nuwara Eliya. Tel : 0522234695	Nuwara Eliya, Hanguranketha, Ambagamuwa, Kotmale, Norwood, Walapane, Hatton Bank Of Ceylon - Nuwara Eliya A/C No : 84323339
08	Deputy Tea Commissioner (Exports) Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Commissioner's Division, No. 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel: 011 2504090	Colombo & other Districts Submit the application form with stipulated payment in cheque or cash to Head office

Payment of registration fee could be made either in cash or cheque. All cheques should be drawn in favour of the "Sri Lanka Tea Board".

Duly filled Applications together with the relevant payment should be handed over to the applicable regional office or Sri Lanka Tea Board head office.

**Chairman
Sri Lanka Tea Board
No. 574, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.
06.10.2020**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS PUBLISHED ON 13.09.2020)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FIRE DETECTION AND FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO.: DHQC/FP & FD 03/2020

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Design, Supply and Installation of Fire Detection and Fire Protection Systems for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and as described below and estimated to cost LKR 380 Million (Excluding VAT).

The work consists of Design, Supply and Installation of Fire Detection and Fire Protection Systems for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.

2. The Construction period is 300 Days.
3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
4. To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted. Bidders shall have Construction Industry Development Authority Grading EM1 in the Specialty of Electrical and Mechanical Services (EM) Under Sub-Specialty Fire Detection, Protection and Suppression (FDPS).
5. Minimum Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award shall be,

Qualifications	Minimum Qualifications Requirements
(i) Average annual turnover value of Fire Detection, Fire Protection and Fire Suppression works of any five years successfully performed in last ten years.	LKR 456 million per year
(ii) Experience in Design, Supply and Installation within last ten years. (2010 to 2019)	At least 5 Nr. Fire Detection and Protection Systems successfully completed within last 10 years. Minimum value of one number of such systems shall not be less than LKR 95 million.
(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract	not less than LKR 114 million
(iv) Ability to provide the maintenance services by the Bidder himself or by an authorized agent nominated by the Bidder in Sri Lanka for the supplied system during its service period	Compulsory

6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Director - Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address from 14.09.2020 until 23.10.2020 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. during a working day.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Volume 1A) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka from 14.09.2020 until 23.10.2020 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. during a working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 50,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Fifty Thousand). The method of payment will be by Cash.
8. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below at or before 11.00 hrs. on 26.10.2020, late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Bids shall be valid from 26.10.2020 to 21.02.2021 (119 Days from the date of closing of Bids).
10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of Sri Lankan Rupees Five Million Seven Hundred Thousand (LKR 5,700,000.00) obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid from 26.10.2020 to 21.03.2021 (147 Days after opening the Bids). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
11. Bidders are strongly advised to submit the Registration Certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 with submission of the Bid.
12. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director General (Account & Finance) Ministry of Defence, the Name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above is :

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03,
Sri Lanka.
Tel : 0094-011-2390719
Fax : 0094-011-2390720**

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NOTICE MINISTRY OF PLANTATION



SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

SRI LANKA TEA BOARD LAW NO. 14 OF 1975

SRI LANKA TEA BOARD (REGISTRATION OF TEA PACKERS)
REGULATION - 1986

REGISTRATION / RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OF TEA PACKERS FOR THE YEAR 2021

In terms of the above regulation published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 386/13 of 28th January, 1986, no person or body of persons shall engage in the business of packing tea, unless such person or body of persons is registered with the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

- Accordingly, all persons engaged in the business of packing tea in all forms of packaging for export market, are hereby advised to apply for registration or renewal of the registration for the year 2021 to the Deputy Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Export Branch, No. 574, Galle Road, Colombo 3 on or before **30th November, 2020** in the prescribed form obtainable from the same office or our official web site (www.srilankateaboard.lk).
- The applicable fee for a new registration would be Rs. 25,000/- + 8% VAT. (Payable Fee would be Rs. 27,000/-). Every registration shall be renewed annually on or before 31st December of the current year. The renewal fee would be Rs. 10,000/- + 8% VAT (Payable Fee would be Rs. 10,800/-).
- In the aforesaid regulation, unless the context otherwise requires "Packer" means a person or body of persons who packs tea in consumer or catering packs such as polythene bags, cartons, canisters, packets, wooden boxes, cans, porcelain jars, reed packs or any other form or retail packing not exceeding ten kilograms.
- Every person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of these regulations or furnishes false information or returns to the Sri Lanka Tea Board shall be guilty of an offence, punishable in terms of these regulations.
- Payment of registration fee or renewal fee could be made either in cash or cheque. All cheques should be drawn in favour of the "Sri Lanka Tea Board".

**CHAIRMAN
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD
574, GALLE ROAD,
COLOMBO 3.**

06.10.2020

NOTICE MINISTRY OF PLANTATION



SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

ANNUAL REGISTRATION - EXPORTERS OF TEA 2021

In terms of the Sri Lanka Tea Board Law No. 14 of 1975 and the Tea (Tax and Control of Exports) Act. No. 16 of 1959, all individuals and organizations engaged in the business of export of tea products should register themselves with the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

Applications are now being received by the Sri Lanka Tea Board for registration of new applicants and renewal of registration of the following categories of individuals and organizations engaged in the export of tea products for the year 2021.

- * Exporters of tea whose annual volume of tea exported is 1 Million Kgs or above Large category
- * Exporters of tea whose annual volume of tea exported is below 1 Million Kgs. Small category

Duly completed applications for the above categories should be forwarded with the renewal fees to the Deputy Tea Commissioner, Tea Exports Section, Sri Lanka Tea Board, No. 574, Galle Road, Colombo 3, on or before **30th November, 2020**. All cheques for the amount applicable should be drawn in favour of the "Sri Lanka Tea Board".

Renewal application forms are being posted to all registered exporters of tea by the Sri Lanka Tea Board. New application and renewal application forms could be obtained from the Tea Exports Section, of the Sri Lanka Tea Board or could be downloaded from the Sri Lanka Tea Board official web site (www.srilankateaboard.lk).

Registration fee for new applicants and renewal fee for registered exporters of tea are appended below:

- * New Applicant Rs.25,000/- + 8% VAT
- * Renewal of Large Category Rs.500,000/- + 8% VAT
- * Renewal of Small Category Rs.50,000/- + 8% VAT

All registered exporters of tea shall renew their registration on or before 31st December, 2020.

**CHAIRMAN
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD
574, GALLE ROAD,
COLOMBO 03.**

06.10.2020



UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE YEAR - 2021

Applications are invited from reputed Suppliers, (including Manufacturers, Local Agents and Sole Distributors) who wish to register themselves with the University of Moratuwa for the supply of Goods during the year 2021. The applicant should pay a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,000/- for **EACH CATEGORY OF ITEMS** for which registration is applied, to the bank account of University of Moratuwa, Account No.306836 maintained at Bank of Ceylon-Katubedda Branch. The original of deposit slip should be forwarded along with the application to the University. Application should be prepared according to the specimen available at the University Website: www.mrt.ac.lk and sent under registered cover with "Registration of Suppliers, Year- 2021" marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope to reach the Senior Assistant Bursar/Supplies, University of Moratuwa, Katubedda, Moratuwa on or before **29th October 2020**. All applicants shall first register with the "promis.lk" under the vendor registration and confirm the same in the application.

The University of Moratuwa will generally call for quotations from the registered suppliers of the relevant categories. However, University reserves the right to call quotations from those who are not registered as well. The registered suppliers, who fail to quote when requested or fail to make delivery in time in conformity with the given requirements will be removed from the register without prior notice.

CATEGORIES OF GOODS

Sub Category - I

- Air Conditioners, A/C Compressors etc.
- Lab Equipment - Analytical Equipment.
- General Lab Equipment & Instrument.
- Engineering Workshop Tools & Workshop Equipment.
- Computers - Computer Spare parts, UPS, UPS batteries & peripherals.
- Tablet - computers.
- Computers - Personal Computers, Laptops, Workstations, Servers & High-End Computers.
- Computers - Software & License.
- Network Equipments - Routers, Switches, Modems & Network Accessories etc.
- Printers & Scanners.
- Photocopy Machines, Digital Duplicators, Fax Machines, etc.
- Cloaks Garlands and Hoods.
- Camera-Compact Camera, Video Cameras, Tripods and related accessories.
- Camera - CCTV Camera and Accessories, Camera, DVRS, NVR, Enclosures, Cables and DC power supply etc.
- Audio Visual Products OHP, Multimedia Projectors, Screens & Video Conference Systems.
- Mobile Phones, PDAs etc.
- Safety Equipment - Safety Shoes, Gum boots, Raincoats Fire Extinguishers etc.
- Surveying Equipment & GPS etc.
- Machines for Office Use-Cash Registers, Calculators, Adding Machines, Finger Printing Machines, Paper Shredder & Franking Machine.
- Furniture-Wooden.
- Furniture-Plastic and Fiber Glass Products.
- Furniture-Steel.
- Furniture-Computer Chairs & Tables.
- Electrical Appliances- TV, Radio, Refrigerator, Fans, Vacuum Cleaners etc.
- Sewing Machines, Iron, Press Machine & Other Garments Equipment.
- Cement Table & Chairs.
- Public Address Systems-Voice Recorders, Microphones, Speakers, Amplifiers etc.
- Sports Equipment.
- Medical & Dental Equipment.

Sub Category - II

- Toners, Cartridges, Printer Ribbons, Ink Cartridges for Printers.
- Stationery-Computer continuation sheets, Books, Pens, Marker Pens, Typing papers, White Boards, Numbering Machines and Punchers etc.
- Cleaning Materials-Disinfectants, Soaps etc.
- Photocopy Papers.
- ID Cards-Plastic Cards, RFID, etc.
- Kitchen Utensils including Cutlery & Crockery.
- Chemical and Glassware.
- Uniform Materials.
- Gas-LP & Industrial.
- Shoes.
- Home Appliances-Water Filters, Boilers, Water Dispenser, Hot Cupboards, Rice Steamers etc.
- Electrical Fittings, Wiring & Accessories -Plug Bases, Cables, MCB, Trip switches & Other Electrical Wiring items, Bulbs etc.
- Coir and Rubber Mattresses and Mattress covers - foam Mattres.
- Timber.
- Electronic Components-ICS, Resistors, Diodes etc.

- Electronic Items - Industrial Sensor, Micro Controller Development System, PLC, Robotic Modules & Accessories, Pneumatic Sensor RF Modules, Tag Reader Detector Motion.
- Electronic Sensors and Modern Electronic Items.
- General Hardware Items - Bricks, River Sand, Cement, Rubber, Metal, GI Pipe, Asbestos sheets, Plumbing Items Locks, Nails, Copper rods etc.
- Concrete Works - Inter lock, Paving Blocks, Hume Pipes.
- All kinds of paints - Wall putty, Thinner, Turpentine etc.
- PVC Pipes & Fittings etc.
- Sanitaryware - Ceramic Wash Basins, Tiles & Bathroom Fittings etc.
- Aluminium fittings, Ladders and Accessories etc.
- Household Items - Brooms, Brushes, Bins & Doormats, etc.
- Timber - Plywood Sheets, Boards, MDF boards etc.
- Tyres, Tubes and Batteries for Vehicles.
- Printing & Book Binding etc.
- Advertising - Medals, Plaques, Sign Boards, Digital Printing & Flex Printing.
- Sports Goods & Sportswear etc.

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

• Eligibility for Registration

- The applicant (relevant business organization) should possess a valid Business Registration.
- The applicant must be the manufacturer / owner of the registered trade mark of the product or an authorized re-seller, agent of the manufacturer, if you intend to supply goods under Sub Category I.
- The applicant should have at least 03 years of experience in supplying the relevant product(s). Submit relevant documents along with the Application.
- The applicant should agree and have the capacity to provide a credit period of minimum of 30 days in the event he/she is being selected for supply of goods.

• Documents to be submitted with the application for registration

- Duly completed application form based on the specimen provided, (a copy of the application form can be downloaded from the university website: www.mrt.ac.lk)
- A receipt of payment as per the instructions given and with the total amount based on the number of categories to which the registration is applied.
- Certified copy of the Business Registration.
- If the applicant is a limited liability company, a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation.
- A certified copy of the VAT registration or VAT-exemption certificate issued by the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue.
- If you are charging VAT on invoices, forward a letter obtained from Dept. of Inland Revenue mentioning you have a VAT Active file.
- A letter of authorization from the manufacturer / trade mark owner if the applicant is an agent or re-seller of the products.
- Copies of purchase orders / invoices relating to largest supplies of items of similar category made to government / private sector organizations during the years - 2018, 2019 & 2020.
- Above Item Nos. 7 & 8 will not apply to those who wish to supply goods under sub category - II.

• Other terms and conditions

- Applicants who have registered with the University for the year 2020 or earlier MUST apply for the registration for year 2021.
- Applicant should mark "Registration of Suppliers, Year-2021" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Non submission of requested documents, along with the application, will not be considered for Registration for Year 2021.
- Any Supplier who has not responded more than twice consecutively for an invitation to submit Quotations or performed unsatisfactorily under any procurement previously awarded, will be removed from the Supplier Registration.

**Registrar,
University of Moratuwa,
Katubedda,
Moratuwa.**



PROCUREMENT NOTICE SRILANKAN AIRLINES LTD

Reference No: 201933383
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR PROVISION OF STUDENT
TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR SRILANKAN AVIATION COLLEGE - KATUNAYAKE

The bidding forms could be downloaded directly from the following link
https://www.srilankan.com/en_uk/coporate/tender-notices

Bid closing date: 03rd November 2020 at 1000hrs
(Sri Lankan time GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

Further information can be obtained from telephone no. 0197332448 or 0197332773

**CHAIRMAN OF ENTERPRISE PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE MINISTRY OF AVIATION AND EXPORT ZONES DEVELOPMENT
ON BEHALF OF SRILANKAN AIRLINES**



UNFPA Request for Quotation

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency addressing that expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy sexual and reproductive lives.

RFQ No UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/20/17
Media air time on a Sinhala Television Network to raise awareness on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

This Request for Quotation is open to all legally-constituted companies that can provide the requested services and have legal capacity to perform in Sri Lanka, or through an authorized representative.

To view the detailed RFQ please visit the following website:

<https://srilanka.unfpa.org/en/>

Kindly note that upon successful selection, you will be required to submit your company profile, a copy of your company registration and a copy of the recently audited accounts for review purposes.

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should only be
sent by
ordinary post.
Replies sent
under
registered cover
will not be
accepted.



STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites sealed quotations from registered and previous sources for following items and bids will be closed at the respective times on the dates given below and will be opened immediately thereafter.
(E. mail /Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable)

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

SURGICAL SPECIAL ITEMS

Tender No.	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item	Quantity
DHS/RSS/RQ/6/21	23.10.2020	2.00 pm	Vascular Tapes in various sizes	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/7/21	23.10.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Consumables	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/8/21	23.10.2020	2.00 pm	Intercostal Drainage Catheter in various sizes	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/9/21	28.10.2020	2.00 pm	Triple lumen catheter sets for haemodialysis in various sizes	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/207/19	23.10.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Face Mask, with shield for splash protection, disposable	15,000 Nos.
DHS/RSS/RQ/209/19	28.10.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Non-Consumables	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/210/19	28.10.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Non-Consumables	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/75/20	28.10.2020	2.00 pm	Balloon Dilatation Catheter for Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA), non compliance type, size 2.75mm x 10mm balloon, sterile.	550 Nos.
DHS/RSS/RQ/80/2020	28.10.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Non-Consumables	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RSS/RQ/81/20	28.10.2020	2.00 pm	Surgical Non-Consumables	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk

LAB ITEMS

TENDER NO/BID REFERENCE	CLOSING DATE	CLOSING TIME	ITEM	QTY
DHS/RL/106WAC/19	26.10.2020	02.30 P.M.	Lab Items	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RL/107SM/19	26.10.2020	02.30 P.M.	01/50400103 EDTA blood collecting tube for Paediatric, disposable, plastic with rubber lid K2 or K3 EDTA (Sample size 1ml)	675,000 Nos.
DHS/RL/58RS/20	26.10.2020	02.30 P.M.	1/50401101 Test tube thermal and chemical resistant borosilicate 3.3, clear with uniform thickness, rimless, securely packed in labeled boxes, size 12x75 mm (thickness of wall 1.0 mm)	290,000 Nos.
DHS/RL/59SR/20	26.10.2020	02.30 P.M.	01/40300101-Egg albumin 07/40300701-Glod chloride	1,600g 100g
DHS/RL/60CPW/20	26.10.2020	02.30 P.M.	Lab Items	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk
DHS/RL/61WKL/20	26.10.2020	02.30 P.M.	Lab Items	Please refer SPC web site www.spc.lk

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available at the Head Office of State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the award.

**CHAIRMAN -PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA
COLOMBO 1
SRI LANKA.**

FAX : 00 94-11- 2335008/2344082
TELEPHONE : 00 94-11- 2335008/2326227/2335374
E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk

SRILANKAN AIRLINES LTD PROCUREMENT NOTICE

01. REFERENCE NO: 202031020
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE SUPPLY OF SET YOGHURT FOR ON-BOARD SERVICE

02. REFERENCE NO: 202031092
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE SUPPLY OF FRESH MILK IN TETRA PACKS FOR ON-BOARD SERVICE

For 1st and 2nd tenders, bid closing date: 04th November 2020 at 1000 hrs Sri Lankan time (GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

03. REFERENCE NO: 202030909
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE SUPPLY OF READY TO SERVE FRUIT JUICES FOR ON-BOARD SERVICE

For 3rd tender, bid closing date: 25th November 2020 at 1000 hrs Sri Lankan time (GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

Bidding forms could be downloaded directly from:

https://www.srilankan.com/en_uk/coporate/tender-notices

**CHAIRMAN OF ENTERPRISE PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE MINISTRY OF AVIATION AND EXPORT ZONE DEVELOPMENT
ON BEHALF OF SRILANKAN AIRLINES LIMITED**



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING Strategic Cities Development Project (Credit Number: 5800lk)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

REHABILITATION OF URBAN PARKS IN JAFFNA, STAGE II - PASAIYOOR POCKET PARKS SCDP/WB/JF/WK/19A

- 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 Rehabilitation of Urban Parks in Jaffna, Stage II - Pasaiyoor Pocket Parks - SCDP/WB/JF/WK/19A.
- 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/JF/WK/19A	Rehabilitation of Urban Parks in Jaffna, Stage II - Pasaiyoor Pocket Parks	SP1 under Landscaping and C4 or above in Building Construction	Rs.15,000/=	6 Months (180 Days)	66.0

The works consist of Demolition and Site Clearance, Excavation and Earth work, Concrete works (off-shore), Masonry work, Water Proofing, Metal work, Wood work, Floor Finishes, Painting, Landscaping, Outdoor Lighting, etc.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- 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.	Average Annual Turn Over	Liquid Assets and / or Credit Facilities required	Amount of Bid Security	Specific Construction Experience of Similar Nature within last 5 years
SCDP/WB/JF/WK/19A	> Rs. 198.0 Mn	> Rs. 33.0 Mn	Rs. 660,000/=	Satisfactory completion of three projects of similar nature and size of work completed.

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Additional Project Director (Jaffna), Project Implementation Unit (Jaffna), Strategic Cities Development Project, 639, Navalar Road, Jaffna. (Mobile: 077-6365610, Tel: 021-2216383, Facsimile: 021-2216384, E mail: sutharscdp@gmail.com, scdpjaffna@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 12.10.2020 until 29.10.2020 during 9.00hrs to 15.00hrs. Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 20.10.2020 at 2.30 p.m. at Project Implementation Unit (Jaffna), 639, Navalar Road, Jaffna. A site visit will be conducted at 1.30 p.m. by the Employer before the Pre-Bid meeting.
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application and a payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned above, by cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of "Strategic Cities Development Project" to the address given below or Project Implementation Unit (Jaffna), 639, Navalar Road, Jaffna from 12.10.2020 until 29.10.2020 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address given below on or before 2.00 p.m on 02.11.2020. 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.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

MATERIAL REQUIREMENT OF ALUMINIUM WINDOW FOR MARRIED QUARTERS COMPLEX AT KINHEDENIYA PROJECT FOR BLOCK NO. 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2020/H/K/21

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified tenderers for Supply of Hardware Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla as described below.
- Description of Items:- **ALUMINIUM ITEMS AND RELEVANT ACCESSORIES.**
- Estimated cost will be **Rs. 17.5 million** (excluding VAT).
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful tenderers shall not have been blacklisted and shall possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids. 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.**
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English Language may be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Rupees Four Thousand (LKR 4,000.00)** (The method of payment shall be by cash) by the interested bidder on submission of a written application to the address below from **0900 hrs to 1600 hrs from 12th October 2020 to 1000 hrs on 04th November 2020**;

"The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor), C/o The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla"
- All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security, to the value of **One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Sri Lanka Rupees** (LKR. 175,000.00) 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 04th November 2020 to 03rd March 2021 (120 days).**
- Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bid Opening.**
- Tenders shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address on or before **1000 hrs on 04th November 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
E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com, dhqcproc2015@gmail.com**

BUILDING & LAND FOR SALE

Mabima -156 Perch - Land
(25,000 sq.ft Factory Space)

Mattegoda -100 Perch - Land
(11,800 sq.ft Factory Space)

Call Now - Manju: 0766 449 148

**STATE MINISTRY OF BATIK, HANDLOOM AND LOCAL APPAREL PRODUCTS****Invitation of Quotations for Office Building**

Quotations are invited for obtaining a building that fulfills the following criteria for the State Ministry of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products on lease or rent basis.

**Situation - Colombo 03 to Colombo 08
Floor Area - 8000 - 10000 Sq. Ft
Parking Space for (minimum) 15 vehicles
Water, Electricity (with a Generator)
If a multi storey building, Electric Lift facilities should be available
Adequate toilet and sanitary facilities
(Separately for males and females)
Should be situated close to a main bus route**

Additional Qualifications

- Floor should be tiled ■ Should have been partitioned to suit an office
- Should have CCTV Security Camera System

Quotations from those who can fulfill the abovementioned criteria along with the Government Valuation Report of the building and documentary proof of the ownership of building should be sent by registered post addressed to "Secretary, State Ministry of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products, No. 73/1, Galle Road, Colombo 03" to receive before 26th October 2020.

Please attach a sketch of the building and sketch of the accessway to the building and photograph of the building with the quotation.

**Sunethra Gunawardena
Secretary
State Ministry of Batik, Handloom and
Local Apparel Products
No. 73/1, Galle Road, Colombo 03.**

Tel. No. - 011-2431671

09.10.2020

**Correction Notice****Registration of Suppliers for the Year 2021
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka**

This is with reference to the advertisement published on 04.10.2020 in the "Sunday Observer" newspaper for Supplier Registration for the year 2021 of State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka.

Please note that the time duration should be changed as follows:

Application forms could be obtained from 05.10.2020 to 04.11.2020 between 9.00a.m & 3.00pm by paying Rs. 500.00 + VAT in cash (non-refundable) per application.

Duly filled application forms should be forwarded at or before 3.00 p.m. on 05.11.2020.

Other conditions and the details appeared in the advertisement remain unchanged.

For further information, please contact the Administrative Officer, Administration Department of the Corporation.

Tel Nos.: 0112326607, 0112320007, Fax No.: 0112447118

**General Manager,
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka,
No.75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha,
Colombo-01.**

Tel No. 0112320356-9

**BALANGODA PLANTATIONS PLC
USED TEA FACTORY MACHINERY FOR SALE**

The Balangoda Plantations PLC invites sealed bids from interested buyers for the following used factory machinery, after inspecting the respective machinery at the below mentioned Estates in the Badulla and Balangoda Regions.

Name of Estate	No of Unit	Name of Machinery
Rassagala	01	Roller, CCC - 47"
	01	Roller, WALKERS - 46.5"
Ury	01	Roller, WALKERS - 45"
Telbedde	02	Roller, CCC - 44"
Pettiyagala	01	Roller, WALKERS - 35"
Spring Valley	02	T & I - CTC Line with Continuous Fermenting Unit
	01	McCloy - Drier

Issue of Tender Document: Can be obtained from the Balangoda Plantations Head office at Palm Garden, Ratnapura, from 9.30 a.m. on the 12th October 2020 to 2.30 p.m. on the 27th October 2020, during the office hours upon paying tender document fee of Rs. 500/= by cash, and refundable deposit of Rs. 2,500/=

Tender Submission: Perfected sealed tender documents should either be sent by registered post to the below mentioned address to be received on or before 2.30 p.m. on 27th October, 2020 or could be hand delivered and deposited in the tender box kept at this office.

Tender Closing Date & Time: Tender will be closed at 2.30 p.m. on 27th October, 2020.

Further details in this regard, could be obtained by calling on
Tel. 0772663911 / 045-5622532

**The General Manager - Finance & Administration,
Balangoda Plantations PLC,
P.O.Box 06, Palm Garden,
Ratnapura.**

**NOTICE
MINISTRY OF PLANTATION****SRI LANKA TEA BOARD
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD LAW NO. 14 OF 1975
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD (WAREHOUSING OF TEA)
REGULATION - 1984****REGISTRATION / RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION
WAREHOUSES USED FOR STORING OF TEA - 2021**

In accordance with the Sri Lanka Tea Board (Warehousing of Tea) Regulation 1984 published in Government Gazette Extraordinary No. 326/17 of 05th December, 1984 as amended by Government Gazette Extraordinary No. 418/11 of 10th September, 1986 and as further amended by the Government Gazette Extraordinary No. 1280/8 of 20th March, 2003 all warehouses used for storage of tea on or above of 1000 Kgs. at any time, should be registered with the Sri Lanka Tea Board. All registration of warehouses under these Regulations should be renewed annually on or before the 31st December, each year.

- Application forms for registration or renewal of registration of Warehouses for the year 2021 under these Regulations and any further details can be obtained from the Deputy Tea Commissioner (Exports) (Tel- 011-2504090) at the Tea Exports Section of the Sri Lanka Tea Board or could be downloaded from the Sri Lanka Tea Board official website (www.srilankateaboard.lk).
- Duly completed applications for the year 2020 should reach Deputy Tea Commissioner Sri Lanka Tea Board, Tea Exports Section, 574, Galle Road, Colombo 3 on or before **30th November, 2020**.
- In the aforesaid Regulations "Warehouse" means any building used for the purpose of storing tea by **Brokers, Manufacturers, Processors, Transporters, Forwarders, Sellers and Buyers excluding factories registered for the manufacture of tea under the Tea Control Act. No.51 of 1957.**
- Every person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of these regulations or furnishes false information or returns to the Sri Lanka Tea Board shall be guilty of an offence, punishable in terms of these Regulations.
- The registration fee for new registration is Rs. 25,000/- + 8% VAT, total fee is Rs.27,000/-. Every registration is renewable annually on or before 31st December of the current year. The renewal fee is Rs. 10,000/- + 8% VAT, total fee is Rs. 10,800/-.
- Payment of registration fee or renewal fee could be made either in cash or cheque. All cheques should be drawn in favour of the "Sri Lanka Tea Board".

**CHAIRMAN
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD
574, GALLE ROAD,
COLOMBO 3.**

06.10.2020

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SRI LANKA NAVY

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

INVITATION OF BIDS FROM MANUFACTURERS / SUPPLIERS / IMPORTERS/ CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY OF MEDICAL ITEMS TO SRI LANKA NAVY FROM 01ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER IN THE YEAR 2021 ON RATE RUNNING CONTRACT BASIS

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Navy (SLN), invites bids from Manufacturers, Suppliers, Importers and Contractors to supply one or more of the following separated tenders of Medical Items to Sri Lanka Navy for the period from 01st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 on rate running contract basis. The validity of the submitted rate of the bids should be from 01st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

- Selected contractors should transport all the items ordered by SLN to Medical Stores at Naval Headquarters, P.O. Box 593, Colombo 01.
- The suppliers who are interested should submit their bidding forms obtainable from the Director General Logistics at Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01 during working days between 0900 hrs & 1400 hrs from 13th October 2020 to 09th November 2020 on payment of a non-refundable application fee of Rs. 2000.00 in cash for each category of medical Items to the Director Finance, Naval Headquarters, P.O. Box 593, Colombo 01.

2. The detailed information of Medical Items and approximate quantities required for the 01st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 for each tender will be issued with the bidding forms.

CATEGORY OF ITEMS AND NUMBERS

Tender Category No.	Category of Items	Closing/ Opening Date and Time of Bids
SLN/CMS/01/RC/2021	Drugs For Infections	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/02/RC/2021	Drugs For Cardiovascular Diseases	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/03/RC/2021	Drugs For Central Nervous Diseases	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/04/RC/2021	Drugs For Nutrition and Blood Diseases	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/05/RC/2021	Drugs For Respiratory Diseases	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/06/RC/2021	Drugs For Gastrointestinal Diseases	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/07/RC/2021	Drugs For Eye, Ear, Nose, and Oropharynx Diseases	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/08/RC/2021	Drugs For Skin Diseases	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/09/RC/2021	Drugs For Endocrine Diseases	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/10/RC/2021	Drugs For Musculoskeletal and Joint Diseases	10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/11/RC/2021	Reagents for Semi Automated Bio Chemistry Analyzer	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/12/RC/2021	Test Tubes	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/13/RC/2021	Strips and Reagents for Agglutination Test	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/14/RC/2021	Syringe & Needles	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/15/RC/2021	Dressing Items	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/16/RC/2021	Cannula and Catheter	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/17/RC/2021	Surgical Appliances Consumable	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/18/RC/2021	Other Surgical Consumable	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/19/RC/2021	Suture	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs
SLN/CMS/20/RC/2021	Chemical for Pest Control	11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs

3. The bidders shall possess the following requirements to be eligible for submission of bids. (Will be considered under the process of the evaluation of bids)

- Two years experience in supplying of Medical Items to public/private organizations in similar capacity with satisfactory performance records.
- Copy of CDDA Certificate.
- Sound financial capability.
- Satisfactory Tax payment records.
- Adequate communication facilities. (Telephone/s, Mobile Phone/s, Fax/es, E-mail)
- Adequate storage facilities. (Warehouses)
- Adequate Staff, Personnel and Office facilities.
- Adequate transport facilities.
- Copy of Business Registration or Incorporation Certificate with an operational record of last three years.

4. The declaration of VAT registration number along with the bidding document is a mandatory requirement. The bidders who are exempted from VAT should produce a letter from the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue Department certifying that the company has been exempted from VAT. Any bid which does not fulfill above requirements shall be rejected.

5. The bids duly signed by the applicant should be submitted after placing the official seal there under as a compulsory requirement. The envelope containing the tender should be marked **"BID FOR THE SUPPLY OF (Category of Items) FOR THE YEAR 2021, Category No. (SLN/CMS/...../RC/2021) and date/ time of opening of bids"** on top left-hand corner and should be posted to the following address under registered post or to be deposited in the tender box at Naval Headquarters;

The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Sri Lanka Navy,
Naval Headquarters,
P.O. Box 593,
Colombo 01.

6. The bids will be opened immediately after the closing time. The bidding forms received after the closing time of bids will be rejected and returned without opening. The bidders or their duly authorized representatives can attend the bid opening meeting.

7. The bidding documents which are incomplete and not accompanied with required documentary evidence shall be rejected. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid application.

8. Selected bidders will be notified by registered post for signing of agreement.

9. The bidding forms can be inspected free of charge at the office of the Director General Logistics, at Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01.

10. For further information, please contact the Staff Officer (Medical Suppliers) T.P. 0117195541, 0117195543.

11. Details of this tender invitation are available in Sri Lanka Navy website www.navy.lk.

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



STATE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION AND
MARKET DIVERSIFICATION

SRI LANKA BUREAU OF FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT



Procurement of Buildings on Rent/Lease Basis

PR/02/04-1(36) Vol. ii

Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment requires suitable houses / buildings for offices with adequate space for maintaining following Provincial Offices / District Offices / Part of Head Office.

	Requirement	Space Required (Sq. Ft.)	Place
1	District Training Centre, Ampara	About 2,700	Should be within or close to Ampara town with proper road facilities and could be reached by public transport service
2	District Training Centre, Colombo	About 12,500	Should be in suburbs such as Battaramulla, Pannipitiya, Kottawa, Athurugiriya, Malabe with proper road facilities and could be reached by public transport service
3	District Training Centre, Kurunegala	About 4,600	Should be close to Kurunegala town with proper road facilities and could be reached by public transport service
4	North Western Provincial Migrant Resources Centre, Kurunegala	About 9,500	
5	Branch Office affiliated to Head Office in Battaramulla	About 14,000	Should be in suburbs such as Battaramulla, Pannipitiya, Kottawa, Athurugiriya, Malabe with proper road facilities and could be reached by public transport service
6	District Training Centre, Gampaha	About 3,500	Should be in suburbs such as Gampaha, Kadawatha' Yakkala with proper road facilities and could be reached by public transport service

It is mandatory that the following facilities are available in these buildings.

- North Western Provincial Migrant Resource Centre:**
 - Should have seating space for about 150 persons coming to obtain services
 - Should have around 08 toilets for the use of the staff and the general public and the toilet pits should have adequate capacity
 - There should be parking space for around four (04) vehicles
 - Should have three rooms of 15x15 ft for two officers (Provincial Senior Manager and Manager) or else there should be space to arrange those rooms
 - Should have four rooms of 20 x 20 ft or else there should be space to arrange those rooms
 - Should have two rooms of 15 x 15 ft to be used as storerooms or there should be space to arrange the storerooms
- Facilities required in buildings for Ampara, Kurunegala, Gampaha Training Centres:**
 - There should be a modern kitchen of 20 x 15 ft size and a modern bathroom
 - There should be 03 - 05 lecture halls that could accommodate about 30 trainees at a time. (Should have space to maintain a distance of around 1 ½ feet between the trainees)
 - There should be an office room for the Manager / Officer in Charge
 - Should have suitable space to maintain an office (Staff between 5 - 10 persons)
 - There should be 04 toilets and 04 bathrooms outside the building and there should be toilet pits and sewerage pits of adequate capacity
 - Should have suitable space for around 100 trainees to do exercises
 - Should have a dining hall of 20 x 10 ft size
 - There should be three (03) toilets and one bathroom inside the building
 - Should have a storeroom to store office stationery
 - Should have hall with seating capacity for around 100 trainees
 - Should have hostel facilities for 100 - 150 trainees in Kurunegala and Colombo Training Centres
 - Should have a hall facility of around 250 sq. ft. to conduct hospitality courses in Kurunegala Training Centre
 - Should have adequate space for bathroom and toilet facilities and fittings suitable for disabled persons
- Required facilities in the building for a Branch Office affiliated to the Head Office in Battaramulla:**
 - Should have three phase electricity and pipe borne water services adequate for a staff of around 150 persons
 - Should have a Water Tank for pipe borne water
 - Should have fixed standard telephone facilities
 - Building should be situated facing a main road with public transport and there should be parking space for at least 10 vehicles
 - Should be air conditioned and if not available should make arrangements for air condition facilities if the building is chosen
 - Should be easily accessible to the general public
 - There should be at least 08 toilets adequate for around 150 staff members and the toilet pits should have adequate capacity
- Other common requirements (In addition to the above requirements):**
 - There should be a parapet wall of at least 6 ft height around the building and should have a security gate
 - Being situated adjoining a main road and availability of parking space
 - Should have three phase electricity and pipe borne water facilities
 - Should have telephone facilities
 - Should have garbage and sewage disposal facilities
 - Should apply with the photocopies of the following documents regarding the house / building
 - Permanent address of the property to be leased
 - Certified copy of the deed entitling the ownership of the building owner and the recently obtained folio of it
 - Plan relevant to the property
 - Certified approved building plan (Relevant building plan should be a photocopy obtained in the size of a A4 or A3 paper. If the plan has been changed a copy of the changed plan should be submitted)
 - Name / Address / National Identity Card No. with a clear photocopy of the Lessor
 - Telephone No. of the Building Owner
 - Certificate of Conformity (if the Certificate is changed, with a copy of that)
 - Electricity, Telephone, Assessment Tax Bills

Your quotation along with the relevant documents may either be sent by registered post or deposited in the tender box kept at the General Manager's Division of the Bureau at No. 234, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Koswatta, Battaramulla to receive at or before 1.00 p.m. on 4th November 2020. The caption **"Procurement of Buildings on rent / lease - Relevant Town and PR/02/04-1(36) Vol. ii"** should be mentioned on the left-hand top corner of the envelope containing your quotation. Procurement Committee reserves the right to reject or accept any application and the decision of the Procurement Committee will be final.

Buildings will be selected subject to the reports of the Government Valuer.

Procurement Committee
Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment
No. 234, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha
Koswatta, Battaramulla.

Telephone / Fax : 2880550 / 2880564
Website: www.slbfe.lk



"Local Support for Global Empowerment"



District Secretariat - Trincomalee

Invitation for Bids for the Auction Sales of used vehicles

Bids are invited for the sale of vehicles removed from Service in District Secretariat, Trincomalee as per the details given in the following table.

(a) The Vehicle list with Registration Books for Sale

No.	Reg. No.	Make	Year of Manufacture	The address at which the vehicle is parked
01	EP JP 5940	TATA Single CAB	2004	District Secretariat premises
02	43-3091	Lanka Ashok Leyland Water Bowser	1992	District Secretariat premises
03	EP LI-9318	HINO Truck	1999	District Secretariat premises

(b) The Vehicle's Registration is cancelled for sale as Scrapped

No.	Reg. No.	Make	Year of Manufacture	The address at which the vehicle is parked
01	57-9453	ISUZU Double Cab	1996	District Secretariat premises
02	50-9630	Nissan Double Cab	1992	District Secretariat premises

- Interested bidders may obtain the bidding documents with the bid deposits and bidding document fees as mentioned below which shall be paid to the Chairman, District Auction committee, District Secretariat, Trincomalee on working days **from 12th October 2020 to 26th October from 9.00 am to 2.30 p.m.** Official receipts for the payments of the fees should be entered in the form of bid, and the original of the receipts shall be attached with the bidder's documents. These receipts are necessary either to hand over the vehicles to the successful bidder or refund the bid deposit to unsuccessful bidder or bidders.
- These vehicles could be inspected at the Trincomalee District Secretariat Previous from **12th October 2020 to 23rd October 2020 on workng days from 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.**
- (a) **Deposits to be paid to purchase bidding documents for used vehicle**
 - Refundable deposit (Bid deposit) - Rs. 5,000.00
 - Non-refundable bidding document fee - Rs. 2,500.00
 - Total sum for set of bidding documents - Rs. 7,500.00
- (b) **Deposits to be paid to purchase bidding documents for Scrap vehicle**
 - Refundable deposit (Bid deposit) - Rs. 2,500.00
 - Non-refundable bidding document fee - Rs. 2,000.00
 - Total sum for set of bidding documents - Rs. 4,500.00
- Sealed bids prepared in prescribed forms should be deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the **Chief Accountants District Secretariat Trincomalee** or shall be sent by the Registered post to reach the office on or before 27th October 2020 at 10.00 a.m. "**Bids for the purchase of used vehicles**" should be marked on the **top left-hand corner of the envelope** containing the bid.
Bids will be opened at 10.10 a.m. on 27th of October 2020 at the District Secretariat Trincomalee immediately after the closing of bids in the presence of the bidders or representatives who choose to attend.
- Successful bidders should pay their quoted amount in full and soon after the declaration of the particular vehicle/s should be removed on the same day.
- The Auction committee has the right to take final decision regarding any matter related to the sale of these vehicles.
- Further clarification may be obtained from the office of the District Secretariat, Trincomalee. (Contact No.:- 026-222233)

J.S.D.M. Asanka Abeyawardana
Government Agent & District Secretary
Trincomalee.



PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka will receive sealed bids for supply of following items to the Department of Health Services for year 2021.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of issuing of Bidding Documents from	Non-refundable Bid Fee
DHS/P/WW/754/21	24.11.2020 at 9.00 a.m.	25,000 Capsules of N-Acetyl Cystine Capsule 600mg	13.10.2020	Rs. 3,000/= + Taxes
DHS/P/WW/755/21	24.11.2020 at 9.00 a.m.	5,000 Tablets of Glycopyrronium bromide tablet 1mg	13.10.2020	Rs. 3,000/= + Taxes

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours and 1500 hours at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bid Fee per set as mentioned above. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever applicable potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bidding Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bids will be closed at the Head office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter.

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding Documents are being sent to Sri Lanka missions abroad and foreign missions in Sri Lanka.

**CHAIRMAN DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA
COLOMBO 1
SRI LANKA.**

FAX : 00 94-11- 2344082
TELEPHONE : 00 94-11- 2326227/94-11-2335374
E-MAIL : pharma.manager@spc.lk

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS PUBLISHED ON 13.09.2020) MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FIRE DETECTION AND FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO.: DHQC/FP & FD 04/2020

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Design, Supply and Installation of Fire Detection and Fire Protection Systems for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and as described below and estimated to cost LKR 380 Million (Excluding VAT).

The work consists of Design, Supply and Installation of Fire Detection and Fire Protection Systems for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.

- The Construction period is 300 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted. Bidders shall have Construction Industry Development Authority Grading EM1 in the Specialty of Electrical and Mechanical Services (EM) Under Sub-Specialty Fire Detection, Protection and Suppression (FDPS).
- Minimum Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award shall be,

Qualifications	Minimum Qualifications Requirements
(i) Average annual turnover value of Fire Detection, Fire Protection and Fire Suppression works of any five years successfully performed in last ten years.	LKR 456 million per year
(ii) Experience in Design, Supply and Installation within last ten years). (2010 to 2019)	At least 5 Nr. Fire Detection and Protection Systems successfully completed within last 10 years. Minimum value of one number of such systems shall not be less than LKR 95 million.
(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets and /or credit facilities (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract	not less than LKR 114 million
(iv) Ability to provide the maintenance services by the Bidder himself or by an authorized agent nominated by the Bidder in Sri Lanka for the supplied system during its service period	Compulsory

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Director - Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **14.09.2020 until 23.10.2020 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Volume 1A) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka** from **14.09.2020 until 23.10.2020 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** during a working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 50,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Fifty Thousand)**. The method of payment will be by Cash.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below at or before **10.00 hrs. on 26.10.2020**, late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid from **26.10.2020 to 21.02.2021** (119 Days from the date of closing of Bids).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees Five Million Seven Hundred Thousand (LKR 5,700,000.00)** obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid from **26.10.2020 to 21.03.2021** (147 Days after opening the Bids). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
- Bidders are strongly advised to submit the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 with submission of the Bid.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director General (Account & Finance) Ministry of Defence, the Name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above is :

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03,
Sri Lanka.**
Tel : 0094-011-2390719
Fax : 0094-011-2390720

BMICH

SWRD BANDARANAIKE NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, THE
OWNER AND MANAGEMENT ARM OF THE BMICH INVITE
SEALED BIDS.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CATERING PARTNERS FOR THE BMICH

Key points to note:

- The BMICH catering partners will be responsible for providing all food and beverage as well as all related services for functions taking place at the BMICH, based on the selected area as listed in the tender document.
- Fully equipped banquet set ups are required.
- The chosen Catering Partners will be able to utilize the on-site kitchen and other food production facilities.

The successful bidder,

- Should have capability and competence in handling large scale functions, events and banquets.
- Should be recognised Hotels registered with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA)

Tender Document Collection	From 13 th October 2020 to 23 rd October 2020 between 0900Hrs to 1600Hrs on working days
Pre-Bid Meeting	At 1400Hrs on 28 th October 2020 at the Hybrid room, BMICH, Colombo 07
Bid Closing Date & Time	At 1400Hrs on 12 th November 2020
Bid Opening Date & Time	At 1400Hrs on 12 th November 2020 at the Hybrid room, BMICH, Colombo 07

- Non-refundable tender document fee of Rs. 10,000.00.
- To qualify for the evaluation, bidders are required to include all areas of requested services in their proposals.
- The highest bidder will be chosen provided all required criteria is satisfied.
- Partial proposals or those that do not conform to the requested areas will be treated as non-responsive and rejected.
- The Foundation reserves the right to accept or reject any one or all bids without assigning any reason.
- Further information can be obtained from the Procurement Department during 0900Hrs to 1600Hrs on working days (Telephone Number 0112691174).



LAND WANTED

Looking for a suitable Land for commercial purpose, located in or around Colombo

Requirements :

- Expected land should be around 100 to 200 perches
- Property should be located within an area of 40km radius from Colombo Fort
- The following information should be enclosed with the application: Price of a perch, number of perches, distance from Colombo Fort, Location, nearest town, name of the nearest Highway entrance/interchange, owner's contact number
- Should have a minimum of 20 feet road access and 40 feet road frontage
- Should be a flat land suitable to construct a warehouse
- Land should not be waterlogged or marshy and should not be affected by flood
- Availability of basic amenities inclusive of water and electricity
- Land with no high-tension lines passing across

Sealed quotations should be sent within 21 days, from the advertisement date via post to the address given below stating "LAND WANTED" on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Head of Procurement, PO Box 1337, Colombo

Contact Details - Head of Procurement (0112 357 964)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

Supply of Reinforcement Tor Steel (572 Tonne) for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Contract (Bid) Number: DHQC/PROC/2020/YARD/68

- 1) The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply of Reinforcement Tor Steel (572 tonne) for Construction of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.
- 2) Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, to inspect and purchase the Bidding Documents at the above address from 1000 hrs to 1500 hrs on any working day between 12th October 2020 and 01st November 2020. Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com.
- 3) Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure under Standard Bidding Document of NPA/Goods/SBD 01 and Government Procurement Guidelines.
- 4) To be eligible for Contract award;
 - (a) Bidder shall have been registered as a business entity in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years. Bidder shall offer Reinforcement Steel that has been successfully used in Sri Lanka for at least three (3) years.
 - (b) Bidder shall have a track record for at least three (3) years of producing proposed brand of reinforcement steel exclusively from billets imported from reliable sources and where metallurgical history of same is retained by them for three (3) years.
 - (c) Bidder shall demonstrate the above qualifications through submitted documentation.
 - (d) 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.

Bidders who do not comply with this mandatory qualification criterion shall be considered as non-responsive.
- 5) A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Only (LKR 15,800.00). The method of payment shall be by cash.
- 6) A pre bid meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on 21st October 2020 at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 7) Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 1000 hrs on 02nd November 2020. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 8) All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Eight Hundred Thousand Only (LKR 800,000.00) obtained from a reputed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of unconditional and on demand guarantee acceptable to Purchaser, which shall be valid up to 01st March 2021 (119 days after the Bid opening).
- 9) Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 10) Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

Srilankan Airlines



SRILANKAN AIRLINES LTD PROCUREMENT NOTICE

EXTENSION OF TENDER CLOSING DATES

Reference to the below Tender advertisements published in the Sunday Observer of 30th August 2020 and Daily News of 31st August 2020.

REFERENCE NO: CPIT/ICB 02/2020
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE PROVISIONING OF A NEW GENERATION CARGO MANGEMENT SYSTEM.

REFERENCE NO: CPIT/ICB 04/2020
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE PROVISIONING OF AN AUTOMATED FLIGHT PLANNING SOLUTION.

REFERENCE NO: CPIT/NCB 01/2020
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE PROVISIONING OF LOCAL IT NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES.

The Bid closing date of same has been extended as follows:

Bid closing date: 27th October 2020 at 11.00 am Sri Lankan time (GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

The bidding forms have been amended accordingly and same could be downloaded directly from the following link: https://www.srilankan.com/en_uk/coporate/tender-notice

MINISTRY OF TOURISM
ON BEHALF OF SRILANKAN AIRLINES LIMITED

HOTEL DEVELOPERS (LANKA) PLC

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR

THE RENOVATION OF 253 Nos. GUEST ROOMS, LIFT LOBBIES & CORRIDORS INCLUSIVE OF CIVIL, INTERIOR WORKS & ASSOCIATED MEP WORKS AT HILTON COLOMBO

Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC (HDL) -Owning Company of Hilton Colombo, call for interested Bidders to apply for pre-qualification for the **Renovation of 253 Nos. Guest Rooms, lift lobbies and corridors inclusive of Civil, Interior Works & Associated MEP Works.**

The refurbishment works are to be carried out at The Hilton Colombo located at Lotus Road, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.

Bidders should have the following minimum qualifications:

- a) Should have carried out works of similar scope in 5 star hotels with International operators within the last 5 years.
- b) Should have experience in carrying out similar works in hotels whilst in operation.
- c) Minimum 10 years' experience in Civil, interior and associated MEP works in the Hospitality Industry.
- d) Should have completed at least three projects in the hospitality industry each with a minimum project value of LKR 500 million (or equivalent) within the last 5 years.

The Pre-Qualification documents could be collected from Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC-The Project Manager's Site Office, C/O Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1, on any working day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from Thursday, October 15, 2020 onwards.

Duly completed pre-qualification documents should be submitted in a sealed envelope to:

The Chief Financial Officer,
Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC,
C/O Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1
on or before 12 noon on Monday November 2, 2020.

For classified advertisements and for replies

received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact

MANAGER FRONT OFFICE

Hotline: 1949





CALLING FOR REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS WITH CANOWIN HOTELS & SPAS (PVT) LTD (Subsidiary of Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation)

REF No: CNW/SUP/2021

Canowin is looking for potential suppliers for registration for the year 2021 (Traders/ Distributors/ Manufacturers/ Importers) capable of supplying below list of Goods/ Equipment/ Services. Our Head Office is located at 46/46, 3rd Floor, Green Lanka Towers, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02 and the Service location is situated at Southern Expressway, Welipenna.

Note: Following registration are called for below Rupees One Million.

Goods

- Office stationery
- Computer accessories and Networking items
- Office equipment
- Printers, Toners & Cartridges
- Air-fresheners & Liquid Soap bulk cans & Urinal fragrance tablets
- Toilet paper rolls & Multi-fold paper towels
- Garbage Bags/Dustbins/Garbage bins
- Detergent/Chemicals for cleaning bath ware
- Supplying Water pumps/Pressure pumps/Submersible pumps/Control panels and Control units
- Fertilizers
- Cooling tower chemicals
- Furniture (Wooden/Steel)
- Hardware materials
- Safety equipment
- Electrical and Instrumentation (supply and installation)
- Tyres and Tubes
- Electronic items and panels
- Supplying of Led bulbs/Tube lights/ Flash lights/ Holders and other lighting materials
- Supply of drinking water bottles & water dispensers
- Supplying of power generator sets, Spare parts
- Bath ware fittings - Commode systems, Flushing units, Wash basins, Scotting pans, Bidet spray, Seat covers, Paper roll holders, Taps, etc.
- Supply of Wall Mounted Exhaust fans and ventilation fans
- Supply of ceiling A grade 1/2 X 1/2 welded mesh net
- Supply of grass cutter machine
- Solar Power equipment
- Sign boards
- Floor rugs/ Floor mats
- Promotional items, Giveaways (Umbrellas, Bicycles, T-shirts, Caps etc.)
- CCTV Cameras & other relevant instruments
- Glass, Glass Doors, Panels & Floor Hinges
- Fire protection equipment
- Polly Carbonate Sheets (Hollow, Solid)
- Lightning Arrester
- Medical Supplies (Face Masks, Hand Gloves, Head Covers, Hand Sanitizers)
- Milk Powder, Sugar, Tea Leafs
- Cutlery and Crockery
- Ceramic ware (Plates, Cups, Saucers, Tea Pots)

Services

- Entrance ticket counter systems for wash rooms
- Security services
- Facility Management Services
- Manpower supply services
- Janitorial Services
- LP Gas system maintenance, supply, installation, fabrication of LP Gas pipes, regulators, Filter units at Arcade areas
- Service providers for minor repairs to floor & walls
- Supplying drinking water bowers
- Supplying gully bowers
- Pressure pumps repairs & maintenance
- Installation of CCTV camera system & maintenance
- Supply & Installation of Aluminum & Glass works
- Pest control systems & maintenance
- All kinds of printings including sign boards
- Supply & Installation maintenance of direct lightning & surge protection system
- Site selection and construction of deep tube well
- Construction & maintenance of waste water treatment plants
- Supply, installation & maintenance of elevators
- Civil works & Construction including painting
- Electrical system Installation
- Glass cleaning of building & cob web cleaning
- Air Conditioner Maintenance & Service
- Fire Engine & Equipment Maintenance & Service / Fire equipment inspection & servicing
- Generator Maintenance & Service
- Cladding installation for shops
- Hoardings, Billboards for different sizes
- Photo framing
- Wood work and Aluminium fitting
- Masonry work
- Plumbing work
- Landscaping
- Removal of Garbage (Food Waste/Plastic/Paper)

Registration forms and related documents could be obtained from the below mentioned address on the payment of a **non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,500/=** to People's Bank, Aluthgama Branch A/C No. **084100150019552** producing the Deposit Slip from Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. **from 12th October to 06th November 2020.**

The duly completed forms should be returned to our Head Office **on or before 27th November 2020 by 3:00 p.m.** For further details please contact Procurement Division -Tel: 011-7711171.

Company has the rights to select the supplier/s as per the requirements. Further, if any supplier/s could not satisfy the selection criteria, the Management has its sole discretion to remove such supplier/s from registration.

Further the Company has its rights to purchase or obtain the services from any other outside party/parties apart from the registered suppliers.

**Canowin Hotels & Spas (Pvt) Ltd,
No. 46/46, 3rd Floor,
Green Lanka Towers,
Navam Mawatha,
Colombo 02.**

මිහිර HDFC BANK
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Hi humanity & inclusion
the new name of handicap international

Integrated Economic Development of Uva and Central Provinces of Sri Lanka
European Union
National Call for Tender

Humanity & Inclusion (New name for Handicap International) is an independent nonprofit international organization working in Sri Lanka from 2004, implementing various projects to improve the quality of life of vulnerable men women which includes persons with disabilities by focusing and responding to their essential needs, respecting their active participation and inclusions in reconciliation actions, in response and preparation for natural disasters and in economic development.

HI implementing the "Integrated Economic Development of Uva and Central provinces of Sri Lanka" project under European Union funding, is inviting suppliers of assets and equipment's to submit offers for the following items.

Tender Reference: BDS Assets and Equipments.

This tender is opened to all qualified suppliers and service providers who possess a valid business registration in the related field. Bidding documents with detailed specifications and tender rules (in English only) can be collected by paying a cash fee of Rs.250.00 per lot at No 97/8 Jambugasmulla Mawatha, Nugegoda, on working days from 9 to 4 pm, also the bidding document can be obtained free of charge by sending a request mail to procurement@srilanka.hi.org mentioning the required lot number. HI will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the preparation and submission of their bids for above tender.

Specific Terms & Conditions

- The delivery locations will be Colombo, Matale, Nuwaraeliya Badulla and Monaragala districts
- This tender is opened to all qualified suppliers and service providers who possess a valid business registration and an authorized dealership of item/s for which quoted.
- The validity of bids needs to be minimum of 3 months from date of quote.
- The delivery period for specific / Technical items, is within 03 months from signature of contract.
- Warranty, after sales service & maintenance if any should be clearly mentioned.
- Applicants should be submitting their detailed quotations/proposals in English. All prices to be in Sri Lanka Rupees, including tax if applicable (tax figures maximum after the decimal point)
- Specific/payment terms and conditions should be clearly mentioned.
- Preference will be given for suppliers with ex stock and quick delivery period.
- Supplier/s can quote either for single or all lots, Lot numbers must be clearly mentioned.
- Mention the Country of Origin (Mandatory)

Lodging and presentation of tenders

Lot	Item/Category
1	General IT Equipment's. Portable sound system, Color printer, Tab, Photocopier, Laptop, Multimedia projector with screen, Desktop computer, Camera, heavy duty Photocopier, Speaker system, VHF wireless PA micro phone, barcode printer, barcode reader, LED TV
2	Furnitures Writing table, office chairs, File cupboard, super market racks
3	Technical equipment's Animal Scanner, Chain block and hip clamp, hand held GPS, ECPH meter, Blender, Fruit dehydrator, Dairy incubator, cream separator, printer for milk analyzer, lacto scanner, CMT kit, vegetable dehydrator, stick blender, grinder, Laminar Hood, PH meters, Food thermometer, Molecular biology Microscope, Soil testing KIT, Ingredient mixing and automatic packaging machine, submersible cutter pump, Agriculture chemical container, packet sterilized machine, Auto recording rain gauge, Lacto meter

Quotations/proposals submissions by electronic mail will not be accepted. Quotations/proposals submitted for which notice of receipt is delivered after the deadline for the receipt of tenders will not be considered. The supplier can quote for single or all lots. Incomplete quotation/proposals will be rejected. All submissions will be assessed on the basis of the duly justified details which includes HI specifications lead time mode of delivery. Completed tender bids must be submitted to reach below address on or before **26th October 2020 at 16.00hours** in sealed envelopes with the **top left-hand corner marked with "tender reference/lot number"**

**Logistics Manager
Humanity and Inclusion
97/8, Jambugasmulla mawatha
Nugegoda**

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BREAKING BOUNDARIES

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FOR JOBSEEKERS

www.observerjobs.lk



**University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka**

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

**PROVIDING SERVICES AT
CANTEENS**

Sealed bids are invited up to 2.30 p.m on 04.11.2020 from the service providers to provide services at the following Canteens of the University of Moratuwa for a period of one year (2020/2021).

01. Canteen No. 01
02. Canteen No. 02

Bidding documents shall be obtained from the Senior Assistant Registrar/ Welfare of the University from 9.00 a.m to 3.00 p.m on working days from 14.10.2020 to 03.11.2020 on providing the receipt for payment of a non-refundable bid fee of LKR. 500/- and refundable bid fee of LKR. 5,000/- in cash for the above canteen to the shroff of the University.

Duly completed sealed bid forms in duplicate should be sent under registered post to the Senior Assistant Registrar, Welfare Division, University of Moratuwa, Katubedda, Moratuwa or deposited in the Tender Box available in the Welfare Division on or before 04.11.2020 at 2.30 p.m. Late/Incomplete Bids will be rejected. The name of the Bid Eg:- "Bid for providing services at Canteen No. 01" should be written on the top left hand corner of the envelope. The decision of the procurement committee will be the final. Alternative Bids will not be accepted.

The bids will be accepted until 2.30 p.m on 04.11.2020 and will be opened soon after the closing at the Registrar's Board Room in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

**Registrar,
University of Moratuwa,
Katubedda,
Moratuwa.
09.10.2020**

Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the **Daily News** should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.



NOTICE

**MINISTRY OF PLANTATIONS
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD**

A toll free telephone number has been allocated to the public for making complains on malpractices taking place in the Tea Industry.

Hot Line: 1978

**Chairman
Sri Lanka Tea Board,
574, Galle Road,
Colombo - 03**

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

**ACCELERATING HIGHER EDUCATION EXPANSION AND
DEVELOPMENT (AHEAD) PROJECT**

**Bid for renting a building as a Project Office for
the Faculty of Geomatics**

The Chairman, University Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the AHEAD Project, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for renting a project office under the following categories.


Tender Name & Number	Item
AHEAD/SUSL/FOG/2020/01	A Project Office

REQUIREMENTS:

- An office area which is located in Bandarawela Municipal area
- Accommodation facilities for 10 persons
- Parking area for at least 2 vehicles
- Three phase electricity
- Furnished premises would be an added qualification

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Interested eligible and qualified bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Director/Procurement, OTS Office, AHEAD Project, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and inspect the Bidding Documents at the OTS Office, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Belihuloya, from **12th October 2020 until 26th October 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below (mentioned in 5th paragraph) from **12th October 2020 until 26th October 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. during working days** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 3,500/-** by cash to the Shroff of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.
- Completed bids should be forwarded in two copies as the original and the duplicate. The original and the duplicate should be enclosed separately and marked as the 'original' and 'duplicate' respectively in sealed envelopes. Then both envelopes are re-enclosed in one sealed envelope marked and indicate the bid number on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Bids must be delivered or sent under registered post addressed to the **Chairman, University Procurement Committee, OTS Office (AHEAD Project), Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Belihuloya, 70140** to reach at or before **2.00 p.m. on 27th October 2020**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or his/her representative who chooses to attend in person immediately after closing of bids on **27th October 2020**.
- The decision of the University Procurement Committee shall be final and University reserves the right to reject any tender without giving any reasons. The University may at its discretion, increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased.
- Further information could be obtained from the Deputy Director/Procurement OTS Office, (AHEAD Project), Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Telephone No. 045-2280005.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka,
Belihuloya 70140.**



NATIONAL OPEN CALL FOR TENDER

**European Union Funded
Integrated Economic Development Project**

Humanity & Inclusion - New name of Handicap International (HI) is an independent non-profit International organization, working in Sri Lanka since mid-2004 and implements projects to improve the quality of life of vulnerable men and women, including men and women with disabilities by focusing and responding to their essential needs, respecting the fundamental rights, promoting their active participation and inclusion in reconciliation actions, in response and preparation for natural disasters and in economic development.

The overall objective of the Integrated Economic Development Project is to contribute to poverty reduction in Uva and Central Provinces. This will be specifically achieved by sustainably improving the livelihoods of the most vulnerable rural and estate communities in Nuwara Eliya, Matale, Badulla and Monaragala districts, which is expected to concretize through increase of income for target groups and creation of new employment opportunities for all, with a focus on the most vulnerable: women, persons with disabilities and plantation communities.

- The **Chairman Procurement Committee** on behalf of **Humanity & Inclusion, Sri Lanka** invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the works listed in the Table below

- Bid Title: Construction of Common Buildings for MSMEs (Matale District)**

Lot Number	Description of Civil Works	Pre-Bid Meeting/Site Inspection	Minimum CIDA Registration and Experience	Refundable Bid Security (LKR)
Lot 6:1	Construction of Vegetable Collection & Sales Center at Walawela in Yatawatha DS Division, Matale A81REPIMMMATA 024	Site inspection time from 9:30 a.m 20 th October 2020 Pre-bid meeting on 2:30 p.m 20 th October 2020, at IED office, No-3/6, Sir Richard Aluvihare Mawatha, Mandandawela, Matale, Sri Lanka	C7 or Above in Building	40,000.00
Lot 6:2	Construction of Milk Collection & Chilling Centre at Pusella in Ambanganga Ds Division, Matale A81REPIMMMATA 025	Site inspection time from 9:30 a.m 20 th October 2020 Pre-bid meeting on 2:30 p.m 20 th October 2020, at IED office, No-3/6, Sir Richard Aluvihare Mawatha, Mandandawela, Matale, Sri Lanka	C7 or Above in Building	40,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure
- To be eligible for contract and award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have *minimum CIDA registration indicated in the table above in Building Construction valid on 16.11.2020 and not to be a stake holder or beneficiary or MSME of EU funded Integrated Economic Development Project.*
- Qualifications requirements are indicated in section 4 of the Bidding Document. Additional details are provided in the Schedule (Section 5).
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from *Logistic Manager, Humanity & Inclusion* and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from *0900 hrs to 1500 hrs on week days only.*
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased from *IED office, No-3/6, Sir Richard Aluvihare Mawatha, Mandandawela, Matale, TP No: 066 223 1264* or the address given below on submission of a written request to the *Logistic Manager, Humanity & Inclusion* from *12th October 2020 until 30th October 2020 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs* on week days only upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *1,000.00 LKR*. The method of payment will be strictly *cash*.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below on or before *2nd November 2020 (02.11.2020) at 2.30 pm*. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.
- Bids shall be valid up to *18th January 2021*.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security specified in the above table and *valid up to 15th February 2021*.

The address referred to above is:

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee, Humanity & Inclusion,
97/8, Jambugasmulla Mawatha, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka
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PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka will receive sealed bids for supply of following items to the Department of Health Services.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of Issuing of Bid Documents	Non-refundable Bid Fee LKR
DHS/SUS/WW/194/19	25.11.2020 at 9.00 a.m.	Surgical Non-Consumables	13.10.2020	35,000/- + taxes
DHS/L/WW/170/21	23.11.2020 at 9.00 a.m.	Rapid Test Kit for Detection of HIV-I & HIV-II with Chase Buffer	13.10.2020	20,000/- + taxes

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours and 1500 hours at the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Head Office, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bidding document Fee per set as mentioned above. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bidding Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bids will be closed at the Head office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding Documents are being sent to Sri Lanka missions abroad and foreign missions in Sri Lanka.

**CHAIRMAN- DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA
COLOMBO 1
SRI LANKA.**

TEL/FAX : 00 94-11- 2335008
E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk

District General Hospital - Trincomalee

Invitation for Bids

The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, District General Hospital, Trincomalee now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following Electrical works at District General Hospital, Trincomalee.

Contract No.	Description of the Electrical work	Tenderable Amount Excluding VAT (Mn.)	Required Grade (Specialty Field)	Contract Period	Required Bid Security		Bid Validity Period
					Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Validity Period	
DGH/TCO/PLN/01/EW/2020	Improvement of the Existing Electrical Installation System at District General Hospital, Trincomalee	6.23	EM-4 (Electrical and Mechanical Service)	60 Calendar Days	90,000.00	15.02.2021	18.01.2021

- Procurement Method - National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Updated Contractor's Record Book issued by Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) must be produced by the applicant before bid documents are issued to him.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidder on submission of a written application to the Director, District General Hospital, Trincomalee from 12.10.2020 to 01.11.2020 from 9 a.m. to 14.30 p.m. during the working days upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rupees Two Thousand only (2,000/-).
- Bidding documents can be inspected free of charge at the Planning Unit during office hours prior to collection.
- Refundable Bid Security issued by a recognized commercial bank which is approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, valid for 105 days from **02.11.2020** should be attached.
- All bid documents should be filled completely in English.
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 26.10.2020 at 10.30 a.m. at Mini Auditorium.
- Sealed completely filled bids in duplicate should be submitted in separate covers mentioning original and duplicate having inserted both covers in one cover with the name of the bid written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the original and duplicate bids should either be sent by registered post or placed in the tender box kept in the Accountant's Office to be received before 10.30 a.m. on 02.11.2020. Bids will be opened soon after the closing in the presence of the bidders or their representative who has been chosen to attend by their company.
- The final decision will be made by the Procurement Committee of District General Hospital, Trincomalee.
- Late bids will be returned unopened.
- Any further information could be obtained by calling following telephone numbers 026-2222261/62, 026-2223940.

**Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee,
District General Hospital,
Trincomalee.**



PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE, STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS UNDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee of The State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Health will receive sealed bids for supply of following items to the Department of Health Services for year 2021.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of issue of Bidding Documents from	Non-refundable Bid Fee
DHS/P/M/WWW/14/21	24.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.	245,000 Vials of Dobutamine Injection 250mg/20ml	13.10.2020	Rs. 60,000/= + Taxes
DHS/P/M/WWW/15/21	24.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.	5,200,000 Vials of Cefuroxime BP/USP Injection 750mg	13.10.2020	Rs. 60,000/= + Taxes
DHS/P/M/WWW/16/21	24.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.	1,500 Vials of Alteplase 50mg vial	13.10.2020	Rs. 60,000/= + Taxes
DHS/P/M/WWW/17/21	24.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.	14,000 Vials of Liposomal Amphotericin B Injection 50mg for I.V. use	13.10.2020	Rs. 60,000/= + Taxes
DHS/P/M/WWW/18/21	25.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.	275,000 Ampoules of Ephedrine Injection BP 30mg/1ml	13.10.2020	Rs. 60,000/= + Taxes
DHS/P/M/WWW/19/21	25.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.	350,000 Vials of Desferrioxamine Injection BP/ USP 500mg	13.10.2020	Rs. 60,000/= + Taxes
DHS/P/M/WWW/20/21	25.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.	15,000,000 Tablets of Cefuroxime Axetil BP/USP 500mg equivalent to 500mg of Cefuroxime in blister packs	13.10.2020	Rs. 60,000/= + Taxes
DHS/P/M/WWW/21/21	25.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.	23,000 Vials of Normal Immunoglobulin for IV use 2.5g-3.0g vial	13.10.2020	Rs. 60,000/= + Taxes

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours and 1500 hours from above date at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bid Fee per set as mentioned above. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bidding Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in Mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bids will be closed at the Head office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding Documents are being sent to Sri Lanka missions abroad and foreign missions in Sri Lanka.

**CHAIRMAN - MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS
UNDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH
C/O STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA
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PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE, STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS UNDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee of the Ministry of Health will receive sealed bids for supply of following items to the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Health.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of issuing of Bid Documents	Non-refundable Bid Fee per set- LKR
DHS/M/S/WW/4/21	24.11.2020 At 11.00 am	Blood Bag Quadruple 450ml	12.10.2020	35,000/- + taxes
DHS/M/S/WW/5/21	24.11.2020 At 11.00 am	Hypodermic Syringe with luer slip, 2.5ml/3ml, with mounted 23G x 31mm Needle and 23G x 25mm Needle	12.10.2020	35,000/- + taxes
DHS/M/S/WW/6/21	24.11.2020 At 11.00 am	Colostomy Appliance Set complete	12.10.2020	60,000/- + taxes
DHS/M/S/WW/7/21	24.11.2020 At 11.00 am	Flow Meter and Regulator- Side valve & Top valve	12.10.2020	20,000/- + taxes
DHS/M/L/WW/3/21	25.11.2020 At 11.00 am	Strips for Cholesterol Meter and Lancets, Cholesterol Meter with LCD display, used for capillary whole blood	12.10.2020	60,000/- + taxes
DHS/M/L/WW/4/21	25.11.2020 At 11.00 am	Laboratory Consumables	12.10.2020	60,000/- + taxes

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours and 1500 hours from above dates at the Head Office, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a **non-refundable Bidding document Fee per set as mentioned above.** Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary, potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

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**CHAIRMAN - MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF
PHARMACEUTICALS UNDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH
C/O STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
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About 43, pleasant professionally qualified BSc, Science well employed PR Aust. well established never married and caring. Seek professional partner Doctors, Engineers preferred. mpropos.aus@gmail.com OB152246

Academically and Professionally qualified caring well-mannered teetotaler son from a respectable family sought by Colombo Buddhist Karawe professional parents for their academically and professionally qualified religious 32 year old daughter working in Colombo. She is 5'3" in height very fair, pretty, attractive, well-mannered personality and a vegetarian. Caste not material. Reply with full family details and a copy of the horoscope. Non-malefic horoscope preferred. confidentialproposals@yahoo.com OB151792

Academically and professionally qualified below 30 son is sought for the B/G/K 25, 5'5" smart and well-mannered pretty daughter who studied in a leading school in Colombo. She is an LLB Graduate (UK) currently reading her Attorney-at-Law in Law College. We are a respectable family in Colombo. Father is a retired Govt. Director. Only daughter in the family she owns valuable assets in Colombo. Reply with copy of the horoscope. Tel: 0112054043 (Call after 6 p.m.). Email: j.g.gunathilaka@gmail.com OB152346

Academically and professionally qualified employed well-mannered caring son is sought by retired G/B parents from Matara suburbs for their pretty daughter. Employed as an IT Lecturer with BSc and MSc qualification. Born in 1989/11 height 5'2" inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details and horoscope to: proposalm496@gmail.com OB152344

Academically and professionally qualified kind-hearted, genuine, most well behaved unmarried son preferably from ages 24-34 only and of height 5'6" and above son is sought by respected Sinhala Buddhist mother for my only daughter born in 2000. She is 5'3" tall with an excellent character and best behaved, fair slim pretty attractive honest kind-hearted caring daughter who was brought up with Sri Lankan Buddhist values and was educated from an International School and currently she is doing BSc (Hons) Fashion Design degree in Northumbria University, Sri Lanka (AOD). Kindly request to send all the information and the horoscope to lakshiproposal1893@gmail.com OB152239

Academically and professionally qualified partner is sought by G/B parents living in USA for their 37 yrs old only daughter who is a Lawyer, presently employed in UK as a Legal Project Manager, brought up with Sinhalese values. UK residents preferred. Please reply with details to: erna9366@gmail.com OB152363

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by G/B professional parents from Sydney, Australia for their Dec 1986 born daughter brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values, 5'1" pretty, fair, slim Australian citizen. She is an MSc qualified chartered accountant currently working in London. We are searching for a TT/NS son below 38 yrs. living in Australia or UK to introduce to our daughter for a relationship leading to marriage in the future. Please email with family details to akdproposal@gmail.com OB152209

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by a mother for government English Teacher 28, 5'6", pro poduwa@gmail.com OB152370

Academically and professionally qualified partner is sought by G/B parents living in USA for their 37 yrs old only daughter who is a Lawyer, presently employed in UK as a Legal Project Manager, brought up with Sinhalese values. UK residents preferred. Please reply with details to: erna9366@gmail.com OB152363

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is 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 OB151499

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is 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 OB151499

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered suitable partner is sought by B/K retired parents from Western Province for their only daughter 34, 5'4" Visakhian BSc (foreign university) MSc (Peradeniya) employed in leading Multinational Company as Quality Assurance Manager. Inherits assets. Reply G/K only with horoscope and full details. Email: karunadeva1950@yahoo.com OB152366

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by B/K retired parents from Western Province for their only daughter 34, 5'4" Visakhian BSc (foreign university) MSc (Peradeniya) employed in leading Multinational Company as Quality Assurance Manager. Inherits assets. Reply G/K only with horoscope and full details. Email: karunadeva1950@yahoo.com OB152366

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by G/B parents living in USA for their 37 yrs old only daughter who is a Lawyer, presently employed in UK as a Legal Project Manager, brought up with Sinhalese values. UK residents preferred. Please reply with details to: erna9366@gmail.com OB152363

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Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by G/B professional parents from Sydney, Australia for their Dec 1986 born daughter brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values, 5'1" pretty, fair, slim Australian citizen. She is an MSc qualified chartered accountant currently working in London. We are searching for a TT/NS son below 38 yrs. living in Australia or UK to introduce to our daughter for a relationship leading to marriage in the future. Please email with family details to akdproposal@gmail.com OB152209

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered suitable partner is sought by B/K retired parents from Western Province for their only daughter 34, 5'4" Visakhian BSc (foreign university) MSc (Peradeniya) employed in leading Multinational Company as Quality Assurance Manager. Inherits assets. Reply G/K only with horoscope and full details. Email: karunadeva1950@yahoo.com OB152366

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Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is 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 OB151499

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered suitable partner is sought by B/K retired parents from Western Province for their only daughter 34, 5'4" Visakhian BSc (foreign university) MSc (Peradeniya) employed in leading Multinational Company as Quality Assurance Manager. Inherits assets. Reply G/K only with horoscope and full details. Email: karunadeva1950@yahoo.com OB152366

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by B/K retired parents from Western Province for their only daughter 34, 5'4" Visakhian BSc (foreign university) MSc (Peradeniya) employed in leading Multinational Company as Quality Assurance Manager. Inherits assets. Reply G/K only with horoscope and full details. Email: karunadeva1950@yahoo.com OB152366

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by G/B parents living in USA for their 37 yrs old only daughter who is a Lawyer, presently employed in UK as a Legal Project Manager, brought up with Sinhalese values. UK residents preferred. Please reply with details to: erna9366@gmail.com OB152363

Academically & professionally qualified kind hearted son below (32) with good family background is sought by B/G respectable Kandyan parents in Colombo, for their daughter 1991 born, 5'3", pretty, slim, graduated with Master's degree in Engineering (UK), currently holding a Managerial position in a multinational company in London (PR holder). She has been brought up with Buddhist values, has assets in UK & Sri Lanka. Pls reply with full family details. E-mail: ndprop91@gmail.com OB152203

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son with a pleasing personality is sought by father of a respectable Buddhist / Sinhalese family for his youngest daughter, living in Melbourne with Australian PR. She is 28 years, fair, 5 feet 4" tall and pleasant looking. She studied in a leading Buddhist Girls' School in Colombo and graduated from RMIT University Melbourne. She is currently doing Freelance Building Designing. Reply with family details and copy of horoscope. Preferably Australian PR - Citizenship holders. Email: mpropocemails@gmail.com OB152354

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered suitable partner is sought by B/K retired parents from Western Province for their only daughter 34, 5'4" Visakhian BSc (foreign university) MSc (Peradeniya) employed in leading Multinational Company as Quality Assurance Manager. Inherits assets. Reply G/K only with horoscope and full details. Email: karunadeva1950@yahoo.com OB152366

Academically / professionally suitable son with sober habits is sought by Kandyan B/G parents for their pretty, well-mannered, young looking only daughter employed as a Research Scientist B.Sc (Chem.) S/L, PhD (USA) with substantial assets, born in 1985 (5'3"). Caste immaterial, horoscopes with Kuja Dosh, Shani Mangala Yoga, also will be considered. Email: npgkumari47@gmail.com OB152352

Academically, professionally qualified partner is sought by B/G retired parents from Colombo suburb for their pretty slim well brought-up daughter born 1987, 5'3" BSc (Mgt), CIMA, ACMA qualified Accountant works at a leading company Colombo. Studied at a leading girls school inherits assets. Kuja in 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12 more preferred. Reply with H/C. Email: propj19@yahoo.com OB152395

Anglican and Methodist parents seek marriage partner for daughter English graduate teacher employed in government school. Age 35 yrs, height 5 feet. 011 2792436. OB152179

An academically and professionally qualified son, above 5'10", is sought by Sinhala / Buddhist mother for her educated, well-mannered and pretty daughter. She was born in '86 in the US and brought up with traditional values. Please reply with family details to slprop86@gmail.com OB152408

An educated well-mannered established son is sought by B/G parents for their daughter 1984, 5'4" management and Accounting degree holder working in Australia. She will be in Sri Lanka near future. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email - marriage389@gmail.com OB152425

Attractive, educated, divorced lady 55+ (young looking for her age), is looking for an educated, honest and outgoing personality without encumbrances as a companion with a view to marriage. Have lived many years abroad, working professionally and now willing to relocate in Sri Lanka, for the right party. Respond with details to: zestforlife2021@gmail.com OB152271

A suitable partner is sought by Sinhala Buddhist parents living in Australia for their daughter who is 28 years old and 5'4". She has a Degree in Civil Engineering and currently working as a Consultant. We are looking for academically and professionally qualified partner for our daughter. Please send details with contact details with contacts to L17 081229@gmail.com OB152437

A well established Sinhala Catholic parents seek a professionally qualified Catholic son for their 32 yr. old daughter 5'1" PhD qualified currently employed in a Multinational Co. in the UK. She holds a dual citizenship in New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Please reply with details. kiwim225@gmail.com OB152216

Bodu Govi / Karawa parents seek a matching partner for their elder daughter born in 1991 5'3" pursuing higher studies (PhD) in USA willing to settle in USA, SL or another country, for the right partner. Email: anura0509@gmail.com OB152358

Bodu Radala / Govi parents seek partner for their daughter 34 years, 5'4" studied at Hillwood College, qualified postgraduate diploma in marketing at SLIM preferably living abroad. mkelgema0@gmail.com OB152191

Buddhist Gampaha mother seeks well-educated, professional son (specially Lawyer) for her 45, 5'1", pretty, graduated daughter working in the government sector. OB152394

Buddhist parents from Ratmalana seek academically and professionally qualified or businessman for daughter, 1993, 5'7" pretty and pleasant studied at a leading School in Colombo. Completed Degree in International Business and Marketing completed MBA, currently employed as a Marketing Executive in a leading Co. Not willing to migrate. Height should be 5'11" or taller. Kuja 8 house. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: hirushi1993@gmail.com OB152304

Buddhist respectable family looking for a sober tall son prefers an Engineer for daughter, 5'6" simple pretty educated employed with dowry. Shani, Ravi 7th house, Mesha Puwapatuputa. hilakas.d@gmail.com OB152157

Buddhist retired parents seek a kind hearted educated son living in Australia for their 82, 5'3" educated (SL-BA and AU-MA) younger looking daughter working in Australia. Legally separated. Only brother citizen in Australia. kwchandra123456@gmail.com OB152365

Buddhist Salagama parents from South seek suitable and educated son for their daughter 38 yrs, 5'5", pleasant and kind hearted. She is a graduate working for a government department and reading for Masters as well. Caste immaterial. Reply with horoscope. E-mail: subhiproposals@gmail.com OB152249

Buddhist Sinhala parents, seek educated kind son for their kind hearted, simple daughter 26 years 5'1" degree holder working in her T/R in Australia. 011-2741099 E-mail purnikachamali@gmail.com OB152439

B/G Colombo respectable business parents seek professional / educated son for their Colombo leading school studied LLB qualified 1994 born 5'1" fair daughter who inherits assets. Please reply with details and horoscope copy to Email proposalsdias123@gmail.com OB152286

Buddhist Sinhalese parents from Colombo suburbs seek to introduce a suitable partner from a similar background to their daughter, 23 yrs, 5'5" tall, bright & personable Health Sciences professional, well employed in Australia. Must be professionally well qualified with a good personality, of excellent character, 5'7" or taller, aged 27 yrs or lower, a non-smoker and at most a social drinker only. Professionals working in the Medical, Health Science, Engineering, Architecture or Environmental Science fields will be highly regarded. If not already resident in Australia, must be willing to migrate longer term. View friendship leading to marriage if all goes well. Caste, horoscope etc are not considered essential. Please respond to: maile97sam@yahoo.com with all details and an image or social media links in the first reply. OB152406

Buddhist 29 yrs (1991.06) Vishwa / Govi 5'8" fair slim, well-mannered friendly only daughter BSc (Hons) in Fashion Designing Nethumbria, currently working as a Senior Fashion Designer for a leading fashion brands for womenswear, Shani 2/Kuja 8. Caste immaterial. gromfor1991@gmail.com OB151850

Buddhist, Vishwa, Colombo seek professionally qualified partner for pleasant daughter, 1992/8, height 5'5", Kuja 7, BSc (Hons.) in Science, Executive in private company. Owns a land, house and other assets. Please reply with family details, copy of horoscope. klchandrai05@gmail.com OB152244

B/G Colombo respectable business parents seek professional / educated son for their Colombo leading school studied LLB qualified 1994 born 5'1" fair daughter who inherits assets. Please reply with details and horoscope copy to Email proposalsdias123@gmail.com OB152286

B/G parents from Colombo seek an educated professionally qualified son for their daughter born in 1994, 5'5" holding BSc and MSc in Mechatronics Engineering from abroad studied at a leading girls' school in Colombo only sister is also an Engineer. Reply with family details and horoscope. proposal.m1994@gmail.com OB152349

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B/G parents residing California from very respectable families wish to meet a son with sober habits, caring, good looking academically qualified, well-employed in US or student doing postgraduate studies for their kind-hearted fair pretty daughter 24, 5'1" doing Masters after BSc. from prestigious university in California. She has been brought up strictly on Sri Lankan values. Email with horoscope to: proposalsj1996@gmail.com OB152339

B/G retired Teacher seeks partner for her daughter 1991, 5'3" Senior Executive with Business Management (U.K.). Reply with horoscope to esa72765@gmail.com OB152391

B/K parents retired Government servants seek educated partner for their daughter 1990 5' 4 1/2" degree in Banking & Finance. Executive post holding in Pvt sector inherits substantial assets non-malefic horoscope only brother married to bank executive. Reply to posals.rf@gmail.com OB152392

B/K respectable parents from Colombo suburbs seek a suitable partner for daughter 29 yrs, 5'6", fair, pleasant. She had her education in a leading Buddhist school in Colombo. Having completed her higher education with Masters in a prestigious Australian University, currently employed in Australia. Please reply with family details and horoscope of son. ne wsuvisal@gmail.com OB152165

Capital city Bodu acquired professional higher education employee 38 slim daughter legally separated. No encumbrances. Inherits assets. Parents seek highly educated employed son. Reply with horoscope. mal ikats17@gmail.com OB152308

Catholic Negombo parents seek educated, employed, religious son for pleasant daughter 5'1", 41 passed A/L and higher studies. Gifts furnished house, coconut properties 12 acres. Fixed deposit cash. Email: kjms male@gmail.com OB152330

Colombo Bodu/Govi parents seek a suitable partner for their daughter. She holds a Bio-Technology (Hons.) degree and is a Lecturer at a foreign university affiliated college in Colombo. Age 35 years, height 5'2" pretty and fair. Family background, educational qualifications and good code of conduct are important. Please reply with copy of horoscope to: Email: asoka.mano@gmail.com OB152181

Colombo Moor 25+, 5'3" studied at leading girls school in Colombo foreign qualified BDS Medical 4th years completed student now doing internship, parents looking for religious qualified partner Accountant Lawyer Engineer. Reply to sl.offsh ovelogistics@gmail.com sevendibocceanen terprises@gmail.com OB152174

Colombo residing, born 1982.04.21, Assistant Bank Manageress, father seeks suitable partner. Contact: 0112729672. daughte20@hotmail.com 0112783104. OB152302

Colombo Sinhalese Buddhist mother seeks a partner for her youngest daughter born in 1985 Oct. She is pretty smart and height 5'4" and brought-up with Sri Lankan Buddhist values. She works in Sydney as a Software Engineer. Prefer an academically qualified son (never married) under forty years living in Australia. Please reply family details and horoscope. Email - m arraigeprops20@gmail.com OB152187

Colombo suburb B/G respectable parents owning a Construction Company seek professionally qualified well-mannered son for our pretty attractive professionally qualified daughter born in 1994 height 5'5" educated in a leading Buddhist school in Colombo and Assistant Director of our company. She inherits substantial assets. Reply family details with non-malefic horoscope. Email: lakmiabc@gmail.com OB152376

Colombo suburbs B/G 1993 Sept. born 5'4" studied at a leading school in Colombo, pretty and fair, youngest daughter working in reputed company in Colombo (executive position). She holds a BSc Management Degree and MBA Owns substantial assets. (House, car), retired parents looking for a son below 30 with well employed in good position. Please reply with horoscope and family details. Email: tmananda7@gmail.com OB152184

Colombo suburbs, G/B professional parents seek academically / professionally qualified well mannered caring and family oriented son from a similar background for 1991 born 5'3", medium complexion daughter with a pleasing personality. Brought up strictly with Sinhalese Buddhist values. Studied at a leading girls school in Colombo. Holds a Bachelors in Business Management, CIMA Advanced Diploma (UK) and Masters in Professional Accounting from a prestigious University in Australia. She is currently in Australia on Temporary Graduate Visa. Son living in Australia, UK or Canada is preferred. Reply with family details, horoscope and contact details. prop daughte20@hotmail.com 0112783104. OB152423

Colombo suburb, Sinhala Buddhist daughter born in July 1981, height 5'6" slim, pretty and well-charactered. Employed in a highly reputed bank in head office (Colombo) as a Senior Manager drawing high salary. Academically qualified with B.Sc. (IT) and MBA. She owns a new house (Nugegoda) and a modern car. Parents are government pensioners. Email: stardandy@gmail.com OB152341

Colombo suburb B/G respectable parents seeking a son for our pretty attractive professionally qualified daughter born in 1994 height 5'5" educated in a leading Buddhist school in Colombo and Assistant Director of our company. She inherits substantial assets. Reply family details with non-malefic horoscope. Email: lakmiabc@gmail.com OB152376

Father seeks a suitable partner for daughter 39 yrs. fair pretty 5'5" in height works as a Librarian in a private school, divorced briefly from marriage, owns assets. Reply with horoscope. 034-5621589. OB152310

For Kandyan Govi Buddhist graduate fair pretty 5'5 1/2", 31 years grandmother seeks professional below 37 years about 5'9" honest caring person. Separated, innocent party. OB152226

Gampaha District, Buddhist, Karawa caste, height 5'6" good looking, studied up to the degree, 23 years, daughter, parents seek suitable partner. (father retired Government Executive Officer and mother business person) elder brother is a Computer Engineer and elder sister Government Doctor. She will have a ten-perch land, close Colombo and adjoining Kandy Road and 50 lakhs by cash, as dowry. OB151511

Gampaha, Buddhist Govi, September '86, 5'3", good looking. Senior Air Hostess daughter, retired parents seek same caste, educated, employed son. All details in first letter. OB152387

Govi Buddhist parents living in Canada are seeking an academically and professionally qualified son for their Environmental Scientist daughter born 1994, 5'1" working in the local government sector in Canada. Those who live in Canada preferred but USA, UK or Australia Residents are also welcome. Please reply with horoscope to sin haraja1218@gmail.com OB152149

Govi Buddhist respectable parents (father retired Senior Police Officer) from Colombo, seek a professionally qualified well settled & steady (sober, non-smoking) good natured and family oriented son around 35 yrs (who is also willing to migrate as an option) to be proposed to their younger daughter, attractive, slim, 5'4", born 1985, attended prominent Colombo Girls' School, First degree in Finance & Accounting and professionally qualified (CPA/CIMA) now working & residing in Australia (a dual citizen). Please send your horoscope, family details to email: g wategep@gmail.com OB152201

G/B professional parents seek a suitable son for daughter 30 yrs. 5'4" BSc from a state university in Sri Lanka, currently reading for PhD in USA, legally separated after a brief arranged marriage in Sri Lanka with no encumbrances. Reply with horoscope and family details to email: def2018xyz@gmail.com OB152283

Govi/Buddhist respectable, well connected, professional parents from Colombo looking for a G/B academically and professionally qualified preferably a Doctor/Engineer/Accountant son of similar status for their daughter, 1985/02, 5'3", very pretty MBBS, MD, MRCP qualified Doctor. She inherits substantial assets. Her only sister is a Doctor married to a doctor. Please reply with family details and a copy of the horoscope. E-mail: pathma bandara@yahoo.com OB152139

G/B father seeks a professionally qualified partner for graduated, MBA holder daughter 37, 5'2" presently working for a reputed IT company. Reply with horoscope. hans86544@gmail.com OB152429

G/B medical professional parents living in the UK seek an academically and professionally qualified son, preferably a Doctor working in the UK for their 32 year old daughter. She is a Doctor working in the NHS as a Specialist Registrar in London. She is smart, 5'6" tall, slim and fair and has been brought-up with Sinhala Buddhist values. Please reply with details: m angalayojana1926@gmail.com OB152414

G/B parents from South residing in Coombo suburbs seek an educated graduate son for daughter 5' 1987 June graduate English Teacher, father Specialist Doctor. Rahu 1, Kethu 7. proposalgle@gmail.com OB152343

G/B parents residing in Australia, looking for a son Doctor or Engineer for their daughter, 29 yrs, 5'2", fair and slim, working as a Doctor in Australia. Please reply with horoscope and contact details to: dilmil654@gmail.com OB152267

G/B professional parents seek a suitable son for daughter 30 yrs. 5'4" BSc from a state university in Sri Lanka, currently reading for PhD in USA, legally separated after a brief arranged marriage in Sri Lanka with no encumbrances. Reply with horoscope and family details to email: def2018xyz@gmail.com OB152283

G/B professional parents seek a suitable son for daughter 30 yrs. 5'4" BSc from a state university in Sri Lanka, currently reading for PhD in USA, legally separated after a brief arranged marriage in Sri Lanka with no encumbrances. Reply with horoscope and family details to email: def2018xyz@gmail.com OB152283

Invite Graduate professionals in mid-forties for highly educated daughter, very attractive young looking, unmarried well-employed abroad with assets and citizenship. Relocation possible to any English country. anul ak457@gmail.com OB152134

Inviting professionally employed committed Christian/Catholic son for our medical daughter 1993 born excellent character 66 ins. Substantial Colombo assets no plans for immigration parents and brother Sinhala Govi Doctors. All details confidential. E-mail: c osmicprop@gmail.com OB152126

Kandy, Buddhist, Govi family, born 1990.08.20, Budha, Aslisa nekatha, height 5'2", studied leading school in Kandy, BSc (Hons) (Quantity Surveyor) Graduate, presently working in government institution, only pretty daughter, mother seeks educated, characterized partner from around Kandy, only brother married. w jesena@yahoo.com OB152162

Kandy, 93/10, S/G/B, 5'0" fair BSc (Special) Colombo University reading for Master's abroad, seeking educated son Sri Lanka or abroad. Reply with horoscope. E-mail: ne mel6917@gmail.com OB152356

Karawa Catholic parents from Colombo seek a professionally qualified son (below 28) for their daughter employed 98 born 5' slim Buddhists also considered. Reply with details and horoscope. propcmb98@gmail.com OB152335

Living in Australia with sister, age 33, 5'2" kind hearted girl looking for an educated partner. Roman Catholics are special 011-2256558 ldush i1987@gmail.com OB152440

Moor Malay parents seek Malay Moor groom holding stable job teetotaler with Islamic values for their daughter 30 years old 5'2" wearing Abhaya with head scarf English teacher. Please reply with CV. Email: bride30propos al@gmail.com Phone No. 0112886431. OB152211

Moor parents from Colombo seek a professionally qualified partner age between 34-37 for their qualified Pharmacist daughter age 32+, height 5'6". Please send full details to Email: jnihla@gmail.com or contact: 011-2688513. OB152154

Moor parents living in Europe looking for a qualified and religious groom for their daughter born in 1992, 5'3" in height and has obtained her Bachelors & Masters. Please reply with details. propos al19@outlook.com Tel: 0031655107418. Tel: 0094112874145. * Muslim brokers may also respond. OB152377

Moor parents looking for a suitable partner for their daughter Government Teacher fair 5'3" height age 30. mhsafra@gmail.com 031-2220114. OB152297

Moor Sri Lankan Muslim family in Colombo, parents searching groom for 23 years old bride. Studied up to A/L. Bride mother convert. Contact: 0112736906, Email: zuhuithy@yahoo.com OB152331

Mother is seeking for a professionally suitable partner for her daughter. She is 42 years of age and very young looking, beauty consultant living in London. She is a British citizen. We are divorced and has no children. Please send us your sons details. sudse@hotmail.co.uk OB152256

Parents siblings seek a suitable son, well employed for 1994 Colombo Vishaka educated slim 5'5", Colombo University graduate Software Engineer daughter. Willing to go abroad for higher education. 0112970400. Email: propo2075@gmail.com OB152381

Professionally qualified son is sought by parents for their pretty, 33-year-old, 5'6" daughter. We are a well-established Sinhala Buddhist family living in the USA. Our daughter is an accomplished, smart young lady with postgraduate qualifications and a great personality, and was brought up with Sri Lankan values. She is working as a Scientist for a reputed company. We are seeking an educated, successful and a compatible partner residing in USA. Religion / caste immaterial. Please respond with details of your family to: us apro19@gmail.com OB152434

Professional parents seek a professionally qualified son (medical doctor either qualified in the US, completed USMLE if qualified outside the US, or with post graduate professional qualifications preferred) for their medical doctor daughter, currently in her residency in the USA. We are a well-respected Sinhala Buddhist family living in USA. Our daughter is a kind hearted, pretty, smart and accomplished young lady. She is 28 yrs and 5'6" in height. Please contact with details of your family and a copy of the horoscope at subham anangala797@gmail.com OB152368

Radala, Buddhist / Catholic parents seek academically / professionally qualified son for their daughter 5'6" age 29, pretty, fair and pleasant character with outgoing personality, currently employed at a prestigious conglomerate as an Executive Secretary. Completed Dip. in IT from BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT, Higher Dip in Secretarial in AAP. Please reply with family details to proposal 1955dec2020@gmail.com OB152446

Ragama G/B respectable parents seek a son for their graduated daughter born in 1986 height 5'4" works in executive position in semi government institute. sm dmadhu@gmail.com OB152219

Resident Colombo suburbs G/B well connected parents seek an academically qualified kind hearted partner for their well accomplished fair, pretty daughter an Attorney-at-Law (27 yrs) with substantial assets. Please forward copy of horoscope with details to: r19 613432@gmail.com OB152221

Respectable and caring partner sought by professionally qualified parents, for their only daughter born in 1991, kind-hearted very fair and pretty. She went to a leading girl's school in Colombo then completed her higher studies in Australia and currently working full time in a reputed company Australia. We are ideally looking for a groom who is above 5'7" in height and is handsome. An individual currently settled in Australia with an established career is preferred. She will inherit substantial amount of assets and a family business (Buddhist / Catholic potential parents only) Email - mproposals1591@gmail.com 0112088697. OB152431

Respectable G/B parents seek professionally qualified partner for their slim pretty daughter 1989 April born. She is an IT & Business Administration Degree holder recently completed her MBA she is working as an IT Executive for a reputed company in Colombo. She is well-established drawing a respectable salary. She inherits property. She is legally separated from an incompatible marriage as plaintiff. No children or any bonds, interested parties please respond with family details horoscope and contact number. Reply: p roposal2020s@gmail.com OB152403

Respectable Roman Catholic Tamil parents from Colombo are looking for a suitable partner for only daughter 23 years of age, pretty, fair, accomplished and average height well brought up with traditional values. Possess degree in Biomedical Sciences with a second class upper division. Currently working for a local NGO as the Project Officer. Looking for a professional, mutually respectful and a caring partner under 29 yrs of age with similar educational background. Willing to go overseas if required. Religion immaterial but Roman Catholics and or Hindus are preferred. Contact +94 11 2794190 or email to: youden45@yahoo.com OB152170

Retired parents seek educated good characterized son with permanent employment for Southern Buddhist born 1988 height 5' pretty pleasant Government Nurse Officer daughter (following degree). sbhema latha51@gmail.com OB152280

R/C Sinhala mother seeks an educated suitable partner for her daughter born in October 1988, 5'3" in height. She is professionally qualified in Accountancy and working in Australia. Please respond with family details. auspropos al88@gmail.com OB152321

Sinhala Buddhist parents seek an academically/professionally qualified partner for only child, daughter, age 25, height 5'3" educated in a leading girls' school in Colombo and currently working and following a primary education course in teaching. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email address: sprop20@yahoo.com OB152182

Sinhala Catholic respectable parents in the USA seek an educated, well-mannered son that is studying and/or employed in the USA for their beautiful 27 yrs old, 5'2" daughter. She is professionally qualified and employed while pursuing graduate studies in the USA. Please respond with a contact number. jsatyaj1963@gmail.com OB152269

Sinhala Govi Buddhist well connected parents seek educated partner for only daughter. 51 years younger looking divorced innocent party no kids, well established professional, fair, good looking pleasing personality. Slight changes in form in lower parts of her limbs. Completely independent capable efficient differences no bar. pwcat369@gmail.com OB152213

Sinhala G/B professional UK citizen parents seek educated smart professionally qualified partner for our smart pretty educated daughter who respects Sri Lankan values and culture, 25 yrs., 5'6", working in an Energy Company in London, LLB (Hons) LPC & MSc. in Law Business and Management. Please reply with family details & horoscope. Preferred Lagna, Makara, Kumba, Thula, Vrushaba, Kanya, Mithuna. Email: proposalmlda2020@gmail.com OB152189

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Sinhalese B/G parents with very respectable family background living in Australia seek a professionally qualified son (preferably a Doctor) for their very pretty well accomplished daughter 29 yrs old working as a Doctor in a public hospital in Australia. Respond with details horoscope and telephone numbers of parents to: 2020 yojana@gmail.com OB152254

Suitable partner sought by Govi Catholic mother for her 1983 academically and professionally qualified pretty daughter working in a leading International Company as a head of operations. She is an Australian citizen. If interested, kindly call me with family details. OB152298

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 reply with family details horoscope and contact details. srilankanproposals60@gmail.com OB152131

Wealthy respectable Buddhist Durawa parents from Colombo seek academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son (preferably living in Australia) for their beautiful daughter, who is pursuing Masters in Melbourne. She is 25 yrs old, 5'6" kind hearted and has an excellent character. Inherits considerable dowry. No malefics. Reply with full details and horoscope. Email: mp rop5964@gmail.com OB152338

Well connected Moor parents from Kandy, father a professional seek a religious qualified partner for their only daughter aged 25 working as an executive in a leading company in Colombo. contact - moorproposals2506@gmail.com OB152224

1975 born G/B parents Colombo seek suitable partner for their daughter government executive 5' with means. hroposal15@gmail.com OB151858

1990, G/B respectable parents seek academically and professionally qualified well mannered son for their daughter, MBBS Doctor, 5'4" in height. Please write family details with horoscope. Email: illeperuma2020@gmail.com OB152294

1992/10, Western, Buddhist, Govi, height 5'3", studied at a leading Buddhist school in Colombo, LLB graduate, presently following LMM, working as Legal Officer at a Semi-Government institution, pretty daughter, retired parents seek Engineer, Doctor or Accountant son. Only brother is a Doctor and married to a Doctor. Email - rovit1959@gmail.com 0112488067. OB152385



About our son, he is academically and professionally qualified Engineer with PhD from a reputed US University, pleasant looking, well-mannered, 33 years, 6'1" with decent family background, residing and well employed in USA. Academically/professionally qualified, well-mannered, pleasant daughter, preferably residing, studying or employed in USA or Canada is sought by Sinhala/B/G retired respectable parents for their son. Reply with full family details, a copy of horoscope and telephone numbers from the first letter. Email: mpdkproposal@gmail.com OB152250

Academically and professionally qualified fair, slim, pretty, well-mannered bride is sought by BG professional parents in Colombo suburb for their son BSc, 5'8" smart, handsome, 30 yrs, Senior Software Engineer, salary 200 k brought up with SB values. Non smoker and very likable character. Shanny in 8. Reply email: perakuma@yahoo.com OB152258

Academically and professionally qualified, slim, pretty and kind hearted daughter is sought by Bodu Govi parents residing in Horana for their son born in 1993 June, slim, 6 ft, currently studying in Australia. Please respond with family details, horoscope and contact number.. ksngallage@gmail.com OB152257

Academically qualified daughter with good family background sought by Sinhala Roman Catholic Karawa parents live in Colombo suburb for their son born in 1990 September 5'7" non-smoker currently reading an engineering degree employed in a reputed company in Qatar as a Computer Administrator. Studied in a leading international school in Colombo. Reply with family details. s even808@outlook.com OB152259

Academically qualified, well-mannered, pretty daughter is sought by very respectable Bodu Govi family living in Colombo suburbs for their son born in 1992 July, 5'6", working as an executive in a reputed company. He owns substantial amount of assets and financially very stable. A non-smoker and teetotaler. Please send the details to mp ropos922@gmail.com OB152419

Academically & professionally qualified well-mannered daughter is sought by Buddhist parents residing in Colombo for their son, 34 and 5'8", currently living and working in Australia with citizenship. Having completed both his degree and masters, he is now a senior project manager for a reputed company in Australia. Reply with full family details and horoscope d2proposal@gmail.com OB152417

Affluent G/B parents seek an attractive partner from a decent family background below 49 years for their academically and professionally qualified (Sri Lanka and USA) 52 years old very smart son who was a top investment banker in USA. Well-established and a dual with USA. No encumbrances at all. Divorcees are considered and caste is immaterial. Pl. reply with details. Email to: rse41801@gmail.com OB152333

Affluent respectable G/B business parents seek a suitable daughter for their son, 32 +, 5'11", NS/TT established businessman BSc and MBA qualified an old Thomian. E-mail: nilmini.k1961@gmail.com OB152207

Age 42 years, ordinary family, doing small job as house repair and maintenance work, religious, art loving, seeks partner from around Colombo who can be helpful for the future. 0115241092 OB152379

An educated well-mannered daughter is sought by B/G parents for their son working as an Electrical Engineer for a foreign firm. He is 34 years old 5'8" height and legally separated from a brief marriage as plaintiff. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email - marriage438@gmail.com OB152427

Australian Buddhist parents, search for a professionally qualified partner for their NS/TT handsome son, born in late 1984. He is an Australian qualified Law Graduate, working for a Global enterprise, as a Regional Legal Counsel for Asia Pacific and Japan. He is based in Australia and draws a six figure salary. Please respond to, partnerproposal2020@gmail.com or 0450724386. OB152432

A kind-hearted educated slim pretty daughter from a respectable family is sought by Buddhist Karawa well to do respectable parents in Colombo suburbs for their handsome son with good personality and Buddhist values. 32 5'8" NS/TT PhD in Science (Australia) currently working as a Lecturer at a government university in Sri Lanka. Inherits substantial assets. Brother Doctor. Caste immaterial. Email: marriage2019@yahoo.com OB152389

A pleasant looking daughter sought by mother for her good looking, 37, 6'1" height son who works as a Banker in Colombo. Respectable family from Galle region. Please reply email: gayanthi.barnett@gmail.com OB152325

A suitable partner is sought by Sinhala Buddhist parents living in UK for their son whom divorced and working for a leading private company in a managerial level with kids also considered. Should be below 40 years. Please send details with contact numbers to mithila12d@gmail.com OB152421

A suitable partner is sought 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 and photos in the first instance to: ukproposal272@gmail.com OB152442

Bodu Govi well-respected affluent business family seeks a well-mannered, caring and honest daughter for their educated, handsome, well-mannered son. Born in 1993, 5'7" in height. Early education in a leading local school (English medium) with Secondary education in a leading International School in Colombo tertiary education completed - Bio-Medicine Degree and post Graduate Master's degree in overseas universities. Only brother is married to an affluent business family and is engaged in business ventures. Proposed son inherits properties and assets exceeding 300 Million. Please reply with horoscope and complete family details of similar caste and stature. Email: prop93210@gmail.com OB152360

Bodu Govi well-respected affluent business family seeks a well-mannered, caring and honest daughter for their educated, handsome, well-mannered son. Born in 1993, 5'7" in height. Early education in a leading local school (English medium) with Secondary education in a leading International School in Colombo tertiary education completed - Bio-Medicine Degree and post Graduate Master's degree in overseas universities. Only brother is married to an affluent business family and is engaged in business ventures. Proposed son inherits properties and assets exceeding 300 Million. Please reply with horoscope and complete family details of similar caste and stature. Email: prop93210@gmail.com OB152360

Bodu Govi well-respected affluent business family seeks a well-mannered, caring and honest daughter for their educated, handsome, well-mannered son. Born in 1993, 5'7" in height. Early education in a leading local school (English medium) with Secondary education in a leading International School in Colombo tertiary education completed - Bio-Medicine Degree and post Graduate Master's degree in overseas universities. Only brother is married to an affluent business family and is engaged in business ventures. Proposed son inherits properties and assets exceeding 300 Million. Please reply with horoscope and complete family details of similar caste and stature. Email: prop93210@gmail.com OB152360

Bodu Govi well-respected affluent business family seeks a well-mannered, caring and honest daughter for their educated, handsome, well-mannered son. Born in 1993, 5'7" in height. Early education in a leading local school (English medium) with Secondary education in a leading International School in Colombo tertiary education completed - Bio-Medicine Degree and post Graduate Master's degree in overseas universities. Only brother is married to an affluent business family and is engaged in business ventures. Proposed son inherits properties and assets exceeding 300 Million. Please reply with horoscope and complete family details of similar caste and stature. Email: prop93210@gmail.com OB152360

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Bodu/Govi parents seek an academically and professionally qualified pretty daughter for their elder son living in the USA. Age 28 height 6'1" well brought-up with Buddhist values working as a senior Project Engineer in a reputed company. Please reply with horoscope. Email: thushara80@yahoo.com OB152159

Born again Christian seeks a suitable partner for him. Born in 1973, height 5'4", fair. Professionally qualified BSc in IT, PR holding working as a Business Analyst (IT) abroad. Please reply with details to: mproposal125@gmail.com OB152272

Buddhist Govi retired Executive parents from Colombo seek a pretty educated well-mannered daughter below 30 years from a respectable family for their handsome Doctor son 33 years, 5'8" inherits substantial assets. Please reply with horoscope. Contact No. and family details. E-mail: marriageproposal8628@yahoo.com OB152137

Buddhist Karawa respectable business parents from Gampaha seek educated pretty daughter for their good looking younger son born in 1993 February, well established businessman (MBA), 5'4" NS/TT. Inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details and horoscope. proposal1993@gmail.com OB152192

Buddhist parents seek an educated partner for their son born in 1983 Kuja 1 works in a leading food company studied in Colombo and also in Melbourne Australia sister living in Melbourne. Reply with horoscope and family details qualification MBA Food Technology. Contact: manees hapadmendra@gmail.com OB152199

Buddhist 33 yrs (1987.02) Vishwa/Govi 6', fair, handsome well-mannered only son MSc Double Major in Marketing & Management Monash, CIM, ACIM qualified. Worked in MNC FMCG, conglomerate company in Colombo, before migrating to Canada last year & holds PR & working for a reputed Bank in Toronto. Well-mannered daughter living in Canada also preferred. Caste immaterial. bridefor1987@gmail.com OG151854

Buddhist, conservative, professionally qualified family from Colombo 7, residing in US with dual citizenship, seek a pretty, slim, daughter less than 34 years only, with Buddhist values, who is able to keep a beautiful house for their son, born 1980, looks in the twenties, 5'10", never married or engaged, NS/TT, Old Royalist and a College graduate from US. He owns a large upstairs house with garden in a prime location in Colombo 7, a house in the USA, other valuable assets amounting in total over several hundred million rupees. Moving back to Sri Lanka soon. We are looking for a wealthy girl without family or financial encumbrances, from a honest and straight forward wealthy business or professional family of similar status and background to ours only. Email only family details and horoscope. mprop6959@gmail.com OG152412

B/G parents in Battaramulla seek a daughter, an MBBS Doctor, a Medical Student or a qualified Software Engineer for their son 5'9" living and working as a Senior Cyber Security Engineer in an international company in the UK. He was born in September 1993, N/S and TT, holds an MSc from London University and professionally qualified. Those who are willing to migrate to UK after marriage or studying or working in the UK are kindly requested to write with the horoscope or email to: proposal9309@gmail.com OG152285

B/G parents (Colombo) are seeking a pleasant kind-hearted daughter for their son born in 1986 Sep. studied at a leading Buddhist School in Colombo. Academically qualified (UK), working as a District Manager for a leading corporate in Colombo. He is legally divorced after brief incompatible marriage (no encumbrances). Reply with family details, contact Nos. & horoscope. Email: aheva123@gmail.com 011-2532102. OG152328

B/G respectable 33, 5'10 1/2" Royalist Associate Degree (USA) NS/TT businessman Land Proprietor mother seeks daughter willing to migrate to USA after marriage. 034-2256226. OG152372

B/G/K senior banker parents from Colombo suburbs seek professionally qualified daughter for their son 6'1" who is well qualified and born in 1989. He is a senior executive of a leading Telecom Company. Caste immaterial. Reply with horoscope and family details. mprop2511@gmail.com OG152306

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 OG151021

B/G parents (Colombo) are seeking a pleasant kind-hearted daughter for their son born in 1986 Sep. studied at a leading Buddhist School in Colombo. Academically qualified (UK), working as a District Manager for a leading corporate in Colombo. He is legally divorced after brief incompatible marriage (no encumbrances). Reply with family details, contact Nos. & horoscope. Email: aheva123@gmail.com 011-2532102. OG152328

B/G respectable 33, 5'10 1/2" Royalist Associate Degree (USA) NS/TT businessman Land Proprietor mother seeks daughter willing to migrate to USA after marriage. 034-2256226. OG152372

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 OG151021

Catholic fifty five Durawa Govi fair handsome divorced no children employed Italy good salary earlier employed Store Keeper Sri Lanka Airlines, owner two storey residence other assets, seeks partner Catholic English speaking family fourty four to fourty eight fair or tan slim nice appearance. Dowry immaterial. Dutch Burghers widows without children considered. 031-2222889. OG152296

Colombo Moor 55+ professionally qualified 5'3" practicing Muslim looking for suitable bride physically healthy sportsmen sense of humour. E-mail: sl.chawa@gmail.com cha.importersunion@gmail.com OG152272

Colombo Sinhala Software Engineering educated fair, handsome late forties 5'8" h, divorced no children, own properties father brother doing family business both sisters are in Australia. Looking for a simple partner below 40 yrs. for an early marriage & move abroad to live, religion not concern any issues can be discussed & dowry not expected. hewapathi2003@gmail.com OG152141

Doctor, Engineer, IT specialized or of similar status daughter with Buddhist values sought, for well-mannered, handsome, TT/NS son with excellent character, by B/G Professional parents living in USA. He has completed PHD in Physiology & Bio Physics specializing in cardiovascular research. He is a scientist, working in the Department of Medicine in the university. 1984, March 5'5" Shani Mangala. Owns house in USA & in Battaramulla. Father, rtd DIG w/PHD. Senior researcher. Apply horoscope. OG152375

Educated pleasant kind partner is sought by professional parents Sydney Australia, for their 27 yrs, 5'7", very considerable handsome son, graduate Engineer, well employed. proposal1993@gmail.com OG152176

G/B/K parents from Colombo suburbs seek an academically qualified well-mannered English speaking daughter with cultural values from Colombo suburbs or from south for marriage to only son aged 30 years educated in reputed school in Colombo with good academic records, graduated from reputed universities in UK and Sri Lanka, employed in a leading company owns valuable assets in Colombo and Kalutara districts. Father retired Company Director and a Planter. Mother Senior Bank Employee. Grand parents hail from educated respectable family circle from Colombo & south. Please reply with horoscope and details to Email: mp tshkl90@gmail.com OG152441

Kalutara Bodu Wishwa Kula 60 years old male 5'6" height divorced young-looking Civil Engineer seeks a pleasant young lady. OG152299

Medical specialist father and medical doctor mother of Govi/Vishwa (caste immaterial) Buddhist family seeks a pretty well-mannered daughter from respectable professional or business family for kind caring, non-smoker, teetotaler, handsome son 31 yrs (MBBS) Sri Lanka university. Working as a Medical Officer of health. He inherits substantial assets. E-mail: proposalrnfmed@yahoo.com OG152361

Medical specialist father and medical doctor mother of Govi/Vishwa (caste immaterial) Buddhist family seeks a pretty well-mannered daughter from respectable professional or business family for kind caring, non-smoker, teetotaler, handsome son 31 yrs (MBBS) Sri Lanka university. Working as a Medical Officer of health. He inherits substantial assets. E-mail: proposalrnfmed@yahoo.com OG152361

Mother seeks English teacher around or below 50 with or without child or such English conversant Buddhist lady for 1971, 5'8", handsome employed son owning upstairs annexe car land. Pls mention height. jsanka08@gmail.com OG152248

My son is 44 years old and handsome. He studied at St. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia. He owns house and car, his father was Ex. Planter, mother is a house wife. We seek a Christian minded girl who could carry herself independently. Reply with email: lalinda@microsolutions.com.lk OG152255

Owning business house vehicle and 1 1/2 lakhs salary legally separated seeks pleasant very fashionable sociable partner below 47 years. Contact self. 0117831996. bnishan27@gmail.com OG152276

Parents seek an educated pretty well-mannered partner living in the UK for their younger son 5'11" fair handsome with an outgoing personality, born in 1982, graduate BSc in Electronic Engineering and employed as an Engineer in a top leading company in London. Dual national British/Sri Lankan, inherits substantial assets and wealth in both countries. Only reply if you are living in UK or willing to migrate. Email - proposaluk2020@gmail.com OG152167

Respectable G/B parents seek a pretty daughter with Sri Lankan values for son 1991 Nov. born. He is an IT & Network Engineer working for a British based IT firm in Colombo. He is well-established drawing a respectable salary owns vehicle. Mesha lagna and Kuja in 8th House. Please respond with family details and horoscope and contact number. Reply: proposal2020s@gmail.com OG152404

Respectable Malay family seeks employed partner for son 37, Bank Executive, height 5'5". Please contact 0114401054. OG152436

Roman Catholic mother looking for slim pretty beautiful and educated daughter under 32 years for their son age 39 height 5'6" studied in leading college holds two master's MSC & MBA presently reading PHD. He works as a Consultant. We are a Sinhala Tamil mix family. We welcome any religious families. Phone number 0452287438 Email: niroshan.gagniroshan@gmail.com OG152397

R/C Tamil parents seeking a well-mannered loving daughter to their handsome son born 1985, 5'6". Studied in a leading school in Kandy. Professionally qualified & working in a leading reputed company in Colombo as Executive level. Please reply full details with pictures to jenniferw insloy16@gmail.com OG152444

Sinhala Roman Catholic respectable business parents living closely to Ja-Ela seek a well-mannered religious and fair in complexion daughter for their handsome son born in 1990, 5'10" in height who has educated in a leading school up to A/L. Inherits a three storeyed house, single storey house and a vehicle. He is currently occupied in developing his own factory. Our son legally divorced after a short marriage. Please contact 011-2237283, 011-2235712. OG152194

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 Plaintiff. Cultured foreign nationals also considered. Please reply with the horoscope. Email : mprop4579@gmail.com OG151405

USA citizen, Sinhalese, Catholic parents seek pretty, well-mannered, educated daughter willing to migrate after marriage for their 31 years old eldest son who resides and works in USA after completing his academic studies in Sri Lanka at a leading Catholic School and completed higher studies in USA. Those who are studying in Canada or USA also preferred. Please reply to christinefernanado1564@gmail.com OG152136

USA citizen, Sinhalese, Catholic parents seek pretty, well-mannered, educated daughter willing to migrate after marriage for their 31 years old eldest son who resides and works in USA after completing his academic studies in Sri Lanka at a leading Catholic School and completed higher studies in USA. Those who are studying in Canada or USA also preferred. Please reply to christinefernanado1564@gmail.com OG152136

Very fair beautiful daughter below 39 years sought by parents for their son. He is an Engineer (BSc) 45 years, 5'9" height handsome younger looking bears excellent character. He has own house and property. mpb240@gmail.com OG152398

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Present written complaint if Brandix violated health protocols - Nimal Siripala de Silva

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva has informed trade unions to present a written complaint to the Labour Commissioner if the Brandix management, Minuwangoda had apparently failed to follow safety and health protocols so that an independent inquiry could be conducted on it.

If there is any written complaint from the trade unions, the Labour Minister has directed the Labour Commissioner to conduct an independent inquiry and pres-

ent him a report regarding allegations levelled by several trade unions whether the Brandix management had apparently failed to follow health guidelines, a Labour Ministry Spokesman told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

Following a recent discussion with the Labour Minister, some trade unions had complained that Brandix had apparently failed to follow the health guidelines and they had agreed to present a written complaint on it.

Some garment trade unions had alleged that the employees of

the Minuwangoda Brandix garment factory had been employed without proper health and safety measures.

The Minister had told the trade unions that the management of such factories or any other companies were bound to follow the relevant safety and health protocols, gazetted by the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance. The Minister said, "If we find that the company has not followed the safety protocols, action can be taken against them according to the quarantine law."



IN KEEPING WITH TRAVEL BUBBLE CONCEPT Chinese delegation adhered to Covid-19 protocols

By Manjula Fernando

The Foreign Ministry yesterday confirmed that the visiting top Chinese delegation adhered to strict Covid-19 health protocols and their visit was in keeping with a travel bubble concept to prevent any contamination either way. The Foreign Ministry's China Desk Director General B.Kandeeppan told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday that their brief visit (24 hours) was a long overdue engagement.

"President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was to travel to China this year but the trip was postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak," he said adding that the visit was important in all aspects of bi-lateral relations for the country, especially in the backdrop of the government trying to overcome the pandemic effects to the country's economy. The high level delegation headed by former Foreign Minister, key Political Bureau



Member of the Communist Party and Diplomat Yan Jeichi included China's International Development Cooperation Agency Chairman Wang Xiaotao and Chinese Foreign Ministry official Cheng Song.

The Chinese team comprising 26 delegates had produced PCR test results taken before their departure. Three floors of the Shangri-la Hotel were reserved for their overnight stay.

The close contacts of the officials were subject to PCR tests after their departure on Friday and the hotel was also disinfected as a precautionary measure.

The delegation was escorted to the Shangri-la Hotel from the charter flight which arrived at the Bandaranaike International airport. ▶ TO PAGE 12

PEOPLE'S VIGILANCE VITAL FOR NEXT 10 DAYS

Brandix cluster identified

- Army Commander



The National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 (NOCP) has successfully traced all workers of Brandix, Minuwangoda by yesterday morning, Head of NOCP and Army Commander, Lt. General Shavendra Silva told the media. While Covid-19 positive ap-

parel workers are being treated at several hospitals dedicated to Covid-19 treatment, the others are at three quarantine centres run by the Sri Lanka Army. The NOCP head said that about 3,000 persons of families of Brandix workers are now in quarantine. ▶ TO PAGE 2

OVER 100 GOVT MPS MAKE WRITTEN REQUEST TO PRESIDENT

Re-arrest Riyaj Bathiudeen



By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Over 100 Government MPs have made a written request to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to re-arrest and conduct a fresh probe into the allegations levelled against former Minis-

ter Rishad Bathiudeen's brother Riyaj Bathiudeen who was arrested on suspicion of involvement in last year's terrorist attack on Easter Sunday. A letter signed by more than two-thirds of Government lawmakers claiming that Riyaj Bathiudeen was released by the CID without following proper legal procedure was handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister... ▶ TO PAGE 2



Health workers busy sanitising the Nalanda College examination centre in Colombo yesterday in view of the Grade Five Scholarship examination today and the GCE Advanced Level examination which begins tomorrow, October 12, which were postponed due to Covid-19. Over 300,000 students will sit the Grade V Scholarship examination at 2,936 centres. Around 362,000 students will sit the GCE Advanced Level examination at 2,648 centres. Pic: Rukmal Gamage

Three National Hospital staffers detected with Covid-19

Three members of the minor staff at the National Hospital, Colombo, have tested positive for Covid-19.

Health Ministry sources said Wards and an operating theatre were temporarily closed following the detection of the staffers with Covid-19.

A female student of Sri Jayawardenepura University has also tested positive for

Covid-19. Sources said that the undergraduate is a third-year student of the Management Faculty and a resident of Panadura.

She has been admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH).

A female student from Veyangoda, who was staying with the virus-infected student, has been referred to a PCR test, Vice Chancellor of the University, Senior Prof. Sudantha Liyanage said.

SC determination on 20A in House on October 20

The Supreme Court determination on the petitions filed against the 20th Amendment to the Constitution will be presented in Parliament on October 20.

The Supreme Court determination regarding the constitutionality of the 20th Amendment Draft Bill has already been referred to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana. The Speaker will convey the Court

determination when Parliament convenes on October 20.

The Draft Bill was presented to Parliament on September 22 by Justice Minister Ali Sabri. The new Amendment was gazetted on September 2 and included in the Parliament Order Paper on September 22.

The 20th Amendment will replace the 19th Amendment to the

Constitution enacted in May 2015 during the tenure of the former Yapa-palana Government and will restore the powers of the Executive President which were scaled down in the 19th Amendment.

However, a few salient features such as the two-term limit on the



Presidency and the five-year term limit on the President and Parliament have been retained in the 20th Amendment. ▶ TO PAGE 2

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